

# CRIMINAL AND CIVIL

## Courts in Leelanau County

### 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

8527 E. Government Ctr. Dr.  
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

General Calls: **256-9824**  
Fax: **256-8541**

Chief Judge, Thomas G. Power  
Judge, Philip E. Rodgers Jr.

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau  
County Clerk, also serves as the  
Circuit Court Clerk.  
Terri Quinn, Court Administrator  
Circuit Court Administrator's Office  
in Traverse City: **922-4701**  
Fax: **922-4519**

The 13th Circuit Court of the State of Michigan covers cases in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. Circuit Courts in Michigan have jurisdiction over:

- Crimes that are specified as felonies, and crimes that carry punishment for more than one year in prison are defined as felonies.

- Civil cases asking for money damages over \$25,000. District Court handles those cases involving disputes of \$25,000 or less. Also included are equitable claims, such as specific performance of sales of land, injunctive relief and certain statutory exclusive jurisdictions, such as mortgage foreclosures and construction lien foreclosures. Quiet Title actions affecting real property are heard in Circuit Court.

- Cases that fall under the Circuit Court's Family Division. The Juvenile Division of the Probate Court has been moved to the Family Division of the Circuit Court, which required the assignment of the Probate Judge to function in that Division. Leelanau County has one elected Probate Judge, who handles all Probate matters and serves in the Family Division. The Family Division handles divorces, paternities, non-support actions, child custody and parenting time disputes, neglect and abuse petitions, adoptions, juvenile

delinquency matters and personal protection orders.

- All District Court appeals, as well as some Probate Court appeals. Appeals come from administrative agencies, such as worker compensation decisions, Secretary of State actions, Parole Board decisions and other state agencies. Decisions by municipalities are also taken to Circuit Court. Zoning Board of Appeals, determination of necessity on drains, and gun board decisions come to Circuit Court.

### PROBATE COURT

8527 E. Government Center Dr.,  
Suite 203, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

General Calls: **256-9803**  
Fax: **256-9845**

Probate Court Judge, Larry Nelson



Probate Court Judge Larry Nelson from Leland came out on top of a field of six attorneys from Leelanau County seeking to succeed Joseph Deegan, who died on July 23, 2009. Judge Nelson, who had previously served as Leelanau County prosecutor, was elected to the bench in the 2010 General Election, and sworn in the following month. He is completing the remainder of Judge Deegan's term which expires in 2012.

Susan Richards, Probate register  
Josephine Lingaur, Deputy register/  
reporter

The Leelanau County Probate Court has jurisdiction over estates and trusts, guardianship of adults, minors, and developmentally disabled persons, conservatorships, and commitment of the mentally ill, and a few other miscellaneous matters.

### 86TH DISTRICT COURT

8527 E. Government Center Dr.,  
Suite 201, Suttons Bay, MI 49682

General Calls: **256-8250**  
Fax: **256-8275**

Chief Judge, Thomas J. Phillips  
Judge, Michael J. Haley  
Judge, Michael Stepka

Norene D. Kastys, Magistrate  
Cindy Schaub, Court Clerk  
Carol Stocking, Court Administrator  
Mike Cockran, Probation Officer  
District Court Administrator's Office  
in Traverse City: **922-4502**

The 86th District Court is part of the judicial branch of government as provided for by the Michigan Constitution in 1963 and created by the Michigan Legislature in Public Act 154 of 1968. The purpose of the District Court is to provide a system of justice for the citizens of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau Counties. The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less, all criminal misdemeanors and arraignments and preliminary examinations in felony matters.

Judges hold court in Traverse City five days per week. Court is held in Antrim County every Tuesday and Thursday and every Friday in Leelanau County. Judges travel to Antrim and Leelanau on a rotating schedule.

Each Court office is divided into four divisions: criminal, traffic, civil and probation.