

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

CLERK OF COURT'S  
FISCAL YEAR 2005  
ANNUAL REPORT



KENNETH J. HIRZ, CLERK

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

Judge Randolph Baxter, Chief Judge  
Judge Richard L. Speer  
Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum  
Judge Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarren  
Judge Russ Kendig  
Judge Mary Ann Whipple  
Judge Arthur I. Harris  
Judge Kay Woods

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Table of Organization.....	3
Statistical Analysis.....	4
Statistical Charts.....	7
Pending Cases Chart.....	13
Pending Adversaries Chart.....	14
Trustee Appointments.....	15
Unclaimed Funds.....	18
Fiscal Year 2005 Revenue.....	19
Fiscal Year 2005 Operating Budget.....	20
Human Resources.....	21
Information Technology.....	23

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

## FISCAL YEAR 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio serves the 5,908,082 citizens of the northern 40 counties within the State of Ohio with courts located in Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown. The 59,128 bankruptcy cases filed in this district in FY 2005 account for a 22% increase in cases filed compared to FY 2004. The significant increase in filings is directly attributable to the new Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA), which became effective October 17, 2005. Case filing figures, as compiled by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, depict the Northern District of Ohio as the third busiest of ninety-four bankruptcy courts nationally.

The judges serving during this fiscal year are listed by the city in which they serve: Honorable Randolph Baxter, Chief Judge, Cleveland; Honorable Richard L. Speer, Toledo; Honorable Marilyn Shea-Stonum, Akron; Honorable Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarren, Cleveland; Honorable Russ Kendig, Canton; Honorable Mary Ann Whipple, Toledo; Honorable Arthur I. Harris, Cleveland; and Honorable Kay Woods, Youngstown.

The Honorable Mary Ann Whipple was appointed to the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on January 1, 2004. She continues to serve a four-year term.

The clerk's office began the fiscal year with 102 deputy clerks throughout the district. An Administrative Supervisor was added to the Cleveland Office and six year-and-a-day temporary Intake Deputies were hired throughout the district to assist with the anticipated increase in case filings following passage of the BAPCPA. The office structure is shown in the attached Table of Organization. The clerk's office operated on a budget of \$7,313,770.20 and collected revenue of \$16,727,334.56 as identified in this report. These figures demonstrate that the revenues collected far exceed the operating costs of the court. All fees collected are transferred to the Federal Reserve and enures to the benefit of the entire judiciary. \$973,096.52 was deposited with the court as unclaimed monies following trustees' distribution of the estate. \$ 629,155.25 of those funds were later redistributed. The court has placed the unclaimed funds account on our internet web site to facilitate the distribution of estate funds. Visitors to our web site, at [www.ohnb.uscourts.gov](http://www.ohnb.uscourts.gov), can also find filing statistics, general orders, local rules, administrative orders, judges' opinions and other pertinent information.

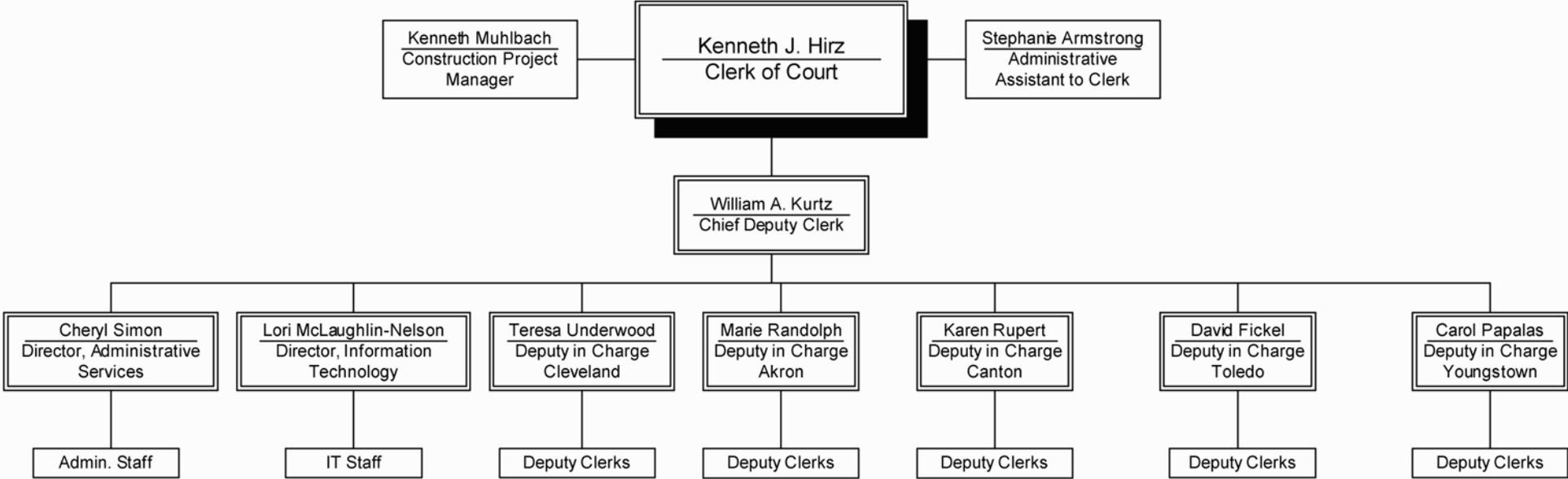
Electronic Case Filing (ECF) continued to be the most significant program operating in the court throughout the fiscal year. There are currently more than 3,500 registered attorneys and 648 creditors signed up for electronic filing of documents. ECF began on a pilot basis in this court on October 1, 2002. All attorneys were allowed to file electronically as of January 1, 2003. By January 1, 2004, attorneys were required to submit documents electronically according to General Order 03-1. During the fiscal year there were 1,282,677 transactions (docket events) in the ECF system. By the end of the 12-month period court staff were docketing only 20% of all transactions and the computer allowed for the autodocketing of notices and other events accounting for an additional 34% of all transactions. Attorneys entered 27% of all transactions and trustees 19%. Less than 1% of the transactions were entered by claims agents, however, this represented 60% of the 127,946 claims filed with the court.

A number of alteration and renovation projects have been in process throughout the fiscal year. The three-year, \$45 million renovation to the Howard M. Metzenbaum U.S. Courthouse was completed in June 2005 allowing Chief Judge Randolph Baxter, Judge Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarren, and Judge Arthur I. Harris to reoccupy this historic structure. The lease-construct project in Canton is anticipated to be completed in 2008 and will create a new court facility replacing the current Frank T. Bow Federal Building. Planning for future renovations of the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House in Toledo is being delayed as a result of the Judicial Conference moratorium on Courthouse Construction Projects, which is impacting the new Toledo U.S. Courthouse that had previously received site and design funding.

In the following pages, you will find a variety of statistical and case activity reports that identify the workload of the court. The Annual Report concludes with a summary of the clerk's office staff personnel and training activities and information technology initiatives that occurred throughout the fiscal year. The clerk's office remains committed to providing the highest level of service to the bench, bar and public. To that end, we welcome suggestions toward the improvement of services.

Kenneth J. Hirz  
Clerk of Court

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Northern District of Ohio**



3

## NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A total of 59,128 cases were filed in this District in Fiscal Year 2005. (All references to Fiscal Year (FY) figures for our District throughout the balance of this report are based on an October 1 to September 30 calendar.) These figures represent an increase of 22% as compared to FY 2004. A comparison of the percentage of filings, by Chapter, during this time frame reveals the following:

	FY 05	% of Total
CHAPTER 7	49,790	84.21%
CHAPTER 11	99	.17%
CHAPTER 12	5	.01%
CHAPTER 13	9,234	15.61%
TOTAL	59,128	100.00%

This court is comprised of five divisional offices: Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Toledo and Youngstown. The distribution of the total filings referred to above, and the percentage of increase/decrease in filing for each office, are set forth as follows:

	FY 04	FY 05	% of Change
AKRON	7,222	8,576	19%
CANTON	7,034	8,200	17%
CLEVELAND	16,816	20,546	22%
TOLEDO	10,831	13,704	27%
YOUNGSTOWN	6,526	8,102	24%
TOTAL	48,429	59,128	22%

These filing figures are unweighted and do not take into account the size of the cases filed. Therefore, they may not precisely represent the judicial workload in any particular division.

This mix of cases, by Chapter, in each office reveals the following:

**AKRON**

	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>7,229</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>----</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>5%</b>

**CANTON**

	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>6,053</b>	<b>7,177</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>----</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>5%</b>

**CLEVELAND**

	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>13,023</b>	<b>16,224</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>----</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>4,282</b>	<b>14%</b>

**TOLEDO**

	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>9,764</b>	<b>12,537</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>----</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>10%</b>

**YOUNGSTOWN**

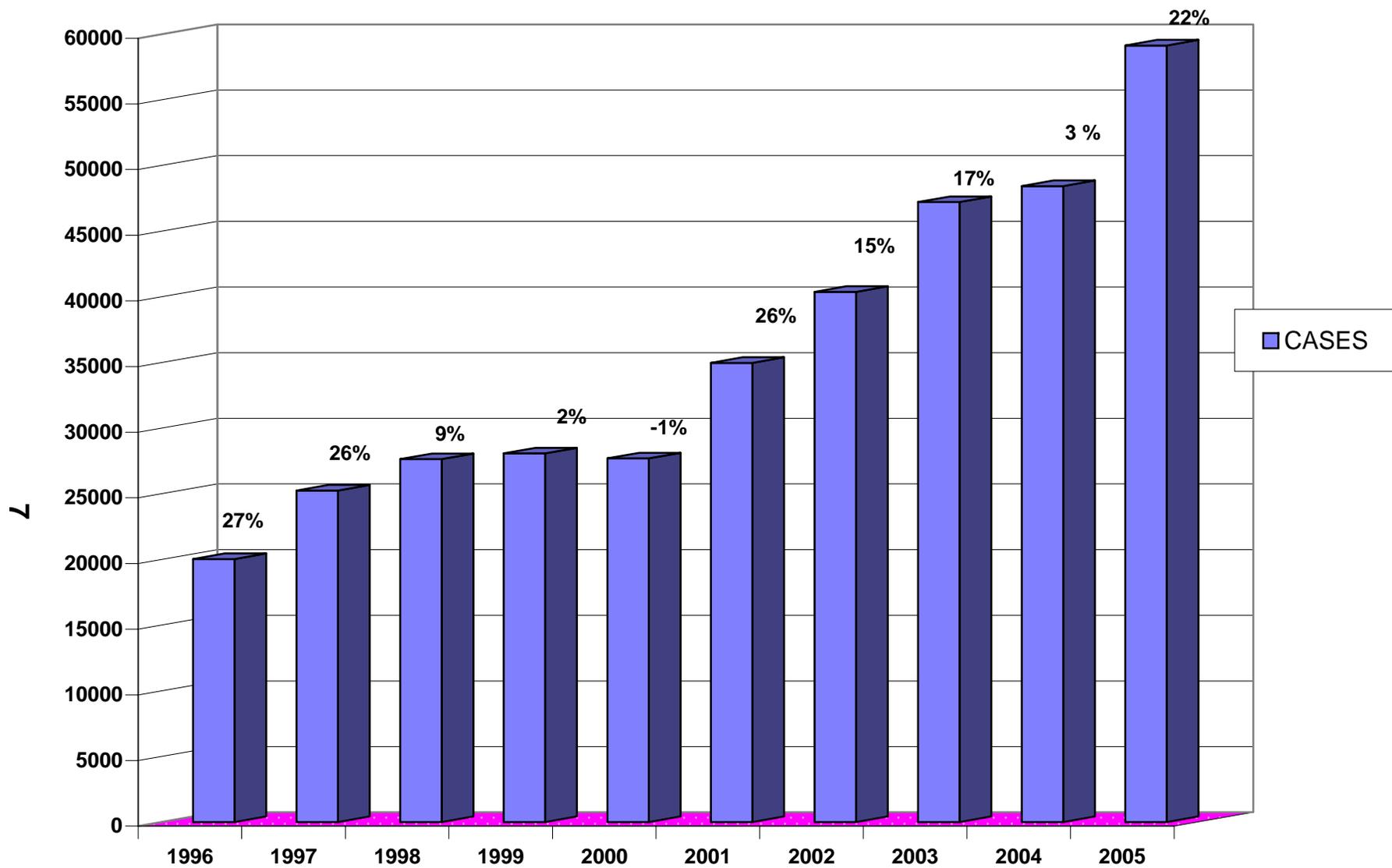
	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>5183</b>	<b>6623</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>200%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>10%</b>

8102

**DISTRICT TOTAL**

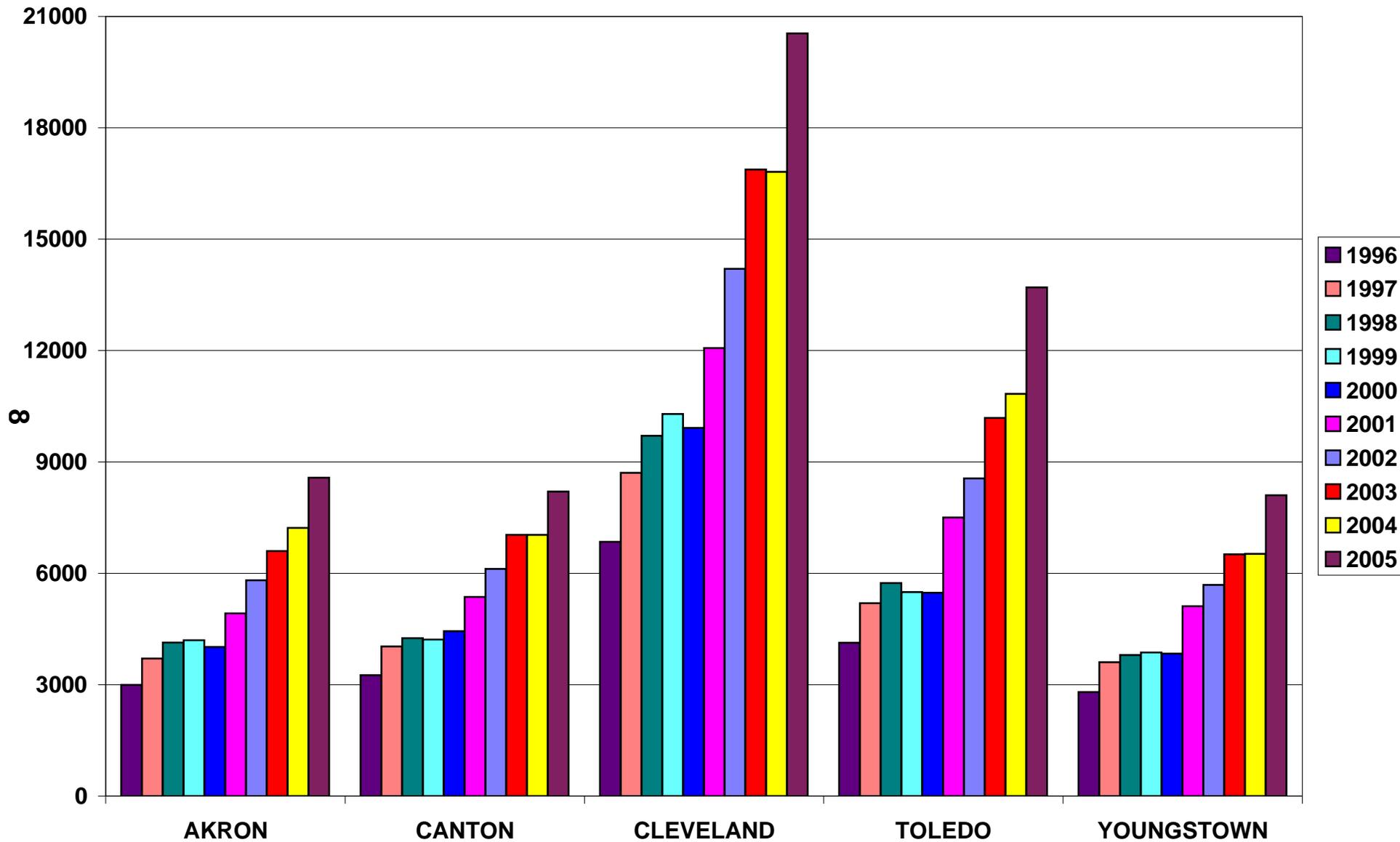
	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>39,963</b>	<b>49,790</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>150%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>8382</b>	<b>9234</b>	<b>10%</b>

**CASE FILINGS  
FY 1996 - 2005  
PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE**

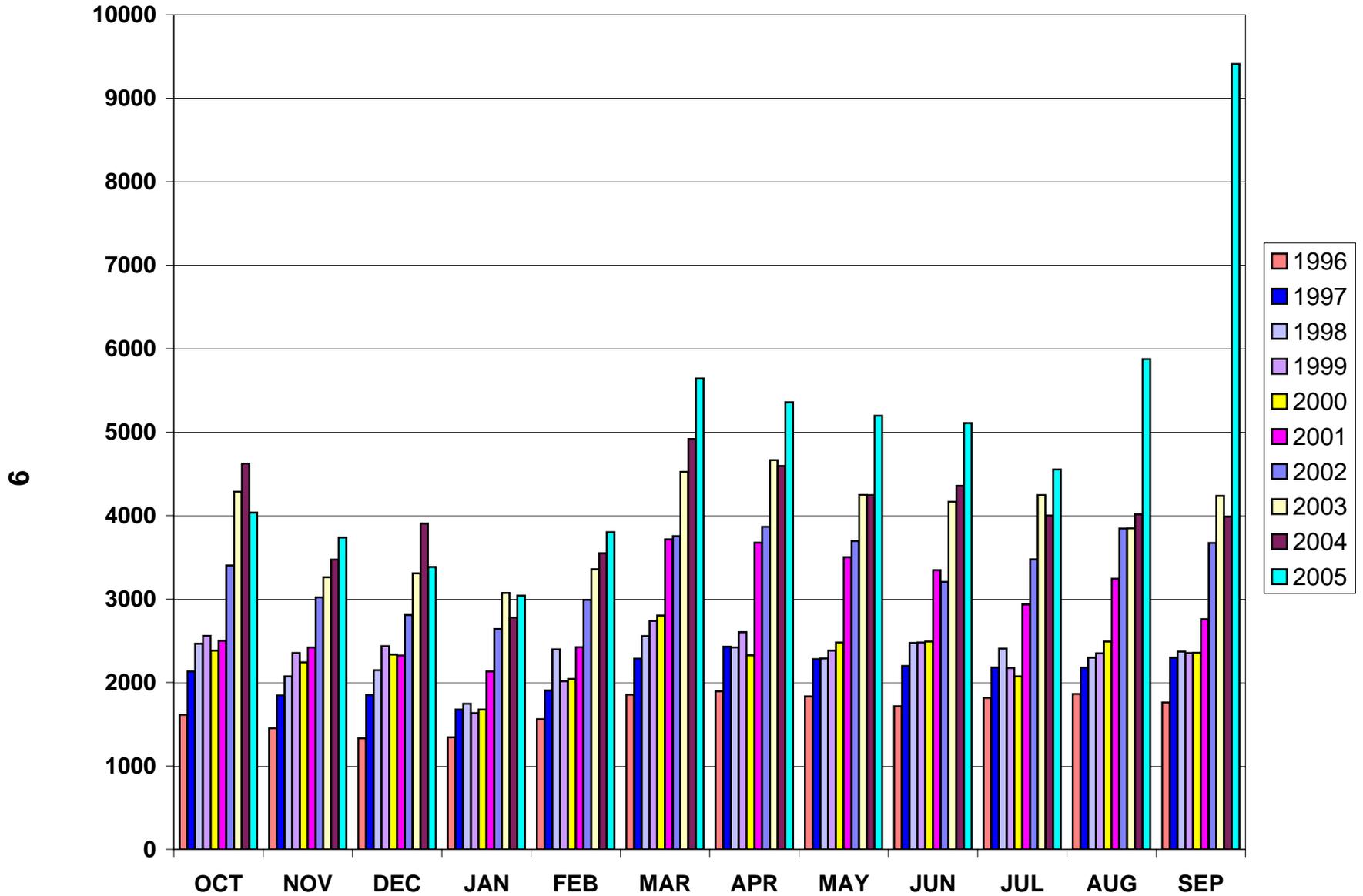


**ALL OFFICES**

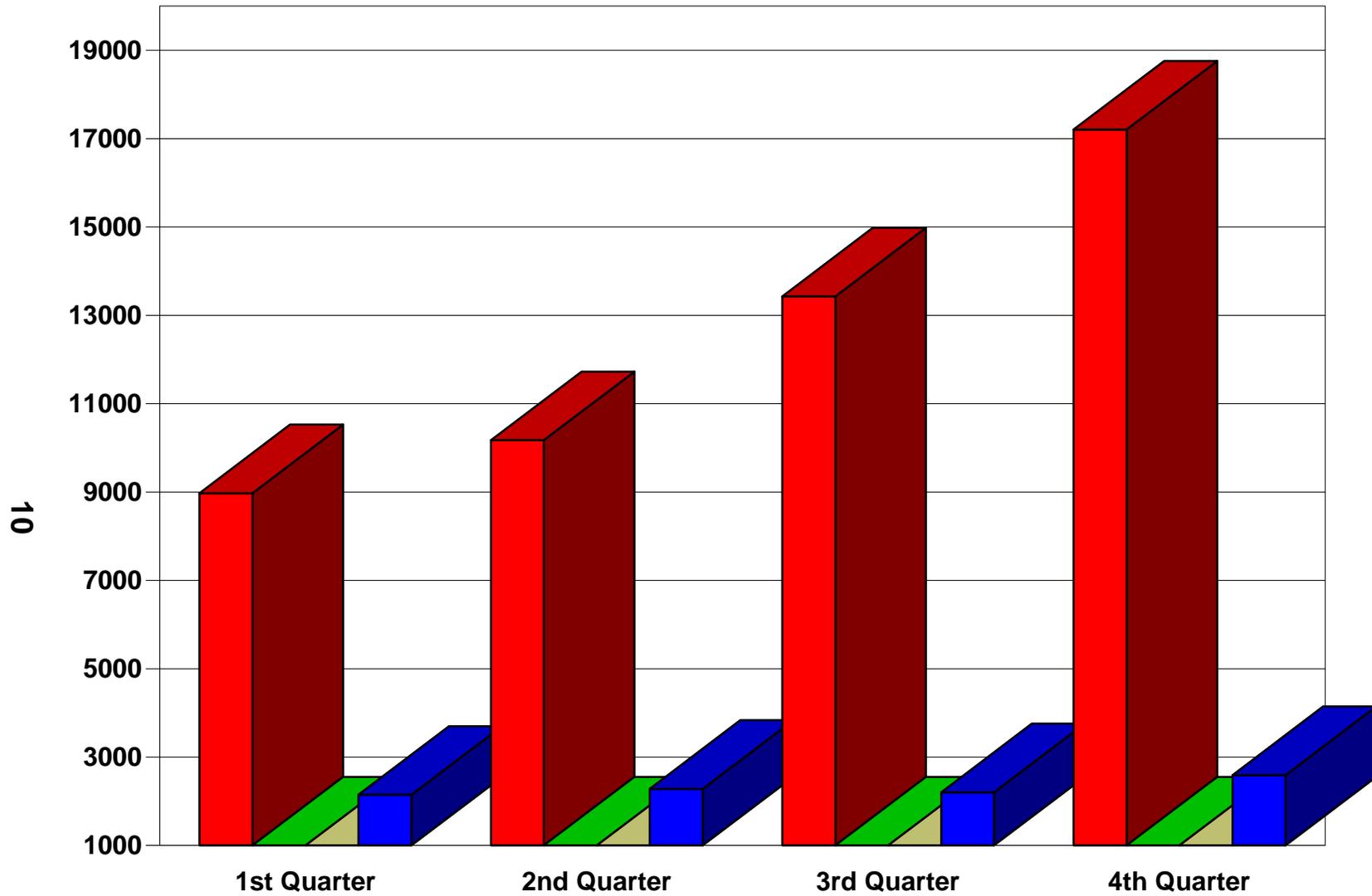
FILINGS PER OFFICE  
FY 1996 - 2005



FILING COMPARISON  
FY 1996-2005

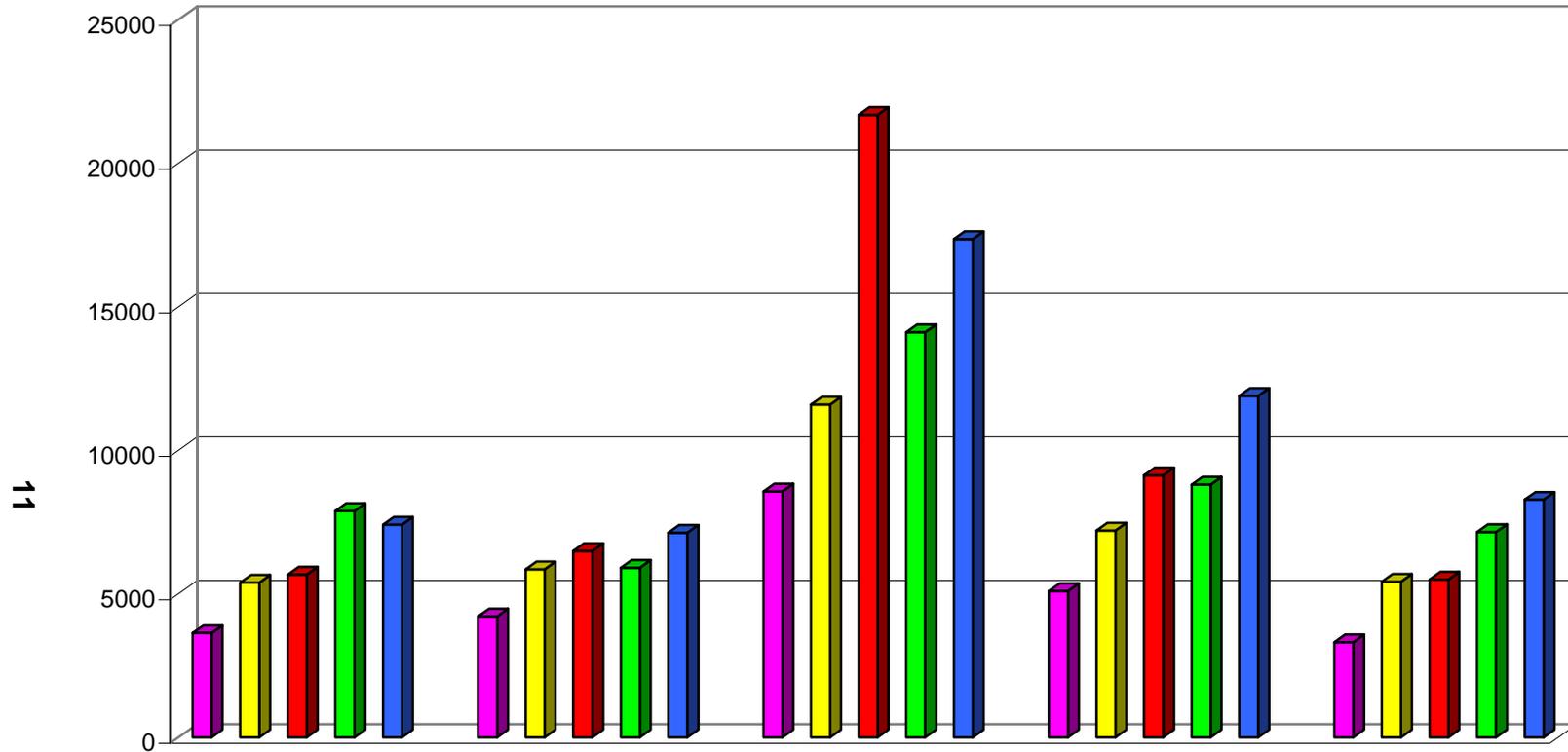


QUARTERLY FILINGS  
FY 2005



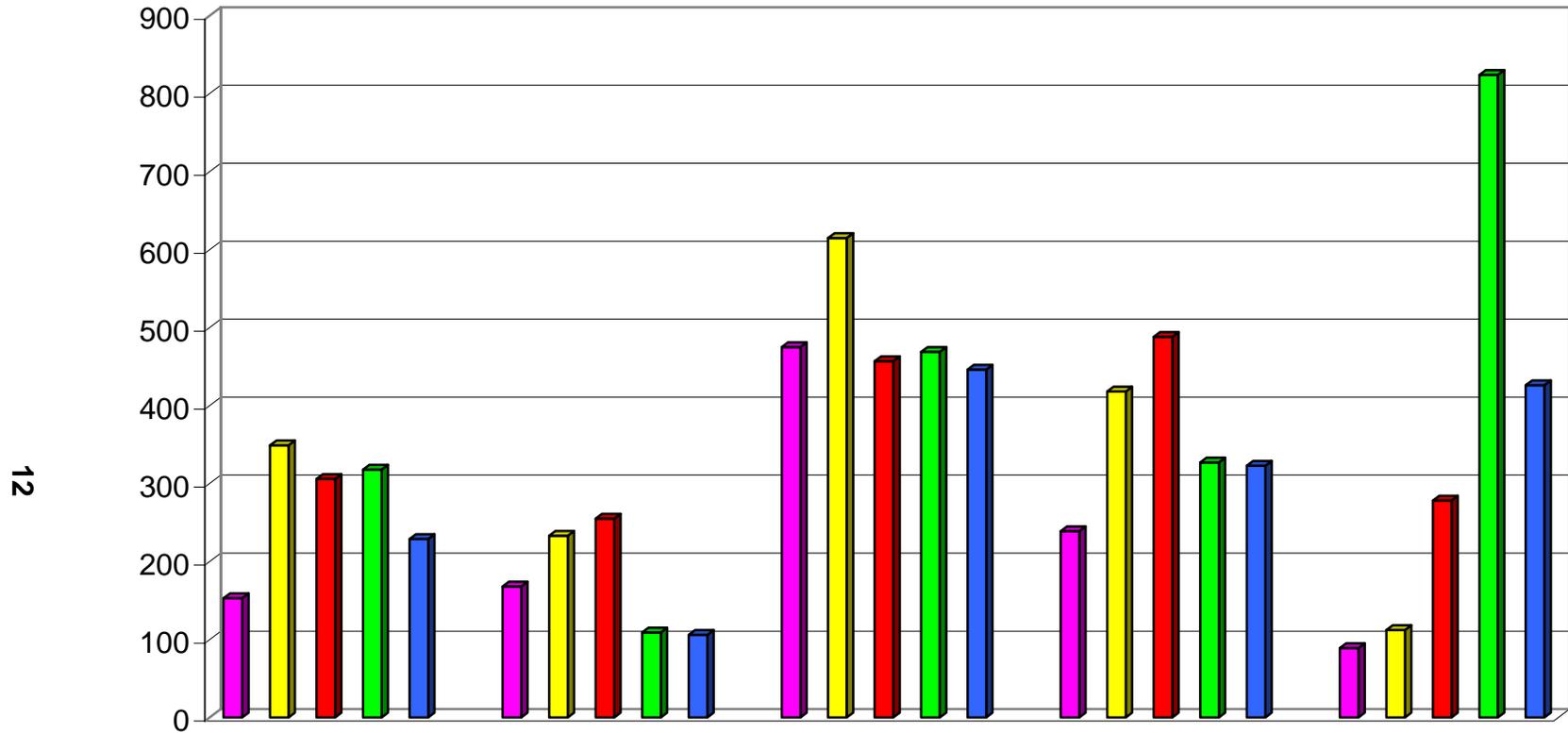
ALL OFFICES

**CASE CLOSINGS  
FY 2001-2005**



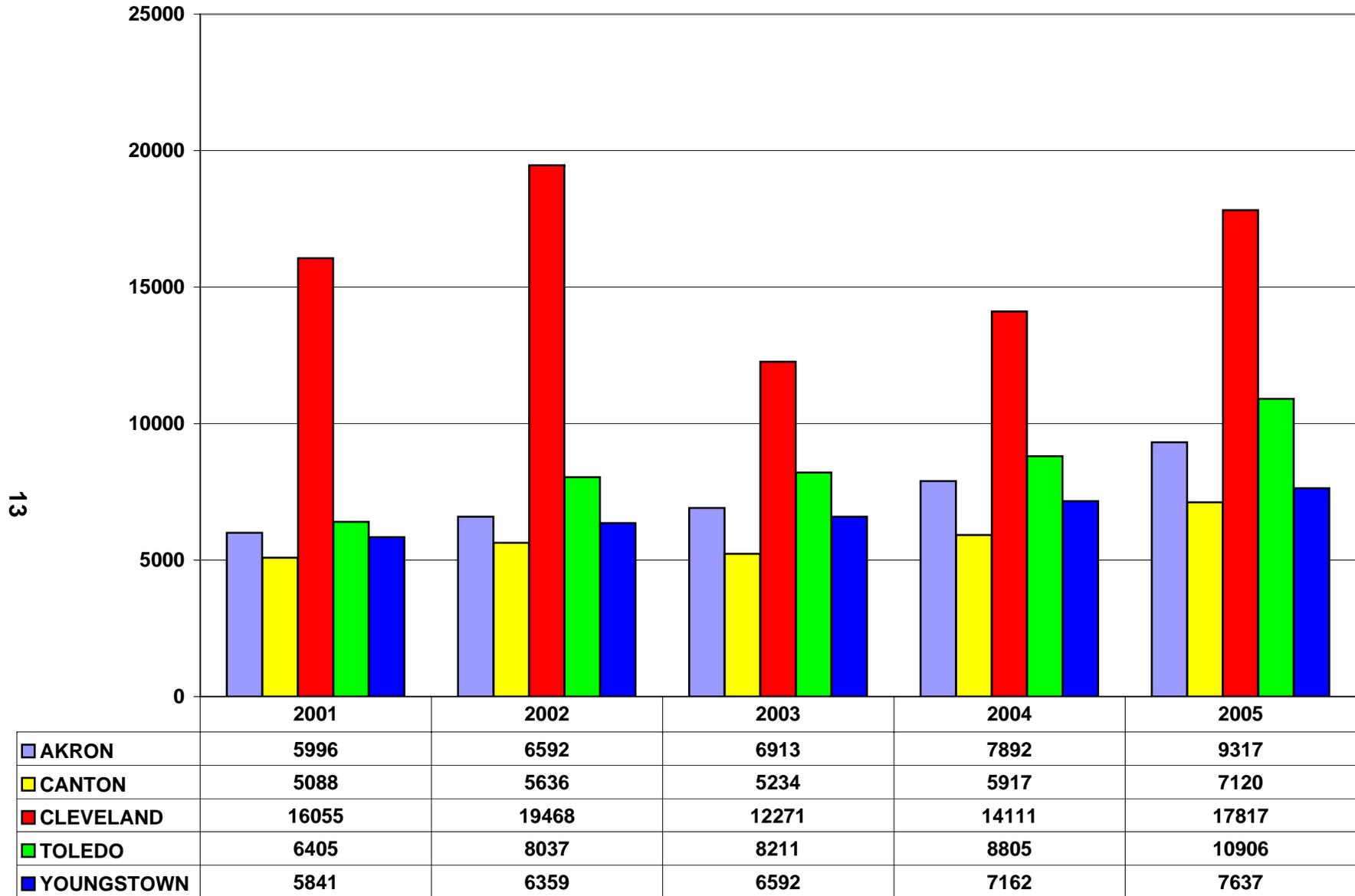
	AKRON	CANTON	CLEVELAND	TOLEDO	YOUNGSTOWN
2001	3639	4222	8568	5105	3320
2002	5399	5855	11595	7215	5424
2003	5674	6502	21695	9138	5504
2004	7892	5917	14111	8805	7162
2005	7416	7133	17370	11900	8286

## ADVERSARY CLOSINGS FY 2001 - 2005

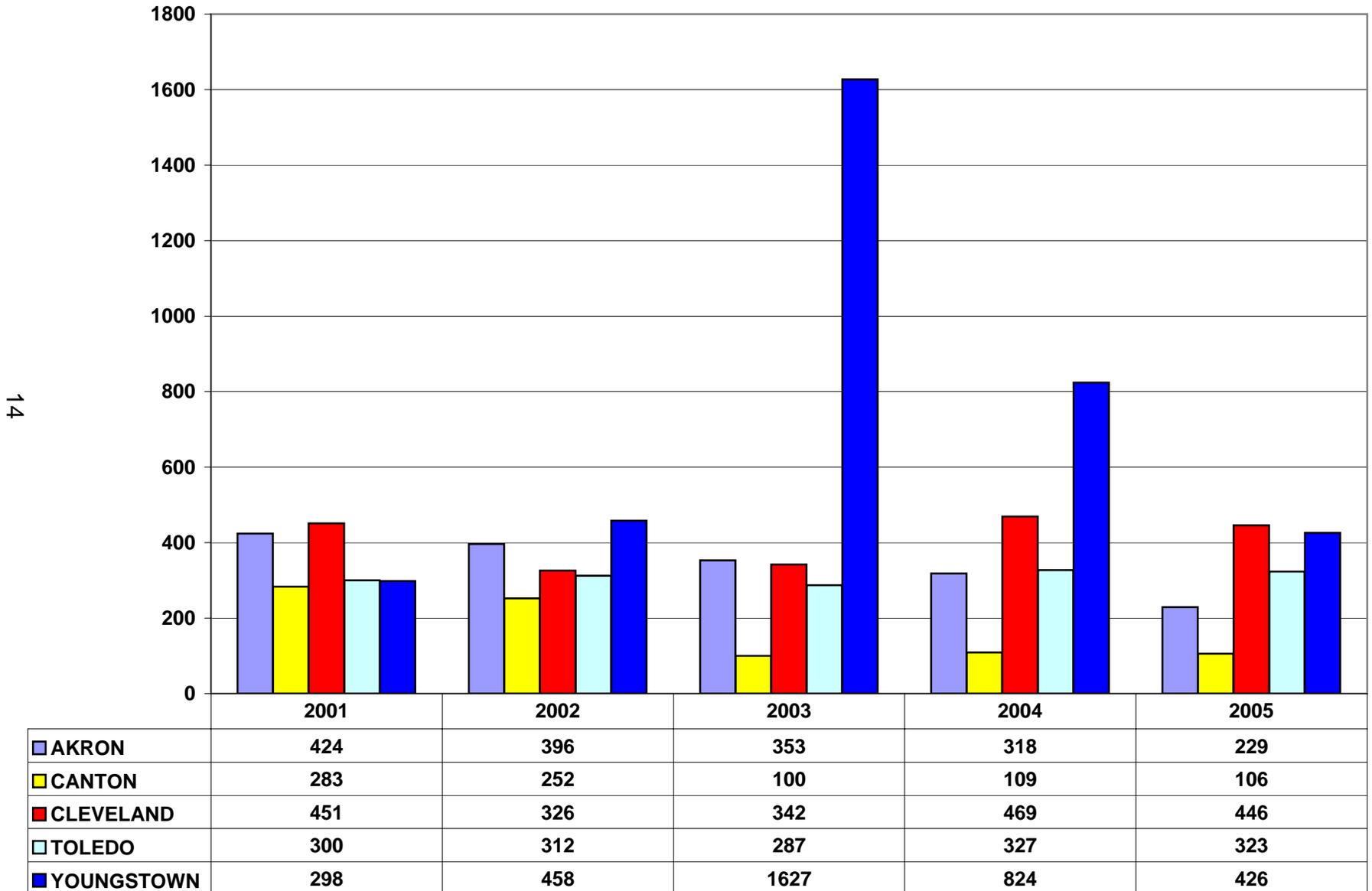


	AKRON	CANTON	CLEVELAND	TOLEDO	YOUNGSTOWN
2001	153	168	475	239	89
2002	349	233	615	418	112
2003	306	255	457	488	278
2004	318	109	469	327	824
2005	229	106	446	323	426

**PENDING CASES  
FY 2001- 2005**



**PENDING ADVERSARIES  
FY 2001 - 2005**



**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

**AKRON**

Kathryn Belfance	1447
Harold Corzin	1444
Marc Gertz	1454
Jerome Holub (Chap. 13 Trustee)	1282
Robert Thomas	1425
Richard Wilson	1448

**CANTON**

Robert Cyperski	752
Anthony DeGirolamo	1458
Michael Demczyk	1253
Josiah L. Mason	1236
Joanne Pauline	1222
Anne Piero-Silagy	1252
Toby L. Rosen (Chap. 13 Trustee)	947

**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

**CLEVELAND**

Brain A. Bash	1468
Richard A. Baumgart	1487
Virgil Brown, Jr.	1486
Steven S. Davis	1470
Lauren Helbling	1472
Mary Ann Rabin	1476
Craig Shopneck (Chap. 13 Trustee)	4112
Marvin A. Sicherman	1485
David O. Simon	1489
Sheldon Stein	1479
Alan Treinish	1483
Waldemar J. Wojcik	1482

**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

**TOLEDO**

Farley K. Banks	188
Anthony B. DiSalle (Chap. 13 Trustee)	1100
Douglas Dymarkowski	1268
Bruce C. French	592
John N. Graham	2094
Patricia A. Kovacs	2020
Ericka Parker	2175
Elizabeth A. Vaughan	1952
Louis J. Yoppolo	2201

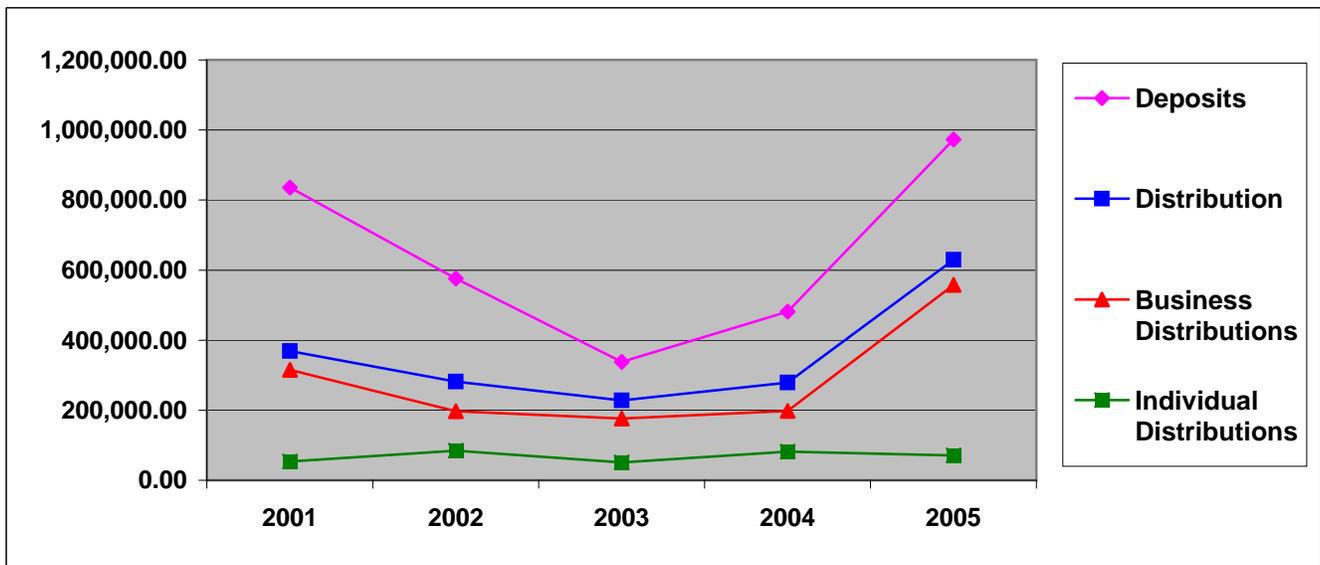
**YOUNGSTOWN**

Mark Beatrice	1445
Michael Buzulencia	1469
Michael A. Gallo (Chap. 13 Trustee)	1376
Elaine Greaves	813
Andrew W. Suhar	1425
Richard G. Zellers	1441

## UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 347 (a) and 28 U.S.C. Chapter 129, property of a bankruptcy estate unclaimed ninety days after final distribution shall be paid into the registry of the court. The court receives the unclaimed monies from the case trustee following receipt of distribution checks that had been returned. The court deposits these unclaimed funds into Treasury deposits fund 6047BK. Following a period of five years, these funds are transferred into either fund 106000, for amounts less than \$25.00, or fund 6133BK for amounts of \$25.00 or more. Deposits less than \$25 are forfeited as unclaimed money. Deposits of \$25 or more are held by the U.S. Treasury pending future requests of the unclaimed money.

During Fiscal Year 2005, the trustees deposited unclaimed funds in the amount of \$973,096.52 (includes 6047BK, 6133BK and 106000). The court has prepared 207 court-ordered distributions of these funds which resulted in the disbursement of \$629,155.25 for the same period.



Fiscal Year	2001	#of Dist	2002	#of Dist	2003	#of Dist	2004	#of Dist	2005	#of Dist
<b>Deposits</b>	835,512.94		576,261.68		338,201.98		481,000.82		973,096.52	
<b>Distributions</b>	368,866.11	78	281,326.53	91	228,684.80	71	279,332.85	234	629,155.25	207
<b>Business Distributions</b>	315,642.03	49	196,987.83	49	177,524.31	47	197,992.17	198	558,083.35	168
<b>Individual Distributions</b>	53,224.08	29	84,338.70	42	51,160.49	24	81,330.68	36	71,071.90	39

## Fiscal Year 2005 Revenue

1 )	086900	1,542,566.17
2 )	092037	0.00
3 )	106000	6,055.98
4 )	109900	500.00
5 )	143500	0.00
6 )	322340	0.00
7 )	322350	11,846.50
8 )	322360	16,621.03
9 )	322380	0.00
10 )	387500	360.00
11 )	3875CC	0.00
12 )	5073XX	2,527,878.16
13 )	510000	8,604,585.80
14 )	510100	0.00
15 )	5514CR	1,475.40
16 )	6047BK	561,997.21
17 )	6133BK	405,043.33
18 )	6855BK	-837.08
19 )	6855TT	3,049,242.06
		<b>\$ 16,727,334.56</b>

- 1) 086900 Filing Fees (portion of Ch. 7, 13 and adversary filing fees,motions,etc.)
- 2) 092037 Fees for Bankruptcy Notices
- 3) 106000 Forfeitures of Unclaimed Money less than \$25.00 and held over 5 years
- 4) 109900 Miscellaneous Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures
- 5) 143500 Interest earned on all registry funds deposited into interest-bearing accounts in local financial institutions
- 6) 322340 Sale of Publications
- 7) 322350 Copy Fees
- 8) 322360 Miscellaneous Fees (certifications, searches, amendments to schedules, retrieval, service charges, claims and notices)
- 9) 322380 Recoveries of Court Costs
- 10) 387500 Clearing Account
- 11) 3875CC Clearing Account / Credit Card Transactions
- 12) 5073XX Portion of Ch. 11 non-railroad filing fee credited as offsetting collections to the United States Trustee System Fund
- 13) 510000 Civil Filing Fees (portion of Ch. 7 and 13 filings, relief from stay, adversaries and abandonments)
- 14) 510100 Registry Fees Handling Charges (fees assessed on funds deposited into interest-bearing accounts on local depositories)
- 15) 5514CR Fees for Copies Provided Electronically
- 16) 6047BK Unclaimed Funds
- 17) 6133BK Forfeitures of Unclaimed Money greater than \$25.00 and held over 5 years
- 18) 6855BK Deposit Funds, U.S. District Court, account is used for receipts held in suspense temporarily and later refunded, transferred or disbursed
- 19) 6855TT Deposit Fund (Bankruptcy Trustee Account)

FISCAL YEAR 2005  
OPERATING BUDGET

FUND	BUDGET OBJECT CODE	EXPENDITURES	% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET
<b>092000</b>	<b>SALARY BUDGET</b>		
	1100 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	<b>\$5,735,862.40</b>	<b>78.43%</b>
<b>092000</b>	<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>		
	1226 TRANSIT SUBSIDY	19,372.42	0.26%
	2120 TRAVEL	18,483.43	0.25%
	2125 TRAVEL	12,080.80	0.17%
	2203 MOVING OF COURT PROPERTY	63,284.72	0.87%
	2209 TRANSPORTATION OF THINGS	9,271.96	0.13%
	2338 COPY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	8,865.12	0.12%
	2341 OVERTIME UTILITIES	1,724.60	0.02%
	2343 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ITEMS (COMMERCIAL METERS)	7,900.00	0.11%
	2345 POSTAGE METER RENTAL	4,056.00	0.06%
	2359 RENTAL OF MISC. ITEMS	190.01	0.00%
	2403 MISC. PRINTING	5,498.53	0.08%
	2509 POSTAGE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	3,260.00	0.04%
	2513 EQUIPMENT REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	23,185.58	0.32%
	2515 TENANT ALTERATIONS & REPAIR	25,434.81	0.35%
	2518 FURNITURE REPAIR/REFURBISHING	11,836.98	0.16%
	2543 TRAINING	13,998.22	0.19%
	2544 PUBLICATION NOTICES/ADVERTISING	7,087.75	0.10%
	2559 OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES	10,645.12	0.15%
	2601 CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	42,189.20	0.58%
	3101 GENERAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT	27,818.09	0.38%
	3109 COPIER EQUIPMENT	12,158.00	0.17%
	3111 FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	205,903.14	2.82%
	3113 MAIL EQUIPMENT	19,412.00	0.27%
	3141 SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT	11,142.22	0.15%
	<b>NON-AUTOMATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,300,661.10</b>	<b>7.72%</b>
<b>51140X</b>	<b>AUTOMATION BUDGET</b>		
	2120 AUTOMATION TRAVEL	\$6,265.92	0.09%
	2125 AUTOMATION TRAINING TRAVEL	\$6,796.56	0.09%
	2331 COMMUNICATION - LOCAL	\$86,461.57	1.18%
	2332 COMMUNICATION - LONG DISTANCE	1,347.73	0.02%
	2337 CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE	5,916.74	0.08%
	2341 OVERTIME UTILITIES	7,239.10	0.10%
	2512 INTRASITE WIRING	30,033.15	0.41%
	2513 ADP REPAIR	9,140.00	0.12%
	2343 AUTOMATION TRAINING	9,187.00	0.13%
	2559 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (NOC)	737.00	0.01%
	2606 OFFICE AUTOMATED SUPPLIES	35,932.98	0.49%
	3102 SERVERS	82,921.85	1.13%
	3103 OFFICE AUTOMATION EQUIPMENT	171,245.26	2.34%
	3104 TELEPHONE PURCHASE	309,478.24	4.23%
	3105 NETWORK AND DATA COMM EQUIPMENT	141,896.96	1.94%
	3107 DIGITAL SOUND RECORDING EQUIPMENT	4,339.06	0.06%
	3108 PRINTERS	6,815.86	0.09%
	3109 DIGITAL COPY EQUIPMENT	25,149.00	0.34%
	3112 SOFTWARE PACKAGES	31,048.87	0.42%
	3159 OTHER EQUIPMENT (NOC)	41,156.25	0.56%
	<b>AUTOMATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,013,109.10</b>	<b>13.85%</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,313,770.20</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Personnel**

Due to extensive staffing deployment efforts in past years and judicious use of human resource management tools, we were able to operate as efficiently as in the past, with a reduced staffing level. We began the fiscal year with a staff of 104, ending the year with a slightly higher level.

A number of factors contributed to an increased staffing level of 108 at the end of the fiscal year, including the following:

- 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act – To prepare for effectively managing implementation of the Act, we created a number of temporary positions, each lasting one year and one day.
- organizational study of our administration department – The study was conducted in fiscal year 2004. We followed up on the recommendations published in the study by reorganizing the department and creating a supervisory position.
- response to normal attrition – A number of employees left the court's employment, thereby creating vacancies which were filled either by new hires or promotion of current staff.

We are actively pursuing initiatives to advance staff through promotional opportunities within the court to complement the infusion of new talent brought by external hires. As a result of our efforts during this past year, two employees were promoted to upper level managerial and supervisory positions, and five were promoted to technical/clerical positions at a higher classification level.

At the conclusion of this fiscal year, Clerk's Office staff numbered 108. Judges' Chambers was staffed by 17 individuals. They include 11 full time and two part time law clerks and four secretaries/judicial assistants.

### **Training**

To help employees maintain their level of technical know-how, allowing them to be expert users of our automated systems, we stress technical training as a major part of the court's training curriculum. Automated training is fully described in the Information Technology (IT) Department section of this report and includes training on the court's automated case management system, on the electronic case filing system (ECF) and on related computer skills conducted in both formal settings and one on one. A popular feature of automated training is WordPerfect and other computer applications workshops conducted by the IT Department's Systems Analyst/Trainer.

Our cadre of in-house trained ECF trainers support our efforts at providing service and assistance to our external users through their presentations of ECF training in all of our offices.

We continued providing standard annual training, including CPR/AED refresher skills and operational and procedural training. Other training opportunities that proved as popular this year as they have in the past were offered through:

- the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) whereby employees attended off-site training presented by educational institutions or private vendors on subject matter related to the employees' performance of their jobs;
- broadcasts from the Federal Judicial Television Network (FJTN) which featured a variety of topics on legal and procedural information, Bankruptcy Reform Act, customer service and communication skills, performance management, court history and safety and security;
- participation in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks' annual educational conference which offered general and court-specific seminars as well as the opportunity to complete college credit programs;
- continuation of a comprehensive training program encompassing workplace, communication and computer application skills which was initially presented in fiscal year 2004.

A number of training opportunities unique to the individual needs of some of our offices were offered to staff in the respective offices. They included lunchtime automation programs, Chapter 13 orientation sessions, new telephone system training and a workshop on team development and team cohesion.

Our new hires were oriented to their jobs via training initiatives that included:

- on-the-job training by shadowing an experienced employee as well as one-on-one training with structured activities;
- introduction to ECF by attending outside users' ECF training classes;
- training on use of electronic leave management application;
- FJTN and video based training on overview of the Bankruptcy Court and other topics;
- specialized skills training via seminars offered through the Administrative Office of US Courts (AO).

A highlight of our training efforts this year was training on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA), developed and presented by senior members of our management team. The three-hour program provided a comprehensive overview of the Act and its impact on Clerk's Office operation. The program, supplemented by additional training related to BAPCPA offered through FJTN and other venues, prepared staff for effectively dealing with this major change in Bankruptcy procedures. The program, in which all Clerk's Office staff participated, accounted for over 450 hours of training.

In total, our employees completed more than 2200 hours in training activities in fiscal year 2005.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There was significant activity within the IT Department regarding to the CM/ECF system during Fiscal Year 2005. We received approximately 31 requests for programming changes to the CM/ECF system. This figure does not include the programming changes required to accommodate the application upgrades that were performed. The CM/ECF application was upgraded twice during the year: from v2.5 to v2.6 to fix several problems with the interface to pay.gov and adjust PACER fees, and from v2.6 to v2.7 to implement changes for BAPCPA. The upgrade to v2.7 was a major upgrade that required significant changes to our customized code as well as the addition/changes to over 100 events within the application. We added a total of 480GB of disk space to the system this year in two operations; the first 140GB was added in January and the next 340GB was added in June and required an additional expansion cabinet. The E-Orders program was implemented in March in an evaluation mode for two of our Judges who quickly found great time savings with the software and adopted it in a production mode. We worked with our Chief Judge to implement E-Orders late in the year and have just started with another one of our Judges for his transition to E-Orders. We worked with the AO and the BNC to institute allowing returned mail to the Trustees office instead of the Court or the debtor's attorney. We implemented a court developed package named CHAP for one of our Judges that does a better job of scheduling and managing hearings than CM/ECF does and automated the generation of hearing calendars and posting them to our web site for a couple of our judges. We started tracking the performance of our server's connection with the AO's replication server and have found this service's availability to be substandard. We have started discussions with the AO on how this can be improved.

IT had heavy involvement in the Cleveland Court's move to the H.M. Metzenbaum U.S. Courthouse. All of their CM/ECF forms had to be changed, new courtroom locations had to be defined in CM/ECF, and multiple changes to our web site were required. Data circuits were ordered from the AO and phone circuits were ordered from GSA. The AO was provided all necessary information to gain funding from them for the purchase of network hardware, a file and print server, the services of a telecommunications consultant, and a phone system. As part of the phone system acquisition we held a vendor fair in our Cleveland courthouse. Four phone vendors participated and OHNB court staff from all five of our offices attended the vendor fair and completed user surveys. A combination of best bid and user preference resulted in Avaya being chosen as our preferred vendor and we proceeded with them to install a phone system that is capable of providing VoIP (voice over IP) services if we choose to implement it at some point in the future.

Significant effort was invested to improve and enhance our system, network, and services monitoring tools throughout the year. We are now better able to see trends in disk space usage and system issues. Additionally, early in the year we implemented a software tool called CVS which will enable us to keep better track of customized programming changes which will enable us to more quickly merge our past changes into new versions of existing applications and eliminate the possibility of missing

changes that have been made during an upgrade.

A successful migration of all desktop PCs to the Windows XP operating system and implementation of new Windows servers running the Windows 2003 Server operating system were completed this year. Completion of this project allows us to replicate user data to other servers in our domain for disaster recovery purposes and to store many recorded hearing records on the local servers for easier access.

We prepared and conducted several in-house classes across our entire district. These included WordPerfect 12, Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat 7.0, and BAPCPA forms and events. The IT staff attended many hours of off-site technical training and industry conferences to learn new skills and enhance existing skills. These included Perl, Informix, SANS Security, Data Center Managers conference, Avaya system administration, Call Accounting administration, Integrated Messaging, Team Effectiveness, and Certification Officer/Appropriations Law. We began an effort to train each other in different areas of expertise to enable each other to do our jobs better. The two classes held this year were Informix database structure and access methods, and CVS (control version software). We had an individual gain his GAIC Security Essentials certification, one individual announce his intention to step up efforts to complete his PhD, and two individuals announce their intentions to enroll in the Federal Court Leadership Program. Clearly, the IT department places a high value on continuing education.

We recently ordered 50 Dell GX620 PCs to replace PCs that were over five years old, and 72 flat panel monitors to equip each workstation with a dual monitor setup and replace monitors that had broken down and were out of warranty.