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## Michigan Tax Tribunal Eliminates 40,000 Case Backlog and Reduces Length of Appeals Process by 50%

The Michigan Tax Tribunal has launched several new systems that will make the tax assessment dispute process more user-friendly and transparent for all parties. As part of the Tribunal's enhanced website, [www.michigan.gov/taxtrib](http://www.michigan.gov/taxtrib), the administrative tax court unveiled new E-Filing and case Management systems, as well as an improved docket search resource.

**Faster Response:** Small claims appeals process now takes an average of 7-10 months.

**Number Impacted:** Up to 12,000 petitioners annually.

These technology upgrades are the Tribunal's latest effort to make its processes more efficient. Prior to 2011, the tax appeals process took 20-24 months. By using a systematic business process review, increasing production standards, and scheduling protocol revisions the Tribunal increased productivity, eliminated a 40,000 case backlog, and instituted an appeals process which now takes an average of 7-10 months.

### E-Filing System

The Tribunal is now offering a free, voluntary electronic system for the filing of pleadings and other documents for all case types in both the Tribunal's Small Claims Division and the Entire Tribunal. Users can quickly and easily initiate an appeal, respond to an appeal, file stipulations for entry of consent judgment, motions, and other documents, and pay required filing fees. The E-Filing System, which is available around the clock, can be accessed by users, their attorneys or authorized representatives.

### Improved Docket Search

The Tribunal's enhanced docket search resource now allows users to search cases filed in 2014 by county and offers more detailed docket information, including electronic copies of all filings related to any individual case.

### New Case Management System

The Tribunal has worked tirelessly with CaseLoad, a case management solutions provider, to tailor case management resources to the Tribunal's specific needs. The new system includes an electronic filing component which will allow the

electronic submission of all pleadings, evidence, and other documents. Users can also view and manage all electronically filed documents through their account. The new system is a time saver for Tribunal employees by eliminating the manual data input of Tribunal filings.

Carl Rashid, Jr., Property Tax Appeal Practice Group Leader at Dykema Gossett PLLC, is extremely pleased with the new e-filing system.

"This system has truly modernized the property tax appeal process and brought the Tax Tribunal into the 21st Century," said Rashid. "We have found the system to be quicker and more responsive than e-filing systems we have used in some of the circuit and federal courts. As a long-time practitioner in the Tax Tribunal, you have my deepest appreciation for providing this excellent service and facilitating this part of my practice."

**50%**  
LENGTH OF SMALL CLAIMS APPEALS  
PROCESS REDUCED BY 50%