

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

CLERK OF COURT'S  
FISCAL YEAR 2006  
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

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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

## FISCAL YEAR 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio serves close to six million citizens in the northern 40 counties within the State of Ohio with court locations in Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown. The 40,503 bankruptcy cases filed in this district in FY 2006 account for a 31% decrease in cases filed compared to FY 2005. Nationally, the reduction from 1,782,643 to 1,112,542 was a larger reduction at 38% during this period. The significant decrease in filings is directly attributable to the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA), which became effective October 17, 2005. There were 26,245 cases filed in the first sixteen days of FY 2006, as debtors rushed to file before the change of legislation took effect. The only district in the country with more filings in October was the Central District of California, which has historically been the highest volume court in the nation, and its filings surpassed ours by just a couple of thousand. Case filing figures, as compiled by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, depict the Northern District of Ohio as the third largest of ninety-four bankruptcy courts nationally during this fiscal year.

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 107.5 deputy clerks throughout the district and reduced to a staff of 100 as we embraced an Administrative Office buyout/early out program. The office structure is shown in the attached Table of Organization. The clerk's office operated on a budget of \$6.7 million and collected revenue of \$13.6 million 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 enure to the benefit of the entire judiciary. \$653,907 was deposited with the court as unclaimed monies following trustees' distribution of the estate. \$326,948 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,

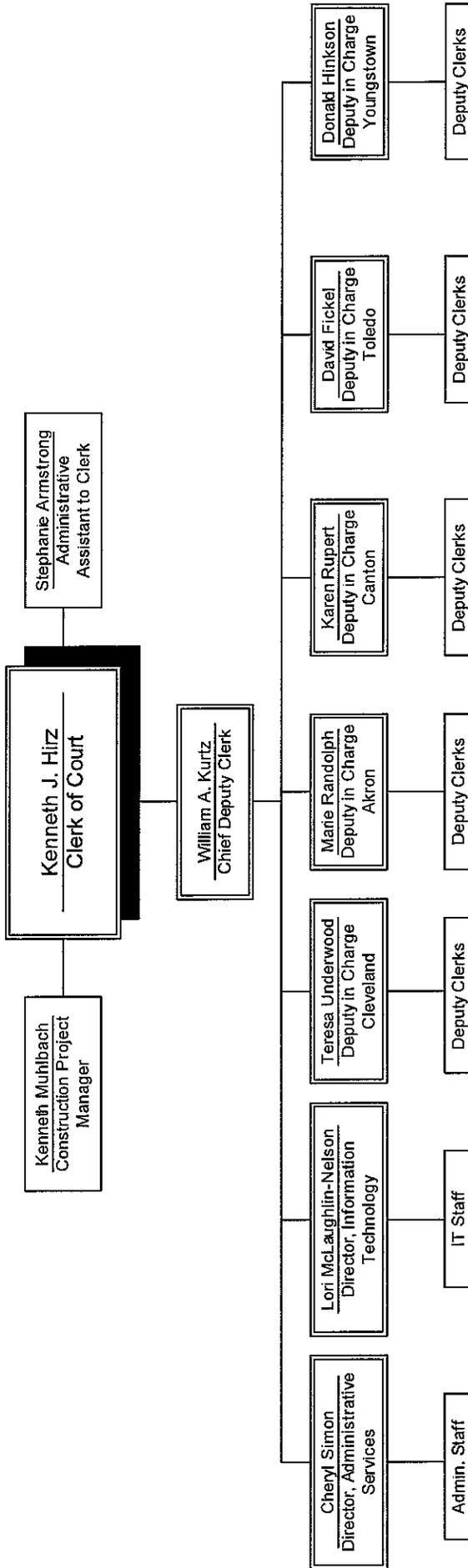
administrative orders, judges' opinions and other pertinent information.

Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) continued to be the most significant program operating in the court throughout the fiscal year. This year the court experienced a hardware upgrade on the CM/ECF server that changed the operating system from Solaris to Linux. In addition, three CM/ECF software upgrades occurred, resulting in a very difficult year for both internal and external users as new events were introduced and/or modified. There are currently more than 4,000 registered attorneys and 800 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 more than 1.2 million transactions (docket events) in the ECF system. By the end of the 12-month period court staff were docketing more than 27% of all transactions and the computer allowed for the autodocketing of notices and other events accounting for an additional 26% of all transactions. Attorneys entered 28% of all transactions and trustees 18%. Less than 1% of the transactions were entered by claims agents, however, this represented 65% of the almost 160,000 claims filed with the court.

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, 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**



## NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A total of 40,503 cases were filed in this District in Fiscal Year 2006. (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 a decrease of 31% as compared to FY 2005. A comparison of the percentage of filings, by Chapter, during this time frame reveals the following:

	FY 06	% of Total
CHAPTER 7	33,357	82.36%
CHAPTER 11	93	.23%
CHAPTER 12	6	.01
CHAPTER 13	7,047	17.40%
TOTAL	40,503	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, is set forth as follows:

	FY 05	FY 06	% of Change
AKRON	8,576	6,181	-28%
CANTON	8,200	5,279	-36%
CLEVELAND	20,546	14,997	-28%
TOLEDO	13,704	8,630	-38%
YOUNGSTOWN	8,102	5,416	-34%
TOTAL	59,128	40,503	-31%

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**

	FY 05	FY 06	% OF CHANGE
CHAPTER 7	7,229	5,134	-29%
CHAPTER 11	14	7	-50%
CHAPTER 12	0	0	----
CHAPTER 13	1333	1040	-22%

**CANTON**

	FY 05	FY 06	% OF CHANGE
CHAPTER 7	7,177	4,488	-37%
CHAPTER 11	10	16	60%
CHAPTER 12	2	2	0%
CHAPTER 13	1011	773	-24%

**CLEVELAND**

	FY 05	FY 06	% OF CHANGE
CHAPTER 7	16,224	11,781	-27%
CHAPTER 11	40	37	-8%
CHAPTER 12	0	0	----
CHAPTER 13	4,282	3,179	-26%

**TOLEDO**

	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>12,537</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>-39%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-----</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>-19%</b>

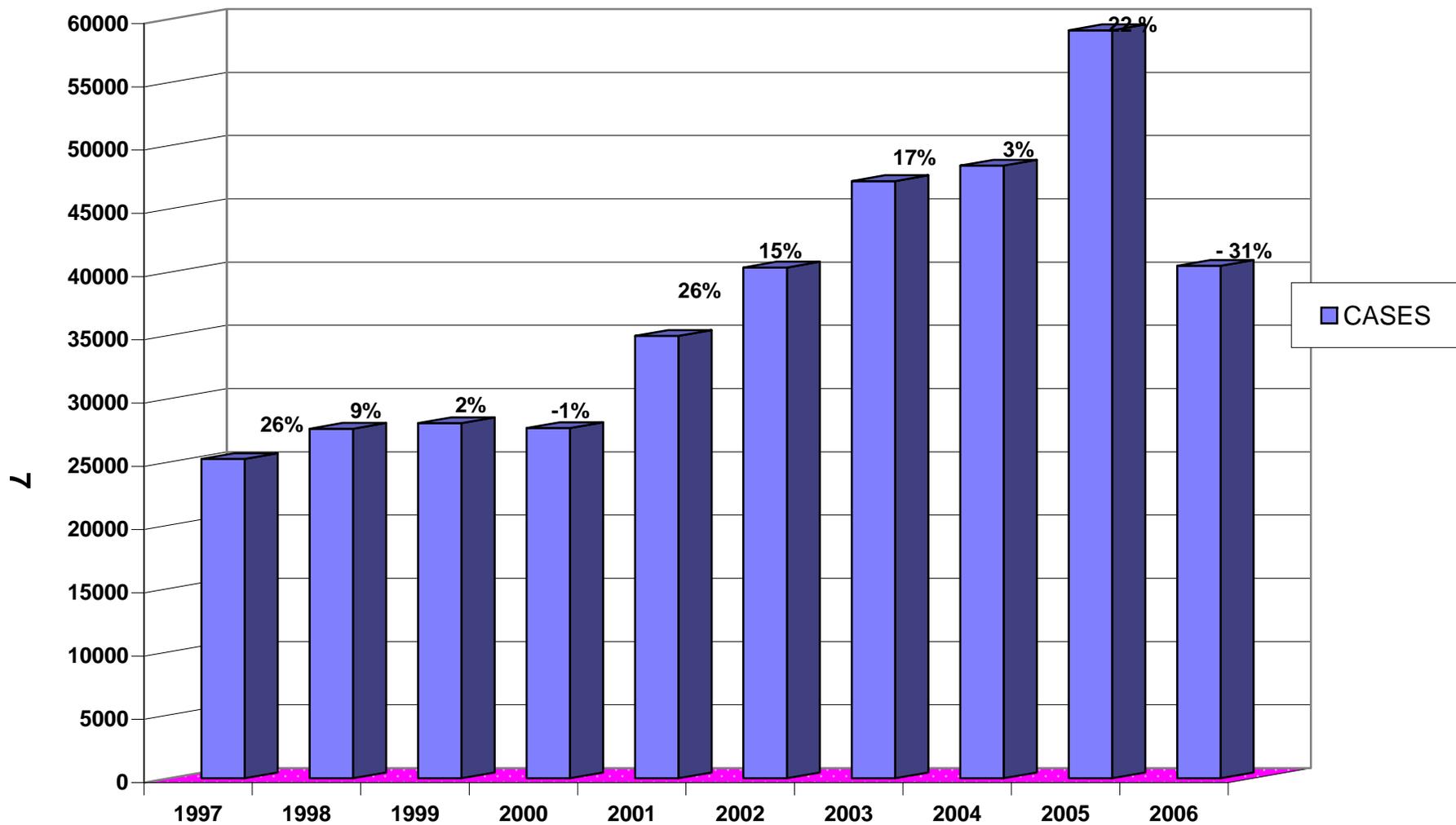
**YOUNGSTOWN**

	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>6623</b>	<b>4277</b>	<b>-35%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>-23%</b>

**DISTRICT TOTAL**

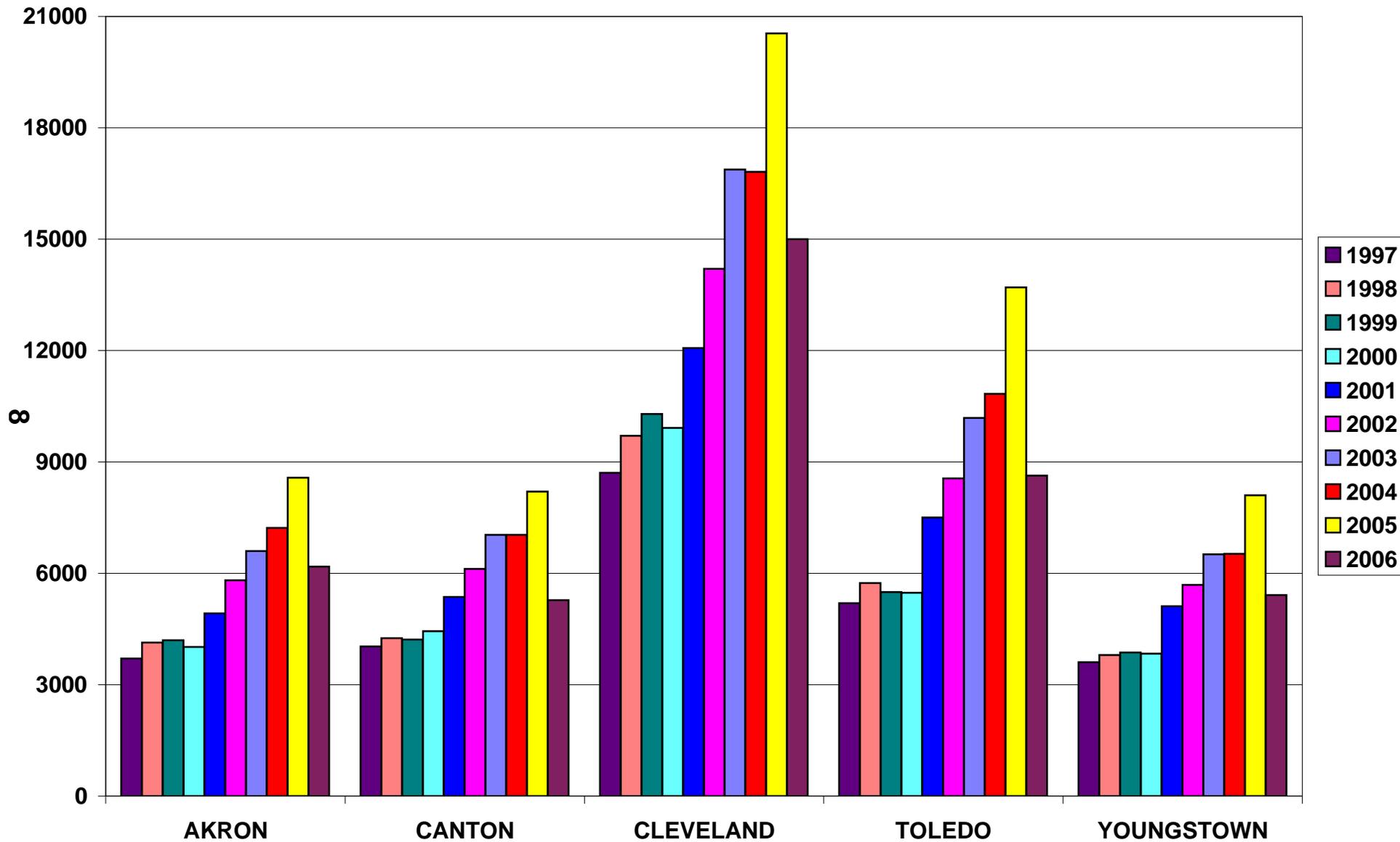
	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>% OF CHANGE</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	<b>49,790</b>	<b>33,357</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>9234</b>	<b>7047</b>	<b>-24%</b>

**CASE FILINGS  
FY 1997 - 2006  
PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE**

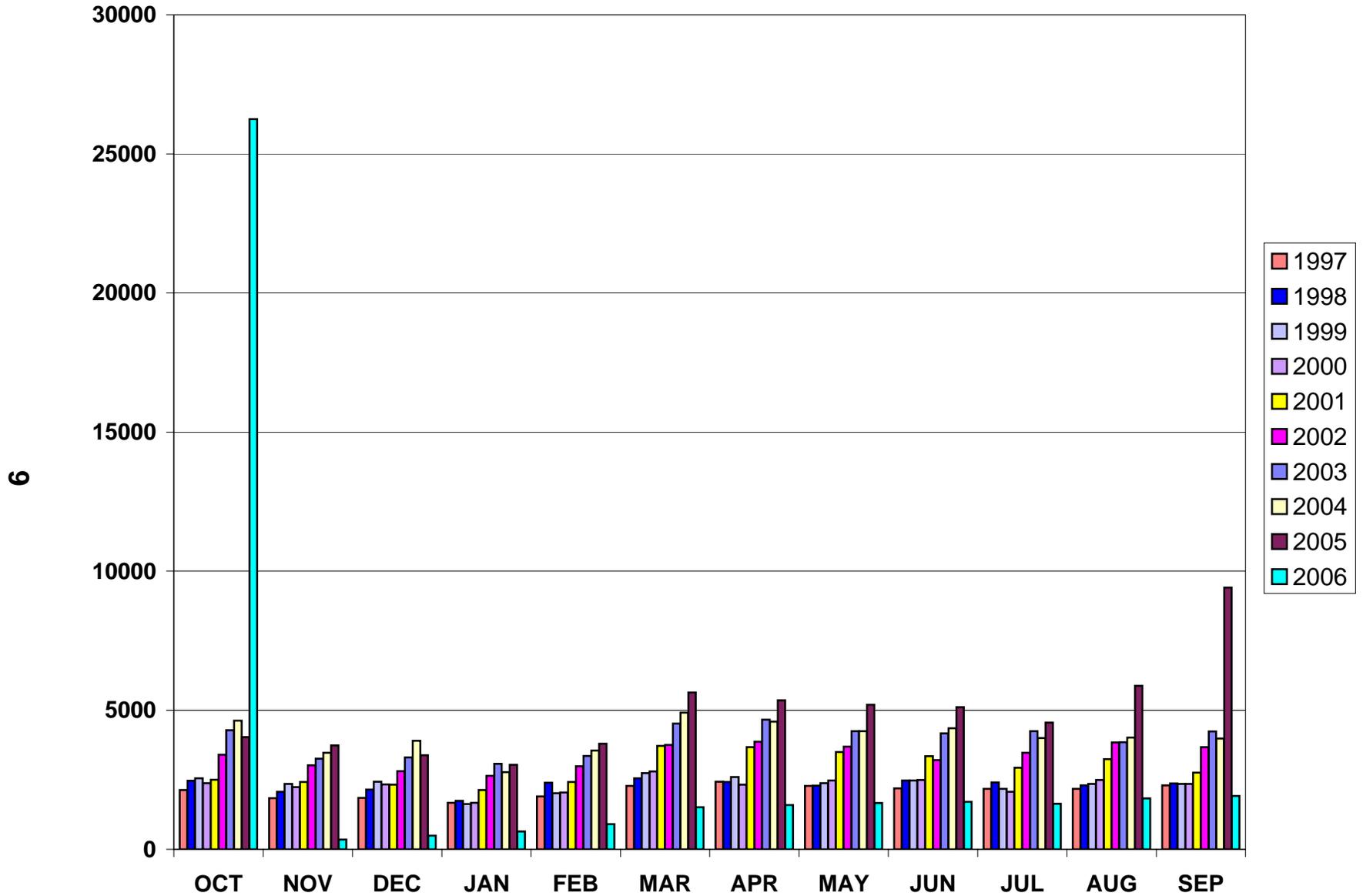


**ALL OFFICES**

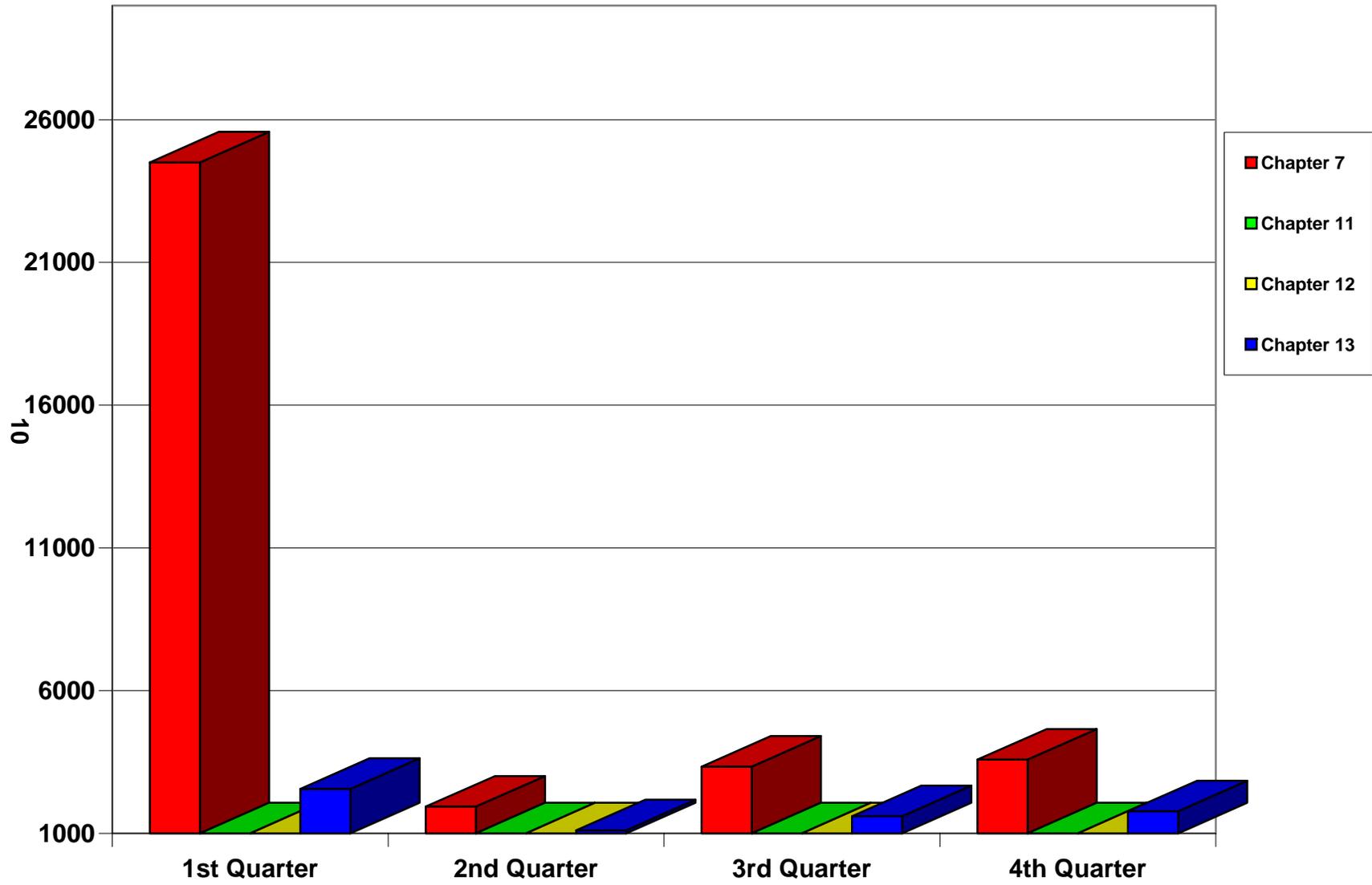
FILINGS PER OFFICE  
FY 1997- 2006



# FILING COMPARISON FY 1997-2006

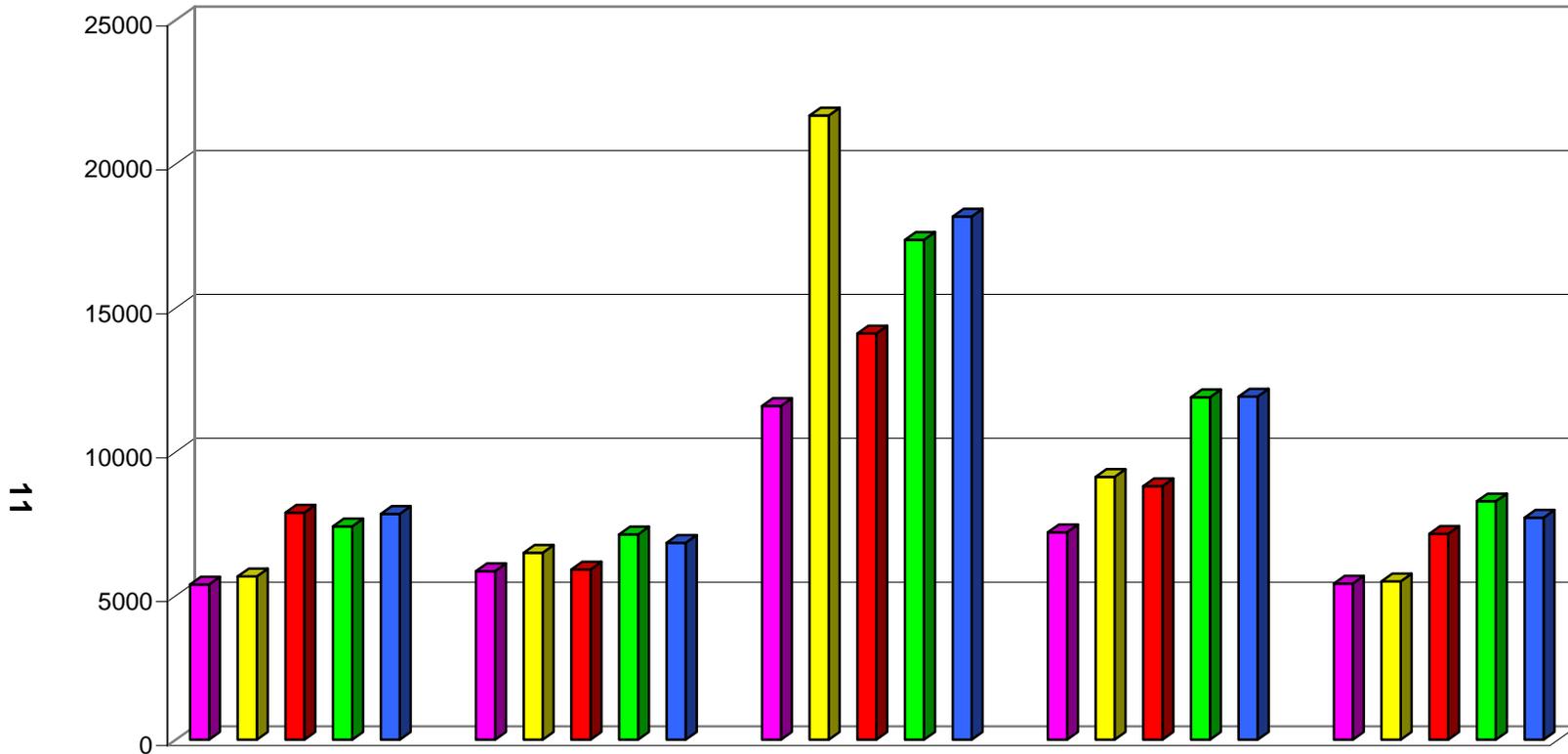


QUARTERLY FILINGS  
FY 2006



ALL OFFICES

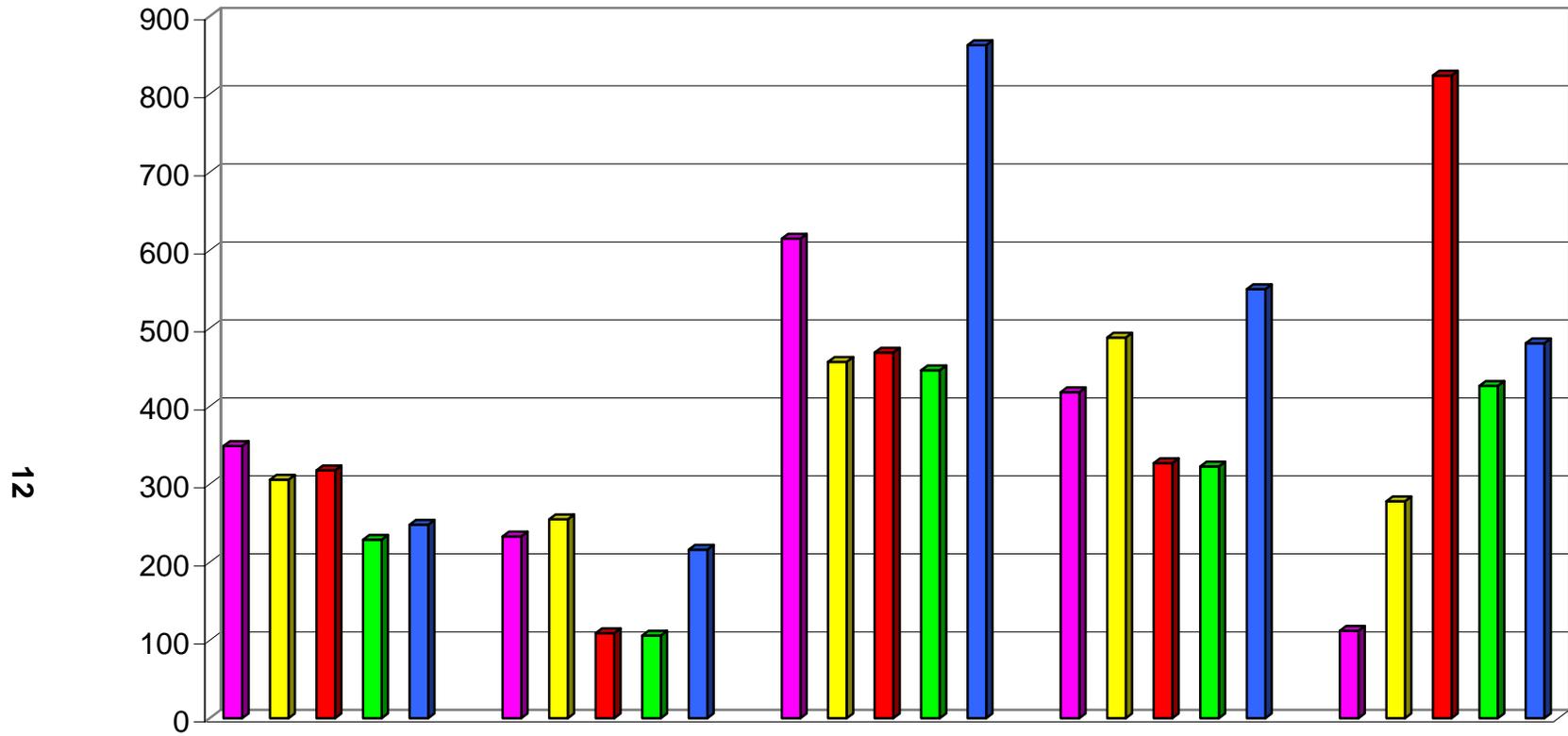
## CASE CLOSINGS FY 2002-2006



11

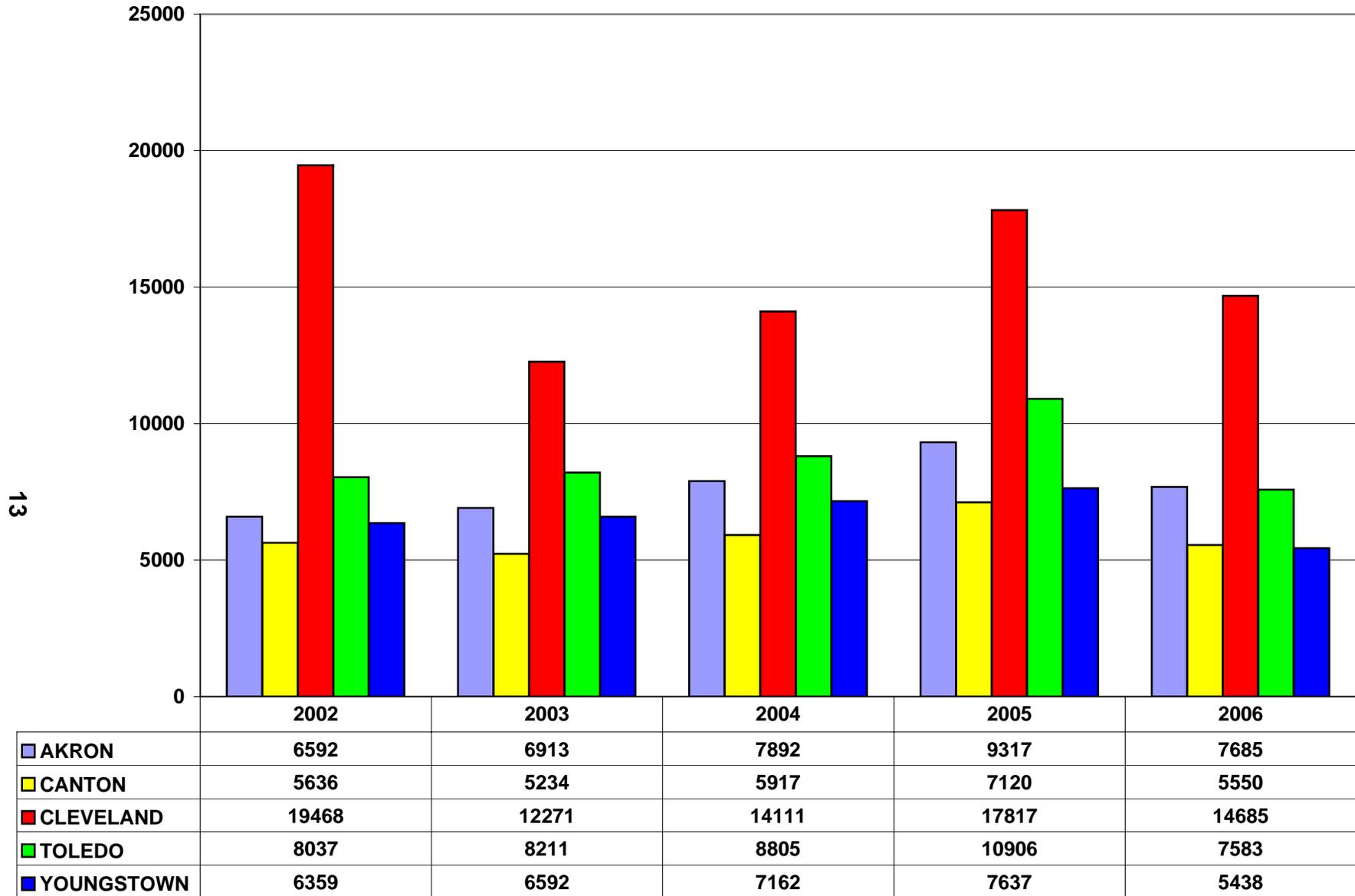
	AKRON	CANTON	CLEVELAND	TOLEDO	YOUNGSTOWN
2002	5399	5855	11595	7215	5424
2003	5674	6502	21695	9138	5504
2004	7892	5917	14111	8805	7162
2005	7416	7133	17370	11900	8286
2006	7844	6845	18177	11918	7717

**ADVERSARY CLOSINGS  
FY 2002 - 2006**

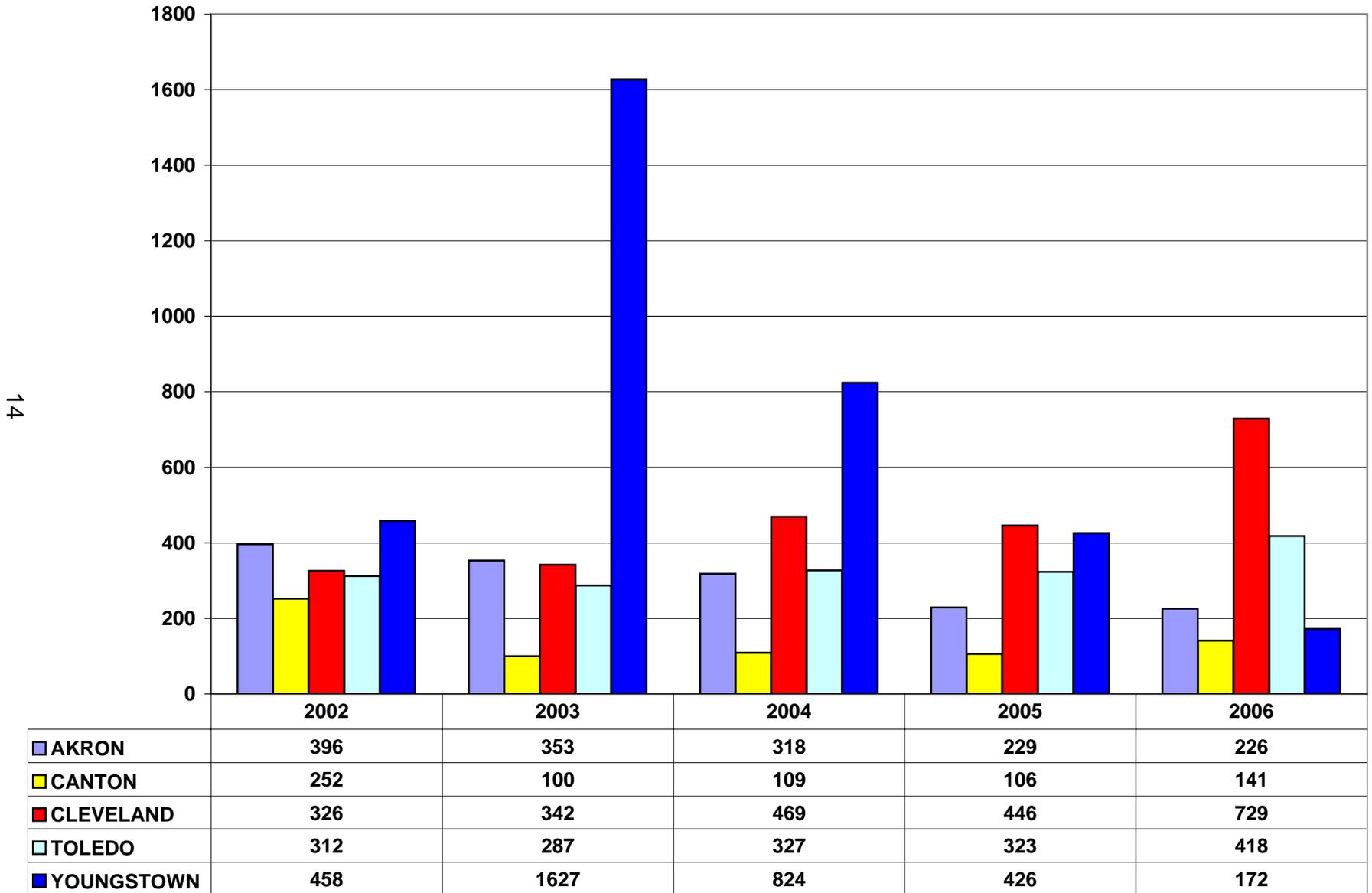


	AKRON	CANTON	CLEVELAND	TOLEDO	YOUNGSTOWN
2002	349	233	615	418	112
2003	306	255	457	488	278
2004	318	109	469	327	824
2005	229	106	446	323	426
2006	248	216	863	550	481

**PENDING CASES  
FY 2002 - 2006**



**PENDING ADVERSARIES  
FY 2002 - 2006**



**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

**AKRON**

Kathryn Belfance	1018
Harold Corzin	1011
Marc Gertz	1018
Jerome Holub (Chap. 13 Trustee)	995
Robert Thomas	1024
Richard Wilson	1035

**CANTON**

Robert Cyperski	970
Anthony DeGirolamo	950
Michael Demczyk	948
Josiah L. Mason	581
Joanne Pauline	47
Anne Piero-Silagay	953
Toby L. Rosen (Chap. 13 Trustee)	721

**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

**CLEVELAND**

Brain A. Bash	1043
Richard A. Baumgart	1075
Virgil Brown, Jr.	1082
Steven S. Davis	1065
Lauren Helbling	1066
Mary Ann Rabin	1056
Craig Shopneck (Chap. 13 Trustee)	3085
Marvin A. Sicherman	1052
David O. Simon	1064
Sheldon Stein	1059
Alan Treinish	1063
Waldemar J. Wojcik	1075

**TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2006**

**TOLEDO**

Farley K. Banks	188
Anthony B. DiSalle (Chap. 13 Trustee)	892
Douglas Dymarkowski	962
Bruce C. French	798
John N. Graham	1098
Patricia A. Kovacs	887
Suzanne Mandros	2
Ericka Parker	1101
William Swope	468
Elizabeth A. Vaughan	1091
Louis J. Yoppolo	1090

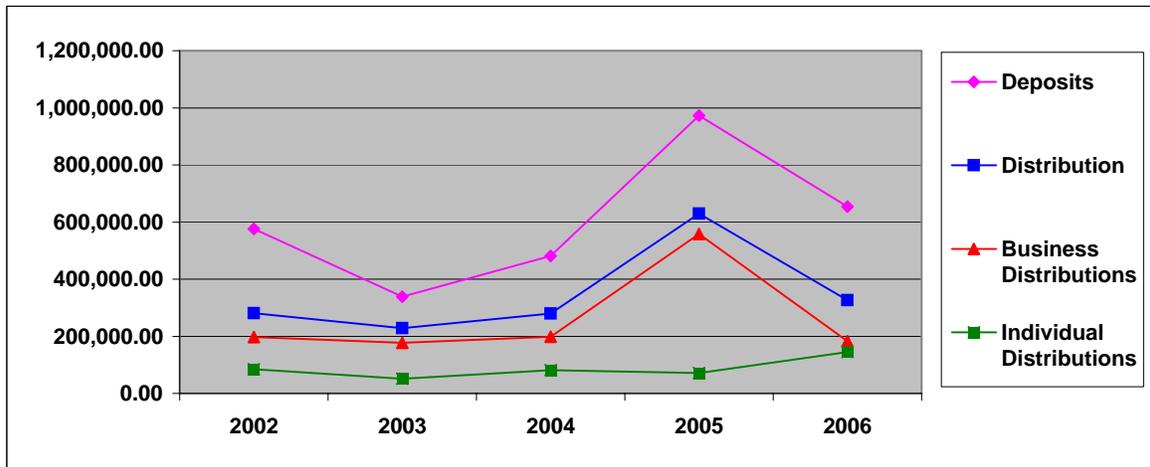
**YOUNGSTOWN**

Mark Beatrice	923
Michael Buzulencia	906
Michael A. Gallo (Chap. 13 Trustee)	1084
Elaine Greaves	574
Andrew W. Suhar	866
Richard G. Zellers	974

## 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 2006, the trustees deposited unclaimed funds in the amount of \$653,907.18 (includes 6047BK, 6133BK and 106000). The court has prepared 177 court-ordered distributions of these funds which resulted in the disbursement of \$321,947.76 for the same period.



Fiscal Year	2002	#of Dist	2003	#of Dist	2004	#of Dist	2005	#of Dist	2006	#of Dist
<b>Deposits</b>	576,261.68		338,201.98		481,000.82		973,096.52		653,907.18	
<b>Distributions</b>	281,326.53	91	228,684.80	71	279,332.85	234	629,155.25	207.00	326,947.76	178
<b>Business Distributions</b>	196,987.83	49	177,524.31	47	197,992.17	198	558,083.35	168.00	182,417.60	119
<b>Individual Distributions</b>	84,338.70	42	51,160.49	24	81,330.68	36	71,071.90	39.00	144,530.16	59

## FISCAL YEAR 2006 REVENUE

1 )	086400	410,411.88
2 )	086900	1,229,711.60
3 )	092037	0.00
4 )	106000	7,733.24
5 )	109900	462.50
6 )	143500	0.00
7 )	332340	0.00
8 )	322350	10,072.06
9 )	322360	13,845.89
10 )	322380	0.00
11 )	387500	480.00
12 )	3875CC	0.00
13 )	5073XX	2,169,507.04
14 )	510000	7,004,824.32
15 )	510100	48.00
16 )	5514CR	3,308.00
17 )	6047BK	227,015.73
18 )	6133BK	419,158.21
19 )	6855BK	767.15
20 )	6855TT	2,040,103.57
		<b>\$ 13,537,449.19</b>

- 1) 086400 Increase to fees that were authorized by the passage of PL 109-171.
- 2) 086900 Filing Fees (portion of Ch. 7, 13 and adversary filing fees, motions, etc.)
- 3) 092037 Fees for Bankruptcy Notices
- 4) 106000 Forfeitures of Unclaimed Money less than \$25.00 and held over 5 years
- 5) 109900 Miscellaneous Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures
- 6) 143500 Interest earned on all registry funds deposited into interest-bearing accounts in local financial institutions
- 7) 322340 Sale of Publications
- 8) 322350 Copy Fees
- 9) 322360 Miscellaneous Fees (certifications, searches, amendments to schedules, retrieval, service charges, claims and notices)
- 10) 322380 Recoveries of Court Costs
- 11) 387500 Clearing Account
- 12) 3875CC Clearing Account / Credit Card Transactions
- 13) 5073XX Portion of Ch. 11 non-railroad filing fee credited as offsetting collections to the United States Trustee System Fund
- 14) 510000 Civil Filing Fees (portion of Ch. 7 and 13 filings, relief from stay, adversaries and abandonments)
- 15) 510100 Registry Fees Handling Charges (fees assessed on funds deposited into interest-bearing accounts on local depositories)
- 16) 5514CR Printing Fees for Electronic Records
- 17) 6047BK Unclaimed Funds
- 18) 613300 Forfeitures of Unclaimed Money greater than \$25.00 and held over 5 years
- 19) 6855BK Deposit Funds, U.S. District Court, account is used for receipts held in suspense temporarily and later refunded, transferred or disbursed
- 20) 6855TT Deposit Fund (Bankruptcy Trustee Account)

FISCAL YEAR 2006  
OPERATING BUDGET

FUND	BUDGET OBJECT CODE	EXPENDITURES	% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET
<b>092000</b>	<b>SALARY BUDGET</b>		
	1100 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	<b>\$6,010,229.14</b>	<b>90.12%</b>
<b>092000</b>	<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>		
	1226 TRANSIT SUBSIDY	23,516.20	0.35%
	1304 SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS	106,292.55	1.59%
	2120 TRAVEL	15,438.73	0.23%
	2125 TRAVEL	9,565.32	0.14%
	2203 MOVING OF COURT PROPERTY	6,109.55	0.09%
	2209 TRANSPORTATION OF THINGS	8,941.03	0.13%
	2338 COPY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	1,477.52	0.02%
	2341 OVERTIME UTILITIES	13,803.59	0.21%
	2343 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ITEMS (COMMERCIAL METERS)	8,850.00	0.13%
	2345 POSTAGE METER RENTAL	1,980.00	0.03%
	2359 RENTAL OF MISC. ITEMS	167.33	0.00%
	2403 MISC. PRINTING	5,424.76	0.08%
	2509 POSTAGE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	1,868.76	0.03%
	2510 CYCLICAL REPLACEMNT/MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	30,410.59	0.46%
	2513 EQUIPMENT REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	19,180.30	0.29%
	2515 TENANT ALTERATIONS & REPAIR	117,924.10	1.77%
	2518 FURNITURE REPAIR/REFURBISHING	8,942.00	0.13%
	2531 CONTRATCUTAL COURT REPORTERS	6,111.15	0.09%
	2543 TRAINING	13,359.72	0.20%
	2544 PUBLICATION NOTICES/ADVERTISING	18,958.29	0.28%
	2559 OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES	25,385.72	0.38%
	2601 CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	43,315.39	0.65%
	3101 GENERAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT	7,847.49	0.12%
	3109 COPIER EQUIPMENT	875.00	0.01%
	3111 FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	129,726.69	1.95%
	3141 SOUND SYSTEM EQUIPMENT	33,552.79	0.50%
	<b>NON-AUTOMATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,669,253.71</b>	<b>9.88%</b>
<b>51140X</b>	<b>AUTOMATION BUDGET</b>		
	2120 AUTOMATION TRAVEL	\$6,222.60	0.09%
	2125 AUTOMATION TRAINING TRAVEL	\$3,569.54	0.05%
	2331 COMMUNICATION - LOCAL	\$68,005.86	1.02%
	2332 COMMUNICATION - LONG DISTANCE	2,173.11	0.03%
	2337 CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE	8,624.58	0.13%
	2512 INTRASITE WIRING	12,296.86	0.18%
	2513 ADP REPAIR	20,843.82	0.31%
	2543 AUTOMATION TRAINING	7,430.00	0.11%
	2559 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (NOC)	1,213.90	0.02%
	2606 OFFICE AUTOMATED SUPPLIES	33,641.83	0.50%
	3102 SERVERS	6,424.57	0.10%
	3103 OFFICE AUTOMATION EQUIPMENT	205,964.21	3.09%
	3104 TELEPHONE PURCHASE	282,034.48	4.23%
	3105 NETWORK AND DATA COMM EQUIPMENT	4,762.50	0.07%
	3108 PRINTERS	7,650.62	0.11%
	3109 DIGITAL COPY EQUIPMENT	44,929.00	0.67%
	3112 SOFTWARE PACKAGES	46,391.62	0.70%
	3159 OTHER EQUIPMENT (NOC)	24,900.00	0.37%
	<b>AUTOMATION SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$787,079.10</b>	<b>11.80%</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,669,253.71</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **Personnel**

We began this fiscal year with a staffing level of 108, which slightly exceeded the level of the prior two years. However, we concluded the year at a lower level, which will be reduced even further in October 2006. Our ability to function effectively and to provide ongoing excellent service to our judicial officers, the public and the Bar is a tribute to the dedication and high performance level of our staff. During this fiscal year, they successfully met the challenges they faced, which included:

- implementation of the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection;
- significant upgrade to automated systems and applications;
- change in management and staffing deployment in some areas, including Administrative Services department and divisional office;
- continuation of normal attrition, with separation of a number of employees whose positions were not filled.

We are actively pursuing initiatives to provide job growth opportunities as well as the potential for career enhancement and career advancement. As a result of our efforts during this past year, two employees were promoted to positions at a higher classification level than their previous positions and one advanced to a higher level within the supervisory range.

At the conclusion of this fiscal year, Clerk's Office staff numbered 104. Judges' Chambers was staffed by 21 individuals. They include 10 full time and three part time law clerks, four temporary law clerks and four secretaries/judicial assistants.

### **Training**

Employees continued to take advantage of a variety of training avenues to enhance their technical and workplace skills and to fulfill the requirements of our training policy, with most employees exceeding the mandated 16 hours of annual training. Training opportunities were offered through sources such as:

- long distance training via broadcasts from the Federal Judicial Television Network (FJTN). Training topics offered through FJTN included automation application usage, customer service, leadership skills, communication skills legal and procedural information, management related issues and general federal judiciary information;
- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), whereby employees attended TAP sponsored programs on automation skills, interpersonal skills, written and oral communication skills, college level programs and specialized information technology skills;
- in-house based programs and one on one coaching, including training to promote and improve cross training among various functional areas;
- 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;
- workplace safety training including emergency evacuation and recovery procedures and CPR/AED.

A training program dedicated to the improvement of communication skills for information technology and automation staff was offered as an all day session.

We continue to place a high emphasis on technical and automation training, to help employees maintain their level of technical know-how, allowing them to be expert users of our systems and applications. Automation 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.

In-house trained ECF trainers are an important component of our efforts at providing excellent service and assistance to our external users. They delivered a consistent schedule of monthly presentations on ECF training to external users as well as designed and produced handouts to support the training.

New management staff, including a divisional office manager and administrative services supervisor completed comprehensive orientation training to facilitate their transition into the new organization and position.

Two important training endeavors were launched this year, focusing on an attempt at consolidating training so that it best meets the real learning needs of our employees. To that end we:

- designed and implemented a web based training needs assessment. Results of the assessment pointed the way for implementing an annual schedule of training, presented in a more concerted manner than has been the case to date.
- launched a major training development program (IDP) which takes into consideration the issues that surfaced in the training needs assessment and provides employees with the tools that they can use to enhance their professional and technical skills thereby enabling them to maximize their potentials in their careers with the court.

The bulk of the IDP training activities will take place in fiscal year 2007; however the first series of training programs began in this fiscal year, with presentations to all staff on applying the law to job functions.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts directed another year of heavy upgrades for our CM/ECF system. The first upgrade was a hardware and operating system upgrade that encompassed moving away from a hardware architecture that was over 5-years old, and moving from the Solaris operating system to the Linux operating system. These changes, along with increased bandwidth in our network connection, positively impacted the performance of our system and increased our total storage capacity by over 29%, or 300GB. The second upgrade moved our CM/ECF application from v2.7 to v3.0, and the third upgrade moved our CM/ECF application from v3.0 to the currently running v3.1. The application upgrades were required for enhanced case statistics collection required by the BAPCPA legislation enacted in 2005. Three more of our judges implemented the use of E-Orders during the year for a total of seven judges using it, at least in some capacity. Our efforts with the AO during the year to improve the connection of our server with the AO's replication server paid off in much improved availability. In addition, we built our own "backup" server for the CM/ECF system and have it installed in a different office from our data center.

We partnered with District Court to install new Avaya phone systems in the Akron and Toledo courthouses early in the year, and then installed new Avaya phone systems in the Canton and Youngstown courthouses at the end of the year. These systems are modeled after the system that was installed in the H.M. Metzenbaum U.S. Courthouse in 2005, and finish a district-wide project to replace phone systems for which we were no longer able to get reliable service. These systems bring multiple improvements to our court including the use of digital circuits, teleconference bridges, and call-accounting systems. The item most noticeable to the end-user is the improvement in voice quality and teleconferences.

A website redesign committee was established to review our current website, look at other court's websites to determine needed features, and design our new website. The menu system of the new website will be more streamlined by eliminating menu item duplication, and reducing the depth of menu trees. An additional feature that will be available to court employees is the ability to register on-line for training programs. The mock-up of the new website is currently in process, with the new website ready for production early in 2007.

We are currently in the process of converting our locally developed financial system from a Paradox database to a MySQL database. Since the SQL database is a more robust environment, this will allow all year's data to be consolidated into one database for easier data retrieval.

Continued attention was focused on disaster recovery planning for our systems and networks. All documents saved to one of our Windows servers are now replicated to another Windows server in our district and backed up to tape each evening. A Remote Access Server is now in testing, which will allow users full access to our systems via the Internet after authenticating through the Administrative Office's VPN (virtual private network). We have built our website "backup" server at the AO-hosted facility, which will allow us to continue communicating to those who do business with our court even if our main website becomes disabled. Aggressive testing of all the backup systems we have put in place is planned for 2007.

We prepared and conducted in-house classes for employees across our district. These included Lotus Notes Nice-To-Knows and Microsoft PowerPoint. The IT staff attended many hours of technical training and industry conferences to learn new skills and enhance existing skills. These included Linux Systems Administration, CM/ECF data dictionary changes for BAPCPA, Intrusion Detection and Response, a SANS workshop, Microsoft Systems Management Server, Avaya Systems Administration, Customer Service Delivery Essentials, Internal Controls, Applying the Law, and Business Writing. We also continued our efforts to train each other in different areas of expertise. The two classes held this year were CM/ECF data dictionary and Firewall training. We had two individuals accepted into the Federal Court Leadership Program, one individual is working on his PhD at the University of Akron, and one individual has been accepted to the MBA program at Kent State University.

Since our district's data center air conditioning units have become a problem to maintain and are unable to provide adequate cooling, we have initiated a project to install a 5-ton Liebert unit to cool the room and provide humidity control. We consulted with an independent data center expert to determine the correct size of the unit. This unit is scheduled for installation in December 2006.

We completed a project in our data center to rack mount all servers and consolidate multiple servers to use a single monitor, keyboard, and mouse. The purpose of this project was to free up floor space, reduce heat dissipation, and clean up cabling. We are partnering with District Court to install wireless access points in all our courthouses to allow attorneys to get access to the Internet while in our courthouses. We replaced 64 PCs throughout our district that were more than five-years old with Dell GX620 PCs, and we have begun the evaluation and testing process of the new Windows Vista desktop operating system for use within our environment.