



57th District Court – Allegan County State of Michigan

113 Chestnut Street, Allegan County Building, Allegan, MI 49010

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Website: www.allegancounty.org/districtcourt



District Court Clerk's Office, Judicial Staff and Probation

Pictured from left to right

First row: Judge Joseph S. Skocelas, Linda Lenahan, Judge William A. Baillargeon and Magistrate Daniel W. Norbeck;

Second row: Chris Gates-Edson, Mary Jo Ash, Michelle Carpenter, Jackie Hicks, Cindy Cook, Heather Bausick, Carole Carr, Kathy Evans, Candy Mock, Mark Ponitz, Audrey VerBeek, Ken Giles, Deb Wolters, Kathy Miller, Nancy Eaton, Sarah Miller, Renee Stack and Amber Browneye;

Third row: Emily Schwartz, Hickory Buell, Kelly Miklusicak, Kayla Williamson and Aimee Kragt

Digital photos by Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

57th District Court 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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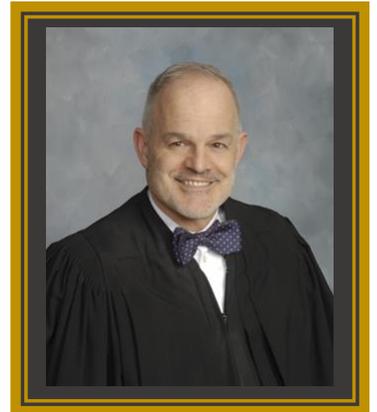
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A Message from the Chief Judge

Our court approaches the completion of my third term as the Chief Judge of the 57th District Court in Allegan County. We have much to be proud of and are working to further improve our service to the people of Allegan County and the State of Michigan. I want to take this opportunity to highlight just some of the successes we have achieved and to discuss some of the innovations we are implementing to make our court even more efficient and responsive to the needs of the public. Judge Joseph Skocelas and I, as your district court judges, will continue to work daily to make the 57th District Court more accessible, more efficient and more user friendly to the daily needs of the public.



William A. Baillargeon
Chief District Court Judge

Often referred to as “the People’s Court,” the 57th District Court is **dedicated to the service of justice** for all that come before it. The court is a hardworking team that is a model and an example to other courts.

The team that creates this success is made up of clerks, probation officers, supervisors, and court personnel, all working together to assist the judges and magistrate to efficiently hear all matters before the court. Working together we are able to excel in providing efficient and effective service. This team is also courteous and helps people understand what happened in their case. Linda Lenahan, the Court Administrator deserves much of the credit for the court’s success.

The successes of the court are recognized by The State Court Administrator’s Office who has consistently recognized our court in their timeliness reports. The 57th District Court is always at the very top of their rankings for all of the services that they measure. The greatest accolade, however, is from those we serve. The Supreme Court mandated that satisfaction surveys be performed upon the public and parties before the court. Those surveys confirmed that the **public is extremely satisfied with the service provided** by this court and its staff. Our clerks provide professional service with a genuine smile and are willing to explain terms and procedures to people who may be coming to the court for the very first time. Our largest department, the Clerks are supervised by Chris Gates-Edson. The 57th District Court probation officers, directed by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ponitz are compassionate and patient, but firm in requiring defendants comply with court orders and sentences. As the 57th District Court continues to enhance its service to the public, it also is continuing to participate in and integrate its service with the Circuit and Probate Courts under the **concurrent jurisdiction plan**. This plan allows the courts to assist one another with matters such as disqualifications, judicial absence, and other matters. This plan promotes timely hearings and financial responsibility by eliminating nearly all needs for delay and costs associated with referring matters to a visiting judge from another county. For example, under this plan, Magistrate Daniel Norbeck continues to assist the Circuit Court by reviewing uncontested judgments of divorce for cases with no minor children.

Striving to make the court even more effective in addressing recurrent issues within Allegan County, we continue to foster the use of specialty courts. Specialty courts are focused on addressing specific challenges within the criminal justice system. The 57th District Court has been innovative and

A Message from the Chief Judge - continued

at capacity. Also under my direction, the **West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court (WMRVTC)** was established in the 57th District Court. This was the first such regional court in the State, bringing together the Circuit and District Courts from Van Buren, Allegan and Ottawa Counties to address justice involved veterans. This court is a shining example of cooperation with various courts, offices of prosecution, probation departments, and county administration from all three of these counties.

In 2017 we launched the newest specialty court - **Sobriety Court**. This Court, which I preside over, addresses substance abuse issues associated with driving. Sobriety Court enables those successfully complying with requirements to receive a restricted driver's license. Such a license allows participants to continue to maintain employment and thereby provide for their families. It also allows them to travel to and from counseling and support meetings as required by the court. Recent legislative enhancements now also allow participants to attend their children's school related events. These sobriety and other specialty courts have been found to be extraordinarily successful in addressing the issues that bring people into the justice system, and they dramatically reduce recidivism.

It is the pledge of the 57th District Court to continue to innovate to meet the evolving needs of the people it serves. We will continue to seek ways to make the courts more accessible to all, to provide assistance to those in need, and to make the service of justice our guiding principle in all we do.



William A. Baillargeon
Chief Judge, 57th District Court of Allegan County



HISTORY, LOCATION AND OVERVIEW

The 57th District Court is located in the County Building at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, Michigan. The geographic jurisdiction of the Court includes all of the County of Allegan, except that part of the City of Holland lying within Allegan County.

The District Court was established by the Michigan Legislature in 1968 pursuant to a constitutional mandate. Citizens have more contact with the district court than any other court in the state. District Court has exclusive jurisdiction of all civil litigation up to \$25,000 and handles garnishments, eviction proceedings, landlord-tenant and land contract summary proceedings. In the criminal area, the district court handles all misdemeanors where punishment does not exceed one year and relevant proceedings including arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. It also conducts preliminary examinations in felony cases. In 2015, jurisdiction was expanded to also allow District Court Judges to accept felony pleas.

The district court includes a small claims division for civil cases up to \$6,000. In these cases, litigants agree to waive their right to a trial by jury. They also agree to waive rules of evidence, representation by a lawyer, and the right to appeal from the district judge's decision. If either party objects to processing as a small claims case, the case will be heard in the general civil division of the district court.

By statute, the district judges have authority to appoint magistrates. Magistrates may 1) set bail and accept bond in criminal matters, 2) accept guilty pleas, and 3) sentence for traffic, motor carrier, snowmobile, dog, game, and marine law violations. The magistrate may also issue arrest and search warrants authorized by the prosecutor or local municipal attorney. Attorney magistrates may conduct small claims hearings. Magistrates may, at the direction of the chief judge, perform other duties allowed by statute.

District judges are elected for six-year terms on nonpartisan ballots, under the same requirements as circuit judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

Administration Overview



District Court Administrative Team

Left to right, first row: Joseph S. Skocelas, District Court Judge; Linda L. Lenahan, Court Administrator, William A. Baillargeon, Chief District Court Judge;

Left to right, back row: Daniel W. Norbeck, Attorney Magistrate; Chris Gates-Edson, Chief Deputy District Court Clerk; Mark Ponitz, Chief Probation Officer;

Digital photos by Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

The 57th District Court has two Judges elected to six-year terms of office. The Chief Judge acts as director of administration of the Court. Each Judge is assisted by a court recorder/judicial secretary who is responsible to record proceedings, assign transcript preparation and perform secretarial duties. The Judges are also assisted by Courthouse Security who act as courtroom bailiffs assigned to prisoner movement, provide courtroom decorum, courtroom security and assist the public and jurors. Since moving into the new jail in October 2014, 99% of prisoner movement has been eliminated in favor of appearing on Polycom videoconferencing and/or video telephones between the jail and the courtrooms/conference rooms.

The District Court Administrator is appointed by the Chief Judge, and together they create an executive leadership team necessary to manage the operation of the District Court. The District Court Administrator oversees all aspects of Court operations and administration including, but not limited to, case flow management, jury utilization, human resource management, fiscal and grant administration, intergovernmental liaison, and technology management, and is authorized to perform magisterial duties.

The Attorney Magistrate is appointed by the Chief Judge and performs certain quasi-judicial functions impacting litigants and the Court. Some of the responsibilities include, but are not limited to, informal hearings, authorizing search and arrest warrants, conducting arraignments, performing legal research, accepting guilty pleas and sentencing, establishing bonds, resolving small claims matters, and performing weddings. As a cross-assigned Circuit Court Referee under the Concurrent Jurisdiction Plan, the Attorney Magistrate reviews uncontested judgments of divorce on cases with no minor children.

The Chief Probation Officer, under the supervision of the District Court Administrator, performs a variety of duties in supervising the activities and daily operations of probation officers and support staff as well as performing the duties of a probation officer on a regular basis.

The Chief Deputy Clerk, under the supervision of the District Court Administrator, serves as a team leader supervising, training and assisting staff; monitoring workloads; and overseeing daily operations in the Clerk's Office. The Chief Deputy Clerk also acts as a magistrate issuing misdemeanor complaint and warrants.

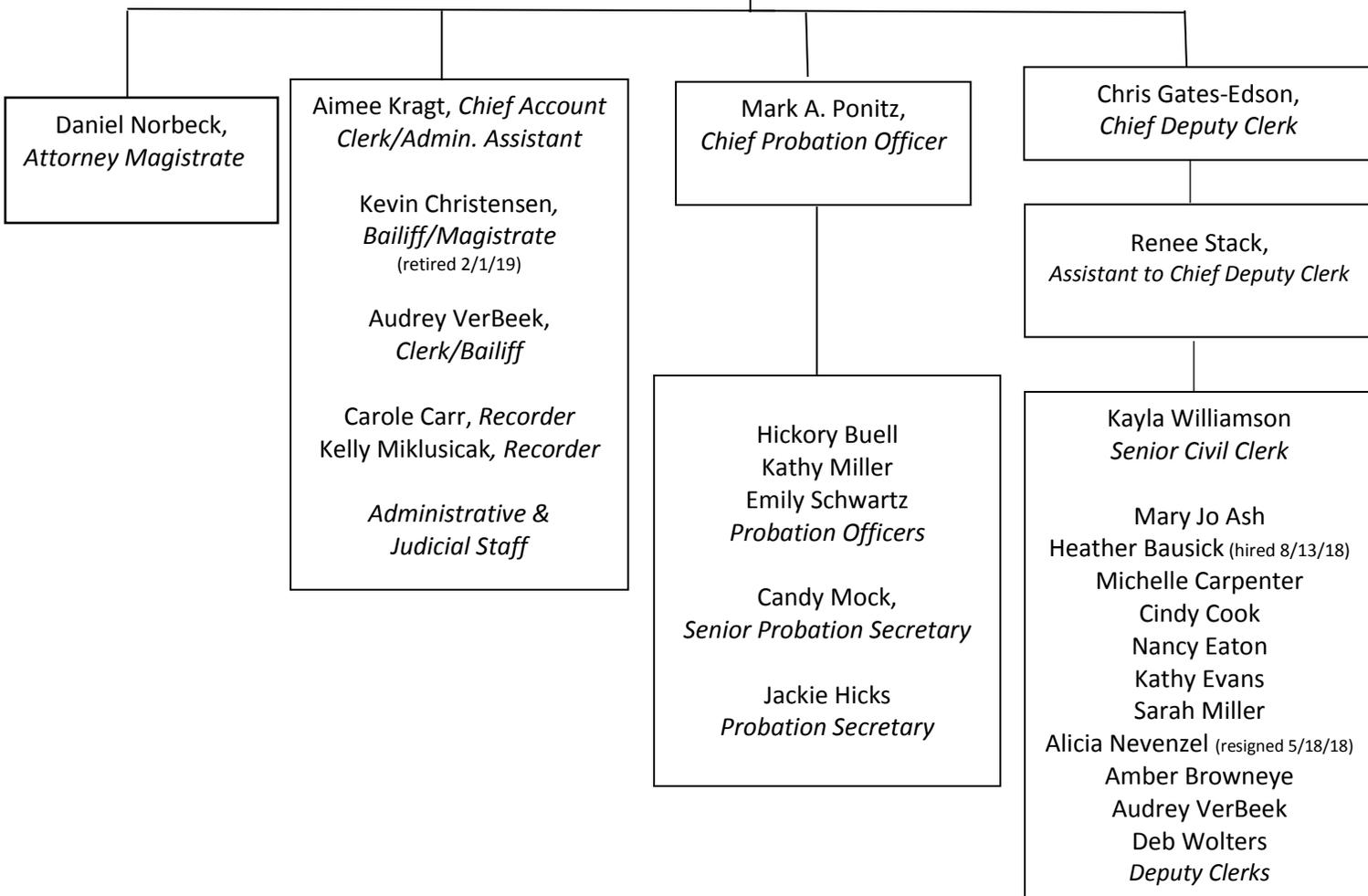
Organizational Chart

The Public

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. BAILLARGEON
Chief Judge

HONORABLE JOSEPH S. SKOCELAS
Chief Judge Pro Tempore

LINDA L. LENAHAN
Court Administrator



Judicial Staff



District Court Judicial Staff

Left to right, first row: Judge Joseph S. Skocelas, Linda Lenahan, Judge William A. Baillargeon and Attorney Magistrate Daniel W. Norbeck; Left to right, back row: Audrey VerBeek, Kelly Miklusicak, Aimee Kragt, Carole Carr and Ken Giles; Digital photos by Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

HONORABLE JOSEPH S. SKOCELAS, District Court Judge, was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm on April 26, 2006 to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of the Honorable Gary Stewart. Judge Skocelas was subsequently elected in November 2006 to complete Judge Stewart's term through 2008, then again in November of 2008 and 2014 for full six-year terms.

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. BAILLARGEON, Chief District Court Judge, was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm on March 5, 2009 to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of the Honorable Stephen Sheridan. Prior to this appointment, Judge Baillargeon served as Circuit Judge for Allegan County's 48th Circuit Court from 2007-2009. Judge Baillargeon was elected in November 2010 to complete Judge Sheridan's term through 2012, then re-elected again in November of 2012 and 2018 for full six-year terms.

LINDA L. LENAHAN, District Court Administrator, was appointed in February 2002. Prior to her appointment, Linda worked for the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court for 20 years.

DANIEL W. NORBECK, Attorney Magistrate, was hired on September 6, 2016. Prior to joining the District Court, Daniel was an Assistant Prosecutor in the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office.

CAROLE A. CARR, Court Recorder/Judicial Secretary for the Honorable William A. Baillargeon, has been with the District Court since April 1991.

KEVIN M. CHRISTENSEN, Bailiff/Magistrate for the 57th District Court, provides assistance and ensures the safety of all courtroom participants in District Court. Kevin has been with the District Court since June 4, 2007. Courthouse Security provides coverage when Kevin is unavailable. Kevin retired with the District Court on February 1, 2019.

AIMEE L. KRAGT, Chief Account Clerk/Administrative Assistant, has been with the District Court since January 1988.

KELLY MIKLUSICAK, Court Recorder/Judicial Secretary for the Honorable Joseph Skocelas, has been with the District Court since February 2004. On January 1, 2012 Kelly was promoted from Deputy District Court Clerk to Judge Skocelas' secretary and court recorder.

AUDREY VERBEEK, Deputy District Court Clerk, transferred from the Friend of the Court on February 24, 2014 to work part-time as a court clerk/bailiff in the courtrooms. Audrey splits her time between the Judicial Wing and the District Court Clerk's Office.

Clerk's Office Staff



District Court Clerk's Office

Left to right, first row: Heather Bausick, Audrey VerBeek, Chris Gates-Edson, Renee Stack and Kayla Williamson;

Left to right, back row: Mary Jo Ash, Michelle Carpenter, Kathy Evans, Nancy Eaton, Deb Wolters, Amber Browneye, Sarah Miller and Cindy Cook

Digital photos by Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

MARY JO ASH, Deputy Court Clerk in the Collections Division, has been employed with the District Court since March 25, 2013.

HEATHER BAUSICK, Deputy Court Clerk, transferred from Facilities Management on August 13, 2018 into the Civil Division.

AMBER BROWNEYE, Deputy Court Clerk, transferred from the Youth Home (Detention) on December 15, 2014 to the Traffic/Criminal Division.

MICHELLE CARPENTER, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, has been employed with the District Court since January 1998.

CINDY COOK, Deputy Court Clerk in the Civil Division, transferred from the Friend of the Court to District Court on June 6, 2016.

NANCY EATON, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, was hired by the District Court on November 16, 2015.

KATHLEEN EVANS, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, has been employed with the District Court since January 1999.

CHRISTINE GATES-EDSON, Chief Deputy Court Clerk, has been employed with the District Court since September 1998. In September 2010, Christine was promoted to Chief Deputy District Court Clerk.

SARAH MILLER, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, has been employed with the District Court since October 1998.

ALICIA NEVENZEL, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, was hired by the District Court on November 16, 2015. Alicia resigned from District Court and transferred into the Allegan County Circuit Court – Family Division.

KAYLA WILLIAMSON, Senior Civil Clerk, has been employed with the District Court since May 19, 2014. She was promoted from Deputy Court Clerk to Senior Civil Clerk on June 6, 2016.

RENEE STACK, Assistant to the Chief Deputy Court Clerk, transferred from the Circuit Court Clerk's Office on April 9, 2007. She was promoted from a Deputy Court Clerk to the Assistant to the Chief Deputy Court Clerk position on September 28, 2015. Renee has also been appointed as a Magistrate to issue misdemeanor complaint and warrants.

AUDREY VERBEEK, Deputy Court Clerk, transferred from the Friend of the Court on February 24, 2014 to work part-time as a court clerk/bailiff in the courtrooms.

DEBORAH WOLTERS, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, has been employed with the District Court since April 2004.

Probation Department Staff



District Court Probation Staff

*Left to right, first row: Emily Schwartz, Hickory Buell and Jackie Hicks;
Left to right, second row: Candy Mock, Mark Ponitz and Kathy Miller;*

Digital photos by Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

MARK PONITZ, Chief Probation Officer, has been employed with the District Court since May 2006. Mark was named *Interim* Chief Probation Officer in August 2012 and then appointed Chief Probation Officer January 1, 2013.

HICKORY BUELL, Probation Officer, has been employed with the District Court since January 28, 2013. Prior to District Court, Hickory worked as an Enforcement Officer with the Friend of the Court.

JACQUELINE HICKS, Secretary, has been employed with the District Court since February 2004. In 2012, she split her day between the Probation Department and the Clerk's Office. In 2013, Jackie returned to the Probation Department full-time.

KATHLEEN MILLER, Probation Officer, has been employed with the District Court since January 2000.

CANDICE MOCK, Senior Probation Secretary, has been employed with the District Court since January 1995.

EMILY SCHWARTZ, Probation Officer, has been employed with the District Court since January 16, 2017. Prior to District Court, Emily worked as an Conciliator-Investigator with the Friend of the Court.

Public Satisfaction Survey

For a fifth consecutive time, court users say they are satisfied with their experiences in the 57th District Court of Allegan County. Using a survey that was administered in courts statewide, the Allegan District Court asked court users questions about their level of satisfaction with court services. Across the board, court users said that the 57th District Court was accessible, timely, fair, and that they were treated with courtesy and respect. The public holds positive views about the courts and their core functions. The majority believe that this court treats people with dignity and respect, are unbiased in their case decisions, listen carefully to those that appear before them, and take the needs of people into account. In general regardless of the outcome of the case, respondents were satisfied with the fairness of the process in their dealing with the system.

Chief Judge William A. Baillargeon of the 57th District Court stated, “The 57th District Court has a reputation for integrity and efficiency. State reviews of the court for accuracy and timeliness in reporting consistently reveal that the hard working clerks, judicial personnel and probation staff of the 57th District Court rank at or near the top of the state in every category measured. The results of this public survey are especially gratifying because they show that the people served by the court recognize and appreciate this dedication to the public and to the administration of justice here in Allegan County.”

“Public satisfaction is a critical measure of the success of court operations,” said Court Administrator Linda Lenahan. “We depend on a wide range of performance measures to help us boost efficiency and improve service to the public.”

Developed with input from judges and court administrators statewide and tabulated by the State Court Administrative Office, the survey enables courts to identify strengths, provide positive feedback to employees, and target areas for improvement. The survey was completed by a range of court users, including parties to cases, attorneys, jurors, and others.

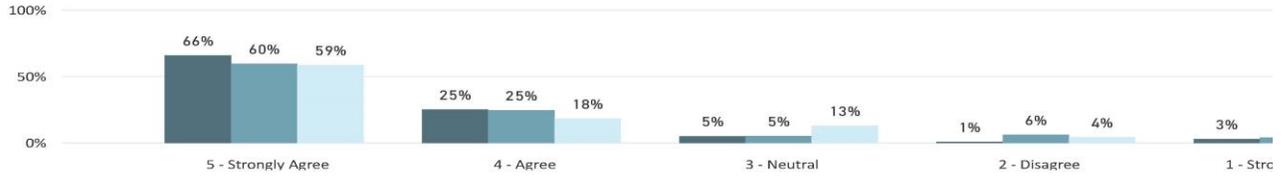
The public satisfaction survey is part of a statewide initiative of the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office to measure and report on court performance. The following pages contain specific questions and results from the 2018 survey. For more information on the state public satisfaction survey, visit www.courts.mi.gov.

SURVEY RESULTS – 57TH DISTRICT COURT

*Questions 1 and 2 were directed to all respondents.

1. I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018

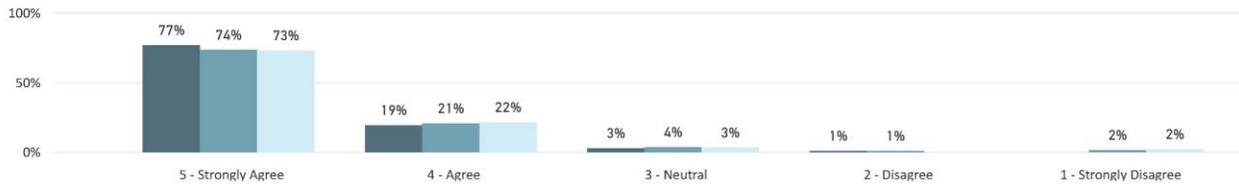


1. I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.

SurveyYear	2015		2016		2018		Total	
Time	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	89	66%	114	60%	54	59%	257	61%
4 - Agree	34	25%	47	25%	17	18%	98	23%
3 - Neutral	7	5%	10	5%	12	13%	29	7%
2 - Disagree	1	1%	12	6%	4	4%	17	4%
1 - Strongly Disagree	4	3%	8	4%	5	5%	17	4%
Total	135	100%	191	100%	92	100%	418	100%

2. I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



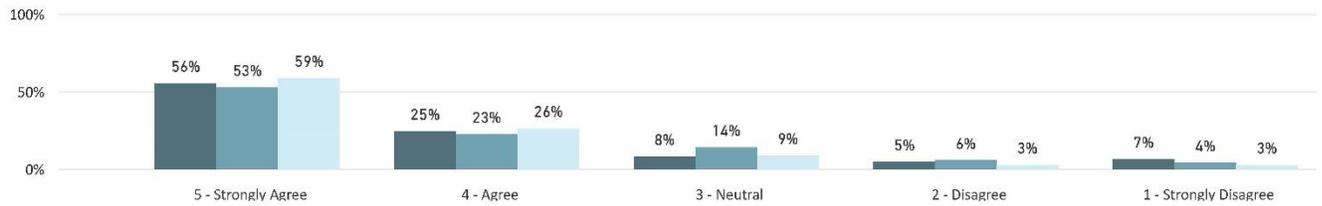
2. I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.

SurveyYear	2015		2016		2018		Total	
CourtesyStaff	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	107	77%	142	74%	68	73%	317	75%
4 - Agree	27	19%	40	21%	20	22%	87	20%
3 - Neutral	4	3%	7	4%	3	3%	14	3%
2 - Disagree	1	1%	1	1%			2	0%
1 - Strongly Disagree			3	2%	2	2%	5	1%
Total	139	100%	193	100%	93	100%	425	100%

*Questions 3 and 4 were directed to persons who attended a hearing or trial.

3. The way the case was handled was fair.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



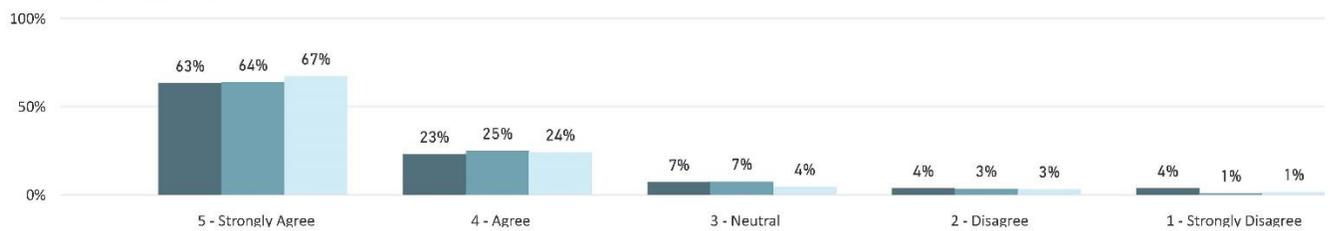
3. The way the case was handled was fair.

SurveyYear Fair	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	34	56%	63	53%	40	59%	137	55%
4 - Agree	15	25%	27	23%	18	26%	60	24%
3 - Neutral	5	8%	17	14%	6	9%	28	11%
2 - Disagree	3	5%	7	6%	2	3%	12	5%
1 - Strongly Disagree	4	7%	5	4%	2	3%	11	4%
Total	61	100%	119	100%	68	100%	248	100%

*Questions 3 and 4 were directed to persons who attended a hearing or trial.

4. The judge/magistrate/referee treated everyone with courtesy and respect.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



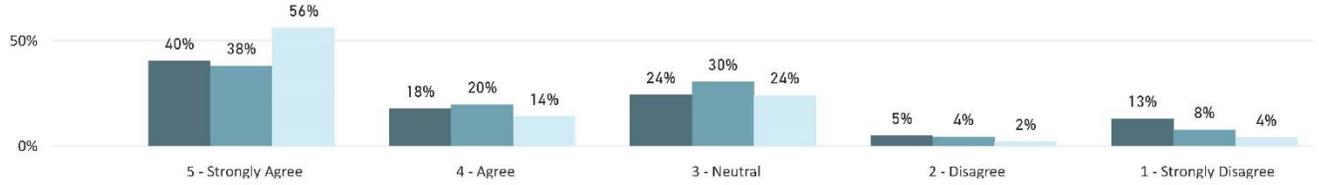
4. The judge/magistrate/referee treated everyone with courtesy and respect.

SurveyYear CourtesyJudge	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	36	63%	77	64%	45	67%	158	64%
4 - Agree	13	23%	30	25%	16	24%	59	24%
3 - Neutral	4	7%	9	7%	3	4%	16	7%
2 - Disagree	2	4%	4	3%	2	3%	8	3%
1 - Strongly Disagree	2	4%	1	1%	1	1%	4	2%
Total	57	100%	121	100%	67	100%	245	100%

*Questions 5 and 6 were directed to persons who were a party to the case.

5. The outcome in my case was favorable to me.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



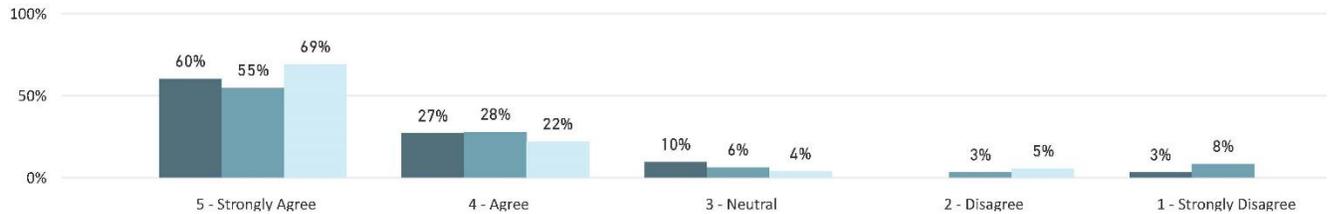
5. The outcome in my case was favorable to me.

SurveyYear	2015		2016		2018		Total	
Outcome	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	25	40%	35	38%	28	56%	88	43%
4 - Agree	11	18%	18	20%	7	14%	36	18%
3 - Neutral	15	24%	28	30%	12	24%	55	27%
2 - Disagree	3	5%	4	4%	1	2%	8	4%
1 - Strongly Disagree	8	13%	7	8%	2	4%	17	8%
Total	62	100%	92	100%	50	100%	204	100%

*Questions 5 and 6 were directed to persons who were a party to the case.

6. As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.

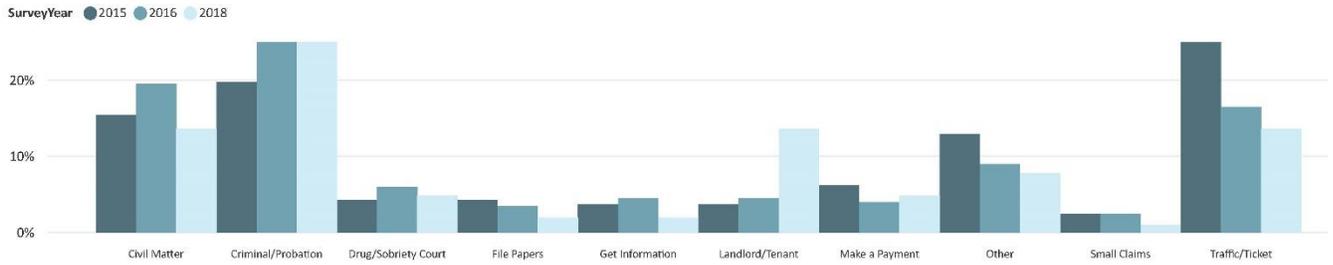
SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



6. As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.

SurveyYear	2015		2016		2018		Total	
Understand	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
5 - Strongly Agree	38	60%	53	55%	38	69%	129	60%
4 - Agree	17	27%	27	28%	12	22%	56	26%
3 - Neutral	6	10%	6	6%	2	4%	14	7%
2 - Disagree			3	3%	3	5%	6	3%
1 - Strongly Disagree	2	3%	8	8%			10	5%
Total	63	100%	97	100%	55	100%	215	100%

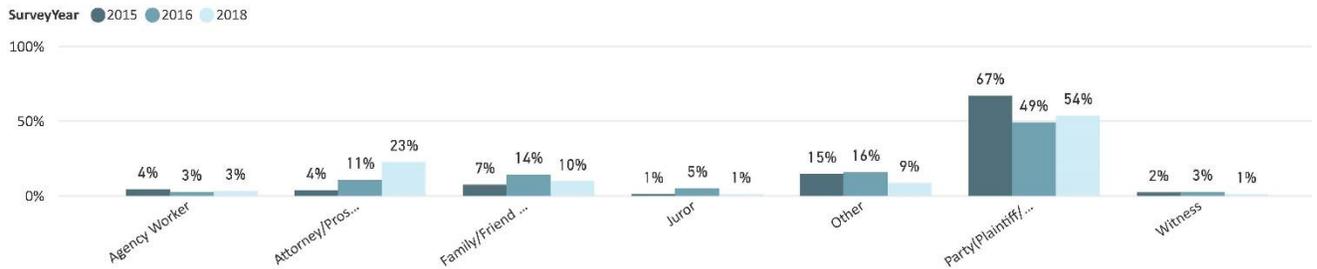
7. What type of case brought you to the courthouse today (All that apply)?



7. What type of case brought you to the courthouse today (All that apply)?

SurveyYear TypeOfCase	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Civil Matter	25	15%	39	20%	14	14%	78	17%
Criminal/Probation	32	20%	60	30%	38	37%	130	28%
Drug/Sobriety Court	7	4%	12	6%	5	5%	24	5%
File Papers	7	4%	7	4%	2	2%	16	3%
Get Information	6	4%	9	5%	2	2%	17	4%
Landlord/Tenant	6	4%	9	5%	14	14%	29	6%
Make a Payment	10	6%	8	4%	5	5%	23	5%
Other	21	13%	18	9%	8	8%	47	10%
Small Claims	4	2%	5	3%	1	1%	10	2%
Traffic/Ticket	44	27%	33	17%	14	14%	91	20%
Total	162	100%	200	100%	103	100%	465	100%

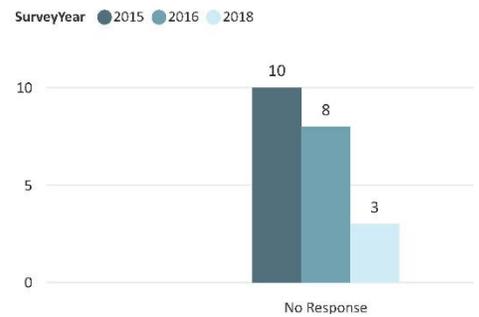
8. Who are you (All that apply)?



8. Who are you (All that apply)?

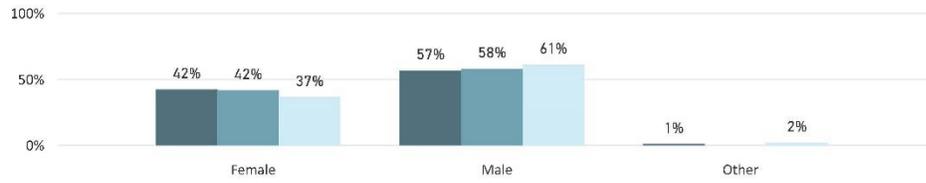
SurveyYear WhoRole	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Agency Worker	6	4%	5	3%	3	3%	14	3%
Attorney/Prosecutor	5	4%	21	11%	21	23%	47	11%
Family/Friend of party to case	10	7%	28	14%	9	10%	47	11%
Juror	1	1%	10	5%	1	1%	12	3%
Other	20	15%	31	16%	8	9%	59	14%
Party(Plaintiff/Defendant)	92	67%	97	49%	50	54%	239	56%
Witness	3	2%	5	3%	1	1%	9	2%
Total	137	100%	197	100%	93	100%	427	100%

8. No Response

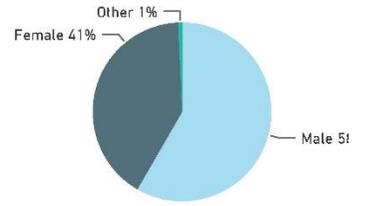


9. What is your gender?

Gender Type: ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



9. What is your gender?

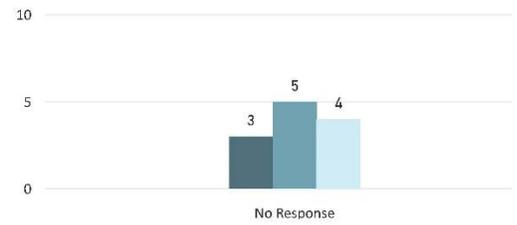


9. What is your gender?

Gender	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Female	59	42%	82	42%	33	37%	174	41%
Male	79	57%	114	58%	55	61%	248	58%
Other	1	1%			2	2%	3	1%
Total	139	100%	196	100%	90	100%	425	100%

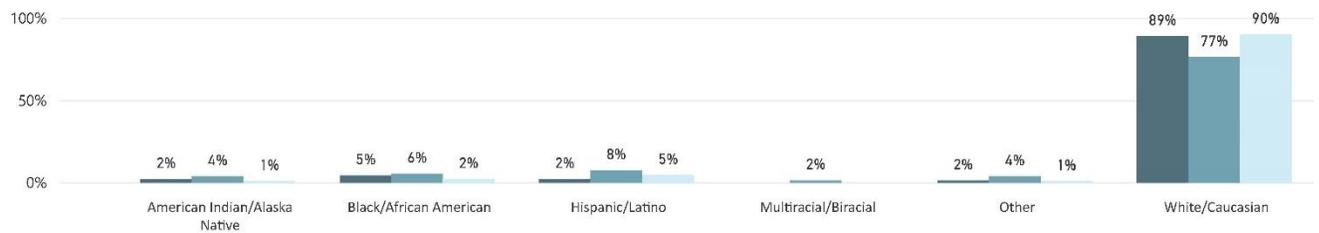
9. No Responses

Gender Type: ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



10. How do you identify yourself?

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018

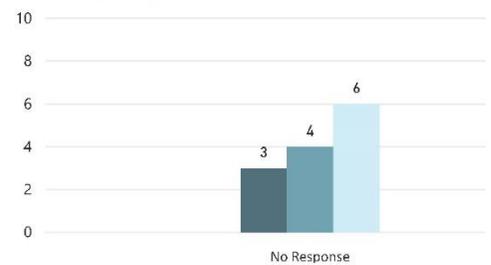


10. How do you identify yourself?

Race/Ethnicity	2015		2016		2018		Total	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	2%	8	4%	1	1%	12	3%
Black/African American	6	5%	11	6%	2	2%	19	5%
Hispanic/Latino	3	2%	15	8%	4	5%	22	5%
Multiracial/Biracial			3	2%			3	1%
Other	2	2%	8	4%	1	1%	11	3%
White/Caucasian	117	89%	148	77%	76	90%	341	84%
Total	131	100%	193	100%	84	100%	408	100%

10. No Responses.

SurveyYear ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2018



Jurisdiction

DIVISIONS	JURISDICTION	FACTS TO KNOW
CIVIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil suits up to \$25,000 • Small claim suits up to \$6,000 • Landlord tenant disputes, garnishments, and land contract summary proceedings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil suits can be filed by either an individual or a business • Corporations must have attorney representation outside of small claims • Parties must represent themselves in small claims cases – attorneys may not be involved
CRIMINAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan statute violations • City/village/township ordinances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All felony cases such as murder and criminal sexual conduct are heard by a district judge through the preliminary exam stage only • Domestic violence, retail fraud, disturbing the peace are examples of misdemeanor violations
TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan statute violations • City/village/township ordinances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating while intoxicated, reckless driving, expired operator’s license are examples of misdemeanor traffic offenses • Speeding, careless driving, no safety belt are examples of civil infraction violations

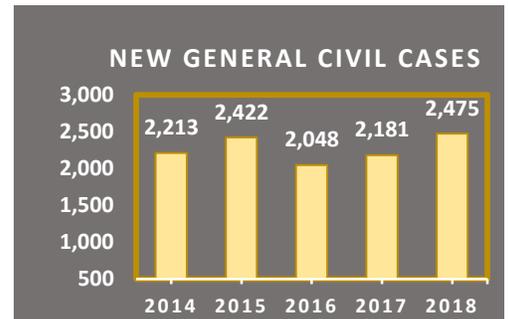
Court Divisions

CIVIL DIVISION

The **Civil Division** consists of the following sub-divisions:

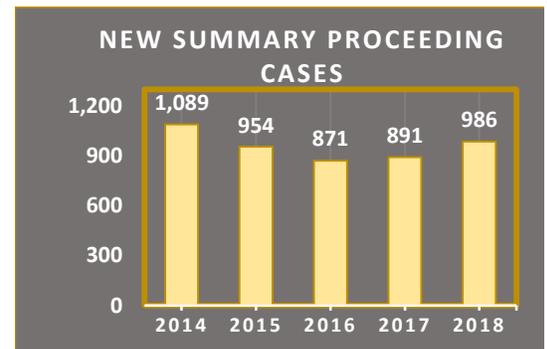
The **General Civil Division** processes all civil cases under the \$25,000 jurisdictional limit; limited claim and delivery civil actions; limited writ of attachment and garnishment; and forfeiture or seizure of certain property.

The pie chart reflects the five-year trend in general civil filings. Case filings over the five-year trend increased 262 cases from 2014 to 2018. New case filings increased 294 cases from 2017 to 2018.



The **Summary Proceeding Division** processes cases generally brought by a landlord to recover possession of a dwelling when a tenant fails to pay the rent or when the landlord or owner wishes to regain possession of his/her property. Summary proceedings include land contract forfeitures arising when a purchaser does not pay the amount agreed upon in a contract. A landlord may obtain an Order of Eviction to evict a tenant, or land contract vendee.

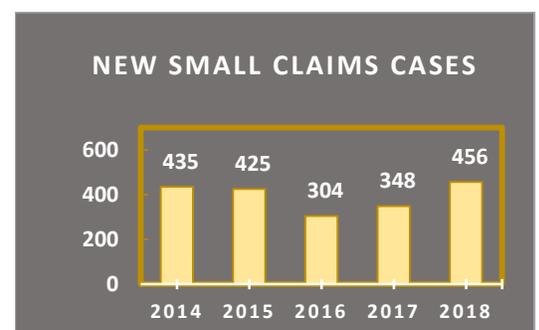
The pie chart reflects the five-year trend in summary proceeding filings. New filings over the five-year trend decreased 103 cases from 2014 to 2018. New case filings increased 95 cases from 2017 to 2018.



The **Small Claims Division** processes cases with recoverable maximum monies up to \$6,000.00. Small claims litigants have the right to remove a case to the General Civil Division or to remove a case from magisterial jurisdiction. Actions are filed in the county in which the cause of action arose, or in which the defendant is established or resides or is employed. Small claims litigants waive their right to a jury trial and cannot be represented by an attorney.

Small claims cases are heard by the Attorney Magistrate.

The pie chart reflects the five-year year trend in small claim filings. Case filings over the five-year trend increased 21 cases from 2014 to 2018. New case filings increased 108 cases from 2017 to 2018.

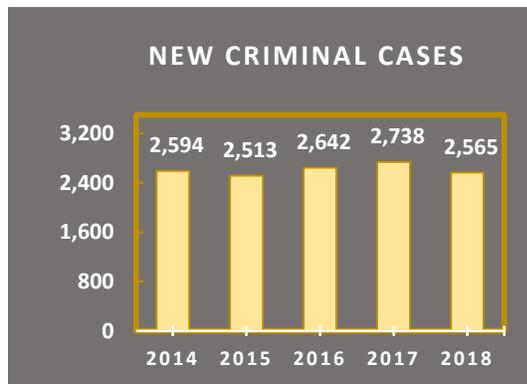


New Cases Filed

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The *Criminal Division (including Felony Traffic violations)* adjudicates cases involving violations of Michigan statute as well as violations of local ordinance. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Michigan Attorney General's Office, local police agencies, and ordinance city/township/village attorneys file felony and misdemeanor cases with the Court. District Court Judges preside over felony cases through the preliminary examination hearing stages only. Effective January 1, 2015, District Court Judges are now able to accept guilty pleas on felony charges. In 2018, nineteen (19) felony pleas were accepted by District Court Judges.

In 2018, the criminal division processed 2,565 new case filings. The Court conducted felony preliminary exam hearings and waiver hearings and bound over 1,001 cases to the Circuit Court. This number includes traffic division bind overs, as well. The criminal division disposed of 4,045 cases.



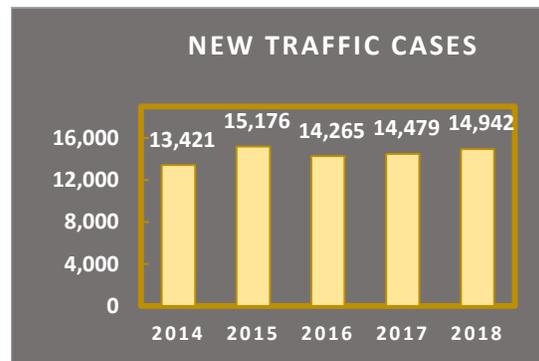
The pie chart reflects the five-year trend in criminal division filings. Case filings over the five-year trend decreased by 29 cases from 2014 to 2018. New case filings decreased 173 cases from 2017 to 2018.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The *Traffic Division (including non-traffic civil infractions)* adjudicates cases involving Michigan statute violations, the motor vehicle code and local ordinances.

In 2018, the traffic division accepted 14,942 new case filings. The traffic division disposed of 16,007 cases through various dispositions, i.e., guilty plea, admission of responsibility, default, dismissal, warrant, and trial/hearing verdict. In 2018, the Judges disposed of 8 cases by jury verdict and 246 cases by bench trial, formal or informal hearing for all case types.

The pie chart reflects the five-year trend in traffic division filings. Case filings increased by 1,521 cases (11%) from 2014 to 2018. New case filings increased 463 cases from 2017 to 2018.



Total New Cases Filed



TOTAL NEW CASE FILINGS

Each year, the District Court prepares and files with the State Court Administrative Office, a caseload report of all new cases filed, re-opened cases, warrants, and dispositions in categories of Traffic, Criminal and Civil cases. The Court uploads these numbers to the State Court Administrative Office's web site.

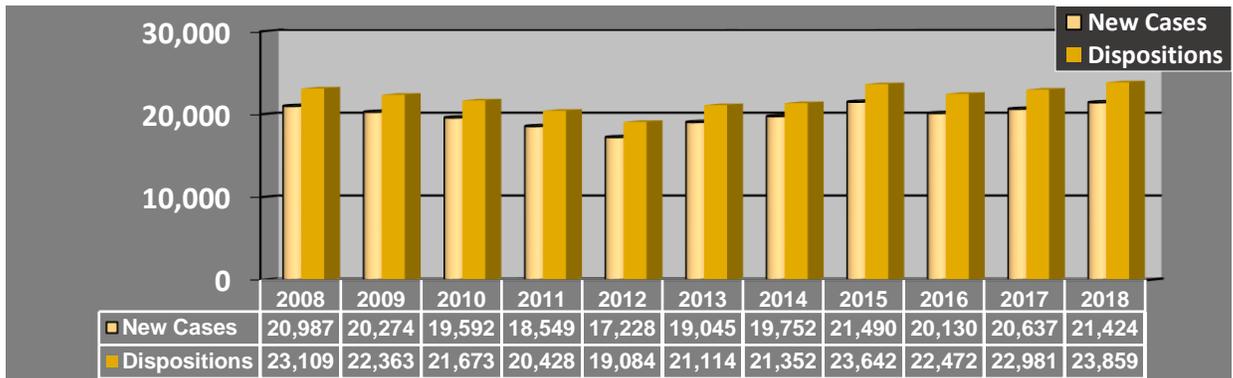
In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office significantly changed the methodology of counting cases in the District Court. The Court went from tracking 16 different case type classifications to 21 different classifications.

Previously, a multi-count criminal case was given a separate case file for each charge filed. Now, the Prosecutor's Office is placing multiple counts on **one** Complaint and Warrant and the Court counts that as **one** case filed. This revised method of counting will cause the number of cases filed to appear to decline when other factors remain constant.

TOTAL NEW CASES FILED

Traffic cases filed	14,942
Criminal cases filed	2,565
Civil cases filed	<u>3,917</u>
Total new cases filed	21,388

A comparison of total new case filings and dispositions from 2008 through 2018 are reflected in the graph below. The eleven-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced a increase of 437 new cases filings from 2008 through 2018. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced a increase of 787 new case filings from 2017 to 2018.



Statistical Analysis



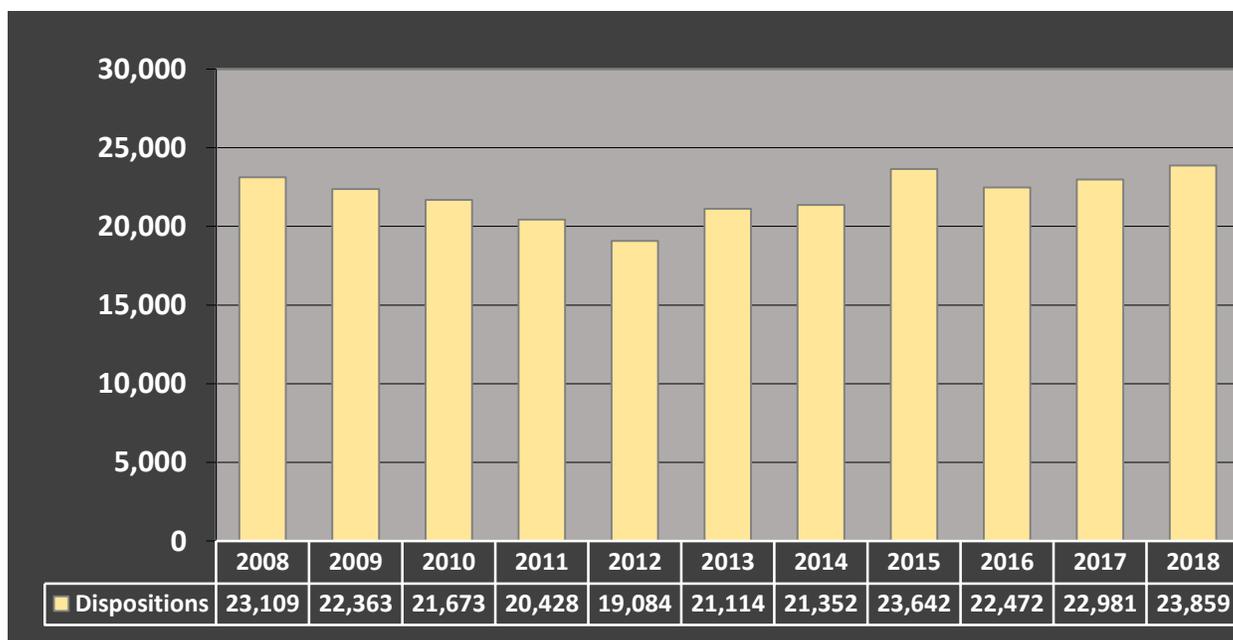
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS

The District Court submits the number of dispositions annually to the State Court Administrative Office. Dispositions include Jury Verdicts, Bench Verdicts, Pleas, Dismissals, Defaults, Warrants Issued, and Circuit Court Felony Bindovers, etc. The Court uploads these totals into the State Court Administrative Office's web site.

TOTAL DISPOSITIONS

Traffic cases	16,007
Criminal cases	4,045
Civil cases	<u>3,807</u>
Total dispositions	23,859

Total dispositions for all divisions from 2008 through 2018 are reflected in the graph below. The eleven-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 750 case dispositions (3%) from 2008 through 2018. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 878 case dispositions (4%) from 2017 to 2018.



Statistical Analysis



TOTAL RE-OPENED CASES

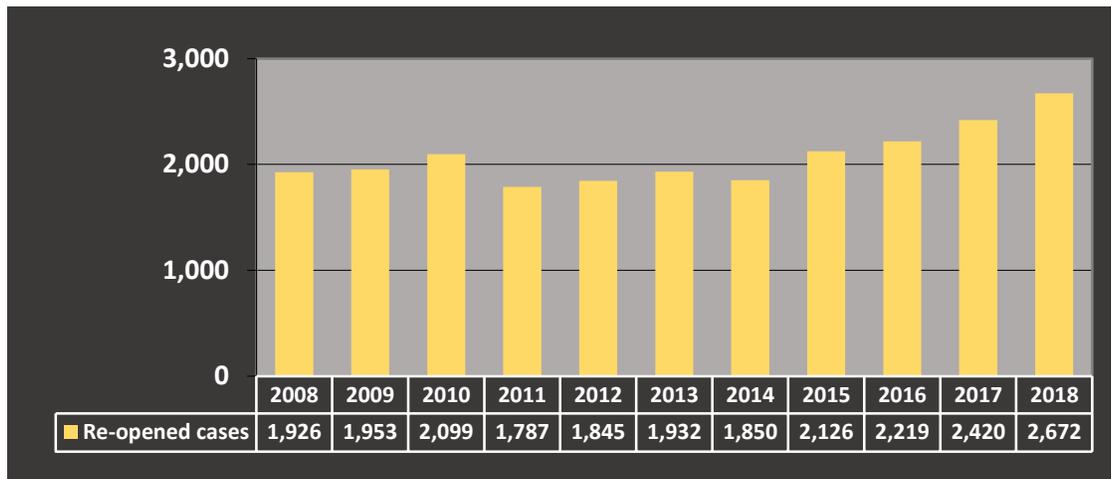
Cases are counted as re-opened when a defendant is arrested and arraigned on a warrant, a new trial is ordered by an appellate court, or a plea or judgment is set aside. The Court uploads these numbers to the State Court Administrative Office’s web site. The number of re-opened cases was not tracked prior to 2002 by the State or the Court.



TOTAL RE-OPENED CASES FILED

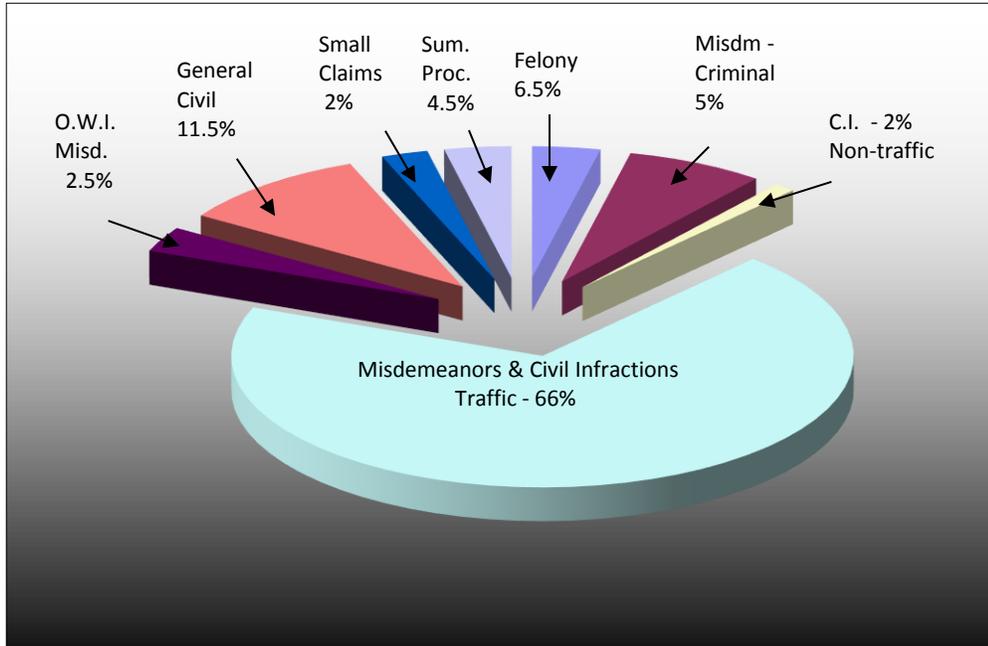
Traffic cases re-opened	1,186
Criminal cases re-opened	1,433
Civil cases filed re-opened	<u>53</u>
Total cases re-opened	2,672

Total re-opened cases for all divisions from 2008 through 2018 are reflected in the graph below. The eleven-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 746 re-opened cases from 2008 through 2018. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 252 cases from 2017 to 2018.



Caseload Mix

The pie chart reflects both the total number of cases filed and the percentages by divisions.

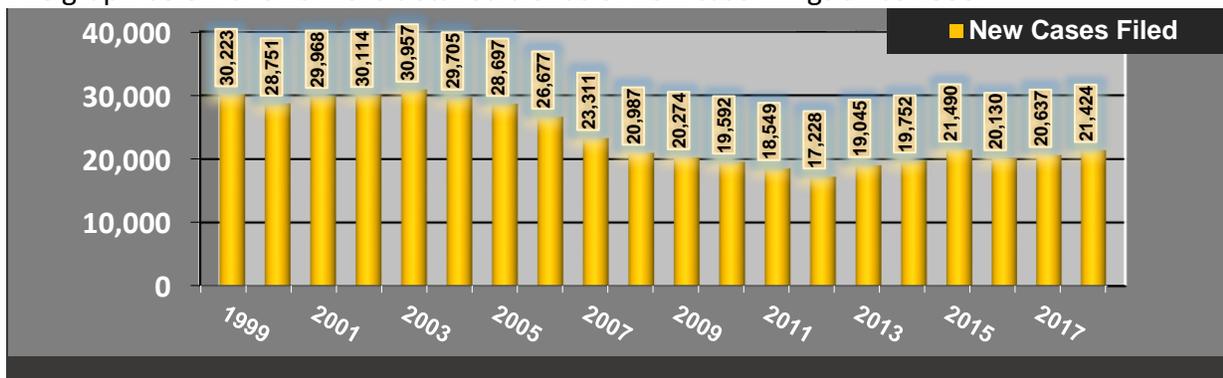


Clearance Rate Ratio of Dispositions to New Case Filing

The ratio of dispositions to new case filings and reopened cases are reflected below.

New Case Filings and Reopened Cases	24,096
Dispositions	23,859
Ratio	99%

The graph below shows more detailed trends of new case filings since 1999.



Caseage Trends Caseflow Management

Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2013-12 states: “The management of the flow of cases in the trial court is the responsibility of the judiciary. In carrying out that responsibility, the judiciary must balance the rights and interests of individual litigants, the limited resources of the judicial branch and other participants in the justice system, and the interests of the citizens of this state in having an effective, fair, and efficient system of justice.” The courts shall implement caseflow management plans that incorporate meeting established case processing time guidelines. Courts shall collect and report case age details to the Michigan Supreme Court annually. Below is information reported in 2017 comparing the 57th District Court to the Statewide District Court Average.

CASE AGE TRENDS – PERCENTAGE DISPOSED

Felonies – Disposed within 28 Days

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Statewide Court Average	76%	77%	76%	74%	72%
57th District Court	76%	77%	85%	85%	82%

Misdemeanors – Disposed within 126 Days

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Statewide Court Average	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%
57th District Court	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%

Civil Infractions – Disposed within 84 Days

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Statewide Court Average	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	98%
57th District Court	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

General Civil – Disposed within 455 Days

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Statewide Court Average	97%	97%	97%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%
57th District Court	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Summary Civil without Jury Demand – Disposed within 126 Days

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Statewide Court Average	93%	94%	93%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	96%
57th District Court	95%	97%	97%	97%	98%	97%	96%	98%	96%	97%	97%

Probation

The functions of the **Probation Department** are to assist the Judges in determining an appropriate sentence and to supervise probationers ensuring that they comply with the terms and conditions of the orders of the Court. Probation Officers are responsible to refer probationers to qualified treatment personnel and to introduce them to vocational or educational resources.

The total number of defendants placed on probation during 2018 was 626. The total number of probationers being supervised by the Probation Officers for the period ending December 31, 2018 was 790 including diversion programs.

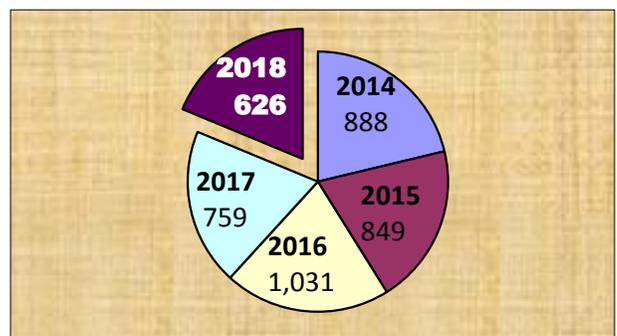
The difference between the total number placed on probation (626) and supervised (790) reflects the number of probationers who completed their terms and conditions of probation and were released. The time span of probation can generally range from a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of two years. Consequently, probationers are continually being released and new probationers added.

The table below reflects the number of probationers placed on probation during the year.

DEFENDANTS PLACED ON PROBATION

Judge	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTALS
SKOCELAS	25	30	28	19	12	23	28	22	20	14	41	12	274
BAILLARGEON	36	24	30	26	39	36	33	14	33	35	25	21	352
NORBECK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	61	54	58	45	51	59	61	36	53	49	66	33	626

The pie chart reflects the total number of cases or individuals that were placed on probation from 2014 through 2018. For the period of 2014 through 2018, the caseload decreased 262 cases. Caseload decreased by 133 cases between 2017 and 2018.



Probation

PROBATION OFFENSE CHARGE STATISTICS

The table below reflects statistics on non deferral offenses handled by the probation department.

OFFENSE REPORT

OFFENSES	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Operate while Intoxicated	20	9	11	13	13	23	18	13	13	9	19	10	171
Operate while Intoxicated – 2 nd	0	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	18
Impaired Driving	21	22	22	12	16	15	26	8	20	26	26	9	223
Assault & Battery	2	5	2	3	0	2	1	0	1	2	3	2	23
Domestic Violence	9	7	6	2	6	3	5	2	4	6	4	2	56
Larceny	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Malicious Destruction of Property	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Drug Offenses	2	3	4	1	5	2	0	3	2	0	5	1	28
Stalking	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
CSC – Attempted 4 th Degree/ Accosting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Charges	7	4	7	10	9	11	10	10	8	3	7	7	93
TOTAL	61	54	58	45	51	59	61	36	53	49	66	33	626

Probation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Diversion Program was implemented in September 1998 by the 57th District Court in cooperation with, and with the support of, the Allegan County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence, the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office, and the Allegan County Board of Commissioners.

FUNDING

In April of 1998, the Board of Commissioners approved funding for this program. A fourth probation officer was hired in June of 1998. Assessing the probationer a supervision/oversight cost generates funding for the program. On July 9, 2014, the supervision cost was increased to \$625.00.

PURPOSES AND ADVANTAGES OF THE DIVERSION PROGRAM

This program offers a defendant the opportunity to avoid a criminal record upon successful completion of probation with the goal to provide the defendant with treatment, protect the victim and reduce recidivism. It eliminates the adversarial relationship between the defendant and family member victim and/or between the victim and the court, the prosecutor, and the police. These programs emphasize counseling, treatment, and behavior modification over punitive measures. The program reduces court, prosecutor, and police time by avoiding unnecessary trials and allows cases to be adjudicated more quickly.

The program is designed for qualified first time offenders charged with domestic violence. It allows a defendant to plead guilty and be placed on voluntary probation status for a period of 9 - 12 months, provided the victim consents. During this time, the defendant is required to attend Domestic Violence counseling sessions scheduled over a period of 26 weeks. If the defendant successfully completes the probation and required counseling, he/she is discharged from probation and the original charge of Domestic Violence is dismissed under MCL 769.4a. If a defendant fails to complete the counseling, or for any other reason violates the probation, he/she is required to immediately appear in Court and is sentenced.

COUNSELING

The Court meets with various counselors and counseling agencies to review the techniques used in their programs. The effectiveness of the programs depends on the quality and content of the counseling services offered. The programs must be appropriate and consistent with accepted national standards.

Each defendant who successfully completes the program is required to complete a brief questionnaire that evaluates their counseling services.

Probation

COMPLIANCE

If the Court finds that all supervision/oversight costs have been paid and all counseling has been completed, the defendant is discharged from probation without a hearing.

STATISTICS

The following statistics reflect fifteen years of the Domestic Violence Diversion Program under MCL 769.4a. Statistics are gathered, compiled and reported for the period of September 1st through August 31st of each calendar year. The statistics include all domestic violence cases charged under MCLA 750.81(2), (3) or (4).

	2003 -	2004 -	2005 -	2006 -	2007 -	2008 -	2009 -	2010 -	2011 -	2012 -	2013 -	2014 -	2015 -	2016 -	2017 -
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New DV charges filed	411	393	404	423	446	489	473	500	505	462	432	387	513	486	445
DV charges adjudicated	421	395	429	427	472	485	467	508	475	541	489	446	558	593	573
Pled under program	134	115	88	112	124	135	128	140	148	156	105	128	117	147	120
Successfully completing program	92	102	77	68	74	80	108	106	108	109	121	87	110	87	120
Not completing program	27	31	32	24	40	46	52	39	26	30	24	32	11	28	37
Pled guilty to DV but not under program	97	122	116	128	133	132	101	111	84	78	114	119	129	123	116
Dismissed or nolle prosequi	110	97	114	94	96	102	97	41	90	141	116	96	110	122	149
Bound over to Circuit Court	34	20	29	32	28	35	24	12	12	27	24	34	41	68	41
Reduced DV III to miscellaneous charges	1	1	1	3	3	2	5	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Reduced from DV III to DV II	3	8	0	3	4	8	17	7	14	13	19	10	31	8	10
Reduced from DV II to DV I	5	14	17	11	6	7	38	19	20	17	28	21	24	28	20
DV-Aggravated to DV Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reduced from DV to Disorderly	15	26	17	15	12	40	38	7	19	15	36	36	39	30	26
Reduced from DV to Assault & Battery	11	6	14	22	23	15	8	3	15	9	19	17	27	19	24
Reduced to misc. charges not included above	3	4	4	8	4	1	8	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	0
Guilty as charged after bench trial	0	1	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
Guilty of other offense after bench trial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guilty as charged after jury trial	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Not guilty after bench trial	1	3	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Not guilty after jury trial	0	2	3	3	3	5	4	2	0	2	2	1	0	4	2
Mental Health Court	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	4	5	3	6	2	7	10
Recharged after successful completion of the program	8	15	8	16	9	12	13	15	7	16	16	23	36	18	19*

*Of the 19 new domestic violence charges filed on defendants who successfully completed the program in the past, six (6) pled guilty to the new DV charges, four (4) were dismissed by the Prosecutor or Judge, six (6) were bound over to Circuit Court, two (2) pled guilty to assault and battery, and one (1) pled guilty to disturbing the peace.

Probation

7411 DIVERSION PROGRAM - FIRST TIME DRUG OFFENDERS

On October 12, 2006, the Court began imposing a sentencing alternative to first time drug offenders under MCL 333.7411. This statute allows the Court to order a deferral of judgment for first time drug offenders. When an individual has not previously been convicted of a drug offense or participated in a prior 7411 diversion, with the consent of the accused, the Judge may defer further proceedings and place the individual on probation. A nonpublic record will be created for this arrest at the time of the deferral. If the person fulfills the terms and conditions of probation, they will be discharged from probation and the matter will be dismissed and the case remains nonpublic. Individuals may only use this deferral once in their lifetime. If an individual violates probation, the court will remove them from the deferral program and enter a conviction in its place. The case will become public and the Department of State is then notified of the conviction and licensing sanctions are ordered.

Currently, each probationer is placed on diversion for 6 months through probation. A \$500 supervision/oversight cost must be paid prior to discharge from probation.

Judge	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
SKOCELAS	10	2	13	5	3	9	4	6	3	4	3	1	63
BAILLARGEON	5	4	12	13	17	5	8	6	5	14	4	0	93
TOTAL	15	6	25	18	20	14	12	12	8	18	7	1	156

MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

DEFERRAL PROGRAM FOR FIRST TIME MISDEMEANOR OFFENDERS

Effective September 1, 2004, Public Act 63 allows the Court to order a deferral of judgment for first time offenders of Minor in Possession of Alcohol under MCL 436.1703. When an individual has not previously been convicted or found responsible for Minor in Possession or participated in a prior MIP diversion, the Court, with the consent of the accused, may defer further proceedings and place the individual on probation. While proceedings are deferred and the individual is on probation, the court shall maintain a nonpublic record of the matter. The Court abstracts the deferred status to the Department of State (DOS) which keeps the record nonpublic. If the person fulfills the terms and conditions of probation, they are discharged from probation and the matter is dismissed. A nonpublic record will be retained for this arrest. Individuals may only use this deferral once in their lifetime. If an individual violates probation, the court will remove them from the deferral program and enter a conviction in its place. The case becomes public and Department of State is notified of the conviction.

Currently, each probationer is placed on diversion for 6 months. A \$450 supervision/oversight cost must be paid and the probationer must attend a Victim Impact Meeting as ordered.

MCL 436.1703 was amended effective January 1, 2018 making Minor in Possession of Alcohol (first offense) a civil infraction. Second and subsequent offenses continue to be misdemeanors. Our deferral program continues to be available for the first MISDEMEANOR offense of Minor in Possession of Alcohol as allowed by statute, however, the number of participants has dropped significantly. In 2018, sixty-six (66) civil infraction MIP tickets were filed with the Court.

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL	2	2	0	4									

Probation

ALCOHOL ASSESSMENTS

On April 15, 1996, the Probation Officers began conducting alcohol assessments. A total of 481 assessments were completed during 2018. The assessment fee is \$90.00. The assessments will generate total revenues of \$43,290.00. Revenues collected for 2018 were \$40,745.78.

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL	38	32	46	39	52	41	45	25	41	50	48	24	481

PROBATION SUPERVISION AND OVERSIGHT COSTS

On May 4, 1998, the Court began assessing supervision and oversight costs to all defendants placed on probation. In 2014, the Court audited the expenditures for probation services and came up with a new assessment schedule: probation terms of 3-6 months - \$200.00; 6-12 months - \$400.00; and 18-24 months \$600.00. Revenues collected in 2018 were \$266,687.93.

ELECTRONIC HOME MONITORING PROGRAM

On June 1, 1996, the department implemented the use of the Electronic Home Monitoring Program provided by Midstate Security Company. This program, which is an alternative to physical incarceration, provides a visual contact and positive visual identification of the probationer, and allows for breath alcohol level testing for probationers with alcohol-related problems. During 2018, 120 probationers utilized this program. In 2011, the Court began using **SCRAM** alcohol monitoring systems, a state of the art system. **SOBERLINK**, a portable mobile breathalyzer with a high resolution camera, allows for a less expensive solution for the probationer, while still requiring several random breath samples per day. While less expensive, it has the ability to monitor only alcohol.

Judge	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
SKOCELAS	12	6	8	8	7	5	4	3	5	6	5	6	75
BAILLARGEON	5	4	6	3	1	6	2	5	3	4	4	2	45
TOTAL	17	10	14	11	8	11	6	8	8	10	9	8	120

LEIN Entry

The District Court implemented LEIN warrant entry in late June 2002. Since its implementation, the Clerk's Office has entered approximately 52,960 new warrants and cancelled another 42,575 warrants. In 2018 alone 4,154 warrants were entered and 4,000 were cancelled. Prior to going paperless, all warrant transactions were entered by staff at Allegan County Central Dispatch and various Michigan State Police Posts.

In December 2002, the District Court Clerk's Office and District Court Probation Department began entering dispositions online to Michigan State Police Criminal Records Division. This allows for immediate entry and modification of a defendant's criminal history record. As of December 31, 2018, the Court has entered 54,090 criminal history transactions (3,932 in 2018). All criminal justice agencies currently are required to report electronically.

In early 2008, the Court began a collaborative effort with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department enforcing District Court arrest and bench warrants immediately upon entry into LEIN. Upon request, the Court provides the ACSO with a list of all warrants issued the prior month(s) for Allegan County residents. The report is separated by zip code to conduct efficient enforcement of these orders. Furthermore, if the warrant is for failing to pay fine and costs, the deputy is authorized to cancel the bench warrant after collecting the full payment on the road without transporting and lodging the defendant. The Court's order is enforced swiftly sending a message to all defendants that judicial orders are promptly enforced in Allegan County.

Court in School

WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL – MARCH 19, 2018

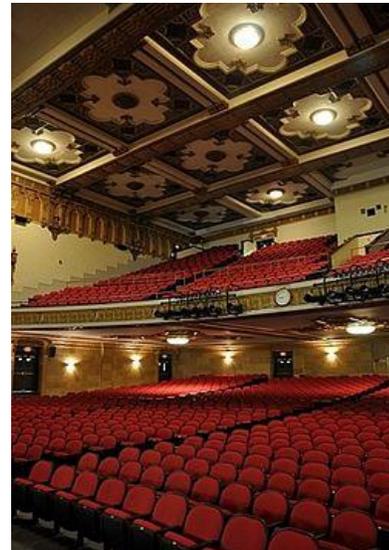
During 2018, one high school was visited by a District Court Judge to conduct live criminal sentence hearings in their school's auditorium. On March 19, 2018, Judge Baillargeon conducted proceedings at Wayland High School. The *Court in Schools* program, which was approved by the Michigan Supreme Court, was spearheaded in 2007 by Judge Skocelas to educate students about the court system.

Holding *Court in the Schools* is a proactive approach to solving several of the more serious problems facing teenagers in our community: drinking and driving, underage drinking, drug use, shoplifting and other crimes committed by young people. The students have the opportunity to see first hand that there are serious consequences when you break the law.

The defendants, who have already pled guilty at the District Court in Allegan, agree to have their sentence hearings conducted at the high school. The defendants appearing at the high school sentencing will never include a student or prior graduate of that specific school.

This program has representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, local defense attorneys, probation officers, school security, law enforcement and Judge's staff. At the conclusion of the court proceeding, a video involving teenage drinking is played followed by a question and answer session with students. With the State's approval of these local administrative orders, the school auditoriums become, legally, the 57th District Court of Allegan County. Court hearings must, by law, be open to the public. A court bailiff and/or a school or local law enforcement officer provide security.

Judge Baillargeon was accompanied by his court recorder Carole Carr. Due to the success of this program, additional "*Court in School*" locations may be scheduled for 2019 in area high schools.



Community Service

In 2008, the 57th District Court began offering an alternative to paying fine and costs to the Court – community service. Many courts in Michigan have implemented a community service program managed through their Court for indigent defendants. The Court carries an insurance policy to cover accidental injury while volunteers perform community service.

Each volunteer will be responsible for contacting a non-profit agency, traveling to and from work sites, and following the directions of that organization. With the financial cut-backs to the non-profit agencies, it is a beneficial situation for everyone involved.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the program is to offer an alternative sentence for defendants who are unable to pay their court ordered fine and costs. While state fees and restitution cannot be waived, the court fine and costs can be worked off with community service.

RULES

The program will be monitored by the Probation Department. The Probation Department will provide defendants with a listing of pre-approved community service non-profit agencies in Allegan County. Any non-profit agency may be used to perform community service – although agencies not on the listing must be pre-approved by the Probation Department prior to scheduling the work.

Each defendant must make the initial contact with the non-profit agency, have them complete various forms and keep the probation department abreast of each person's progress.

Community service may be performed for fine and costs only. Restitution, Driver License Reinstatement Fee, Crime Victim Fee and State Costs may not be worked off through community service. One (1) hour of community service will work off \$10.00 of fine and costs.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT



On September 14, 2009, Judge Skocelas and the 57th District Court, teamed with representatives of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, Allegan City Police, Allegan County Prosecutor's Office, Allegan County Community Mental Health, Michigan State Police, local defense attorneys, and local substance abuse providers (OAR) to create a Mental Health Treatment Court in Allegan County. This treatment court is currently funded with grant monies awarded by the State Court Administrative Office.

Since its inception, 394 defendants have been referred to the program. Of those 394, 228 were rejected and 166 were accepted into the program. Of the 166 who were accepted, 98 have successfully graduated, and 19 are currently in the program – thirteen (13) in Phase I and six (6) in Phase II. Forty-nine (49) were discharged unsuccessfully from the program after acceptance – 41 for cause and 8 for other reasons. The program accepts both felony and misdemeanor cases.

Mental Health Treatment Court is a two-phase program designed for adult offenders charged with one or more criminal offenses and who are having difficulty with mental health issues, are developmentally disabled, or mentally ill defendants with co-occurring disorders (mental health/substance abuse). It involves frequent court appearances and active participation by the participant towards their recovery. It may also include random drug/alcohol screens if necessary. The court may provide incentives for progress and sanctions for negative behaviors. If the participant fails to follow certain rules, they may be required to report more often to the Court, spend time in jail, or face serious sanctions such as termination from the Mental Health Treatment Court. This court is voluntary; the defendant must consent to participation before he/she can be placed into the court program. The mental health courts share the objective of preventing the jailing of the mentally ill and/or of securing their release from jail to appropriate services and support in the community. In addition, each court gives a high priority to concerns for public safety when arranging for the care of mentally ill offenders.

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

The West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court began operation on February 7, 2014, and is the first fully regionalized Veteran Treatment Court in the State of Michigan. The jurisdiction of the Veterans' Treatment Court is that of both the district and circuit courts of Allegan, Van Buren and Ottawa counties but it also accepts veterans from surrounding counties. It was developed and organized by Judge Baillargeon and the treatment court team to help veteran participants address underlying service related issues that bring them in contact with the criminal justice system. The court currently has 15 veterans participating with new applicants being reviewed by the team for admission as they arise. The court makes sure that veterans are provided proper mental and physical health care and follows up to ensure that they maintain their treatment protocol as well as a complete abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol. Common issues addressed by the treatment court include Post Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Injury and issues related to substance abuse. The goal of the court is to divert veterans from prison or jail, to help them have a more satisfying productive law-abiding life by addressing the underlying conditions impacting them and thereby assisting them to restore their sense of honor and integrity. The court has participants from Van Buren County, Kent County, Ottawa County, and Allegan County. We are proud to report that our regional court has already recognized 19 veterans for successfully completing the treatment court program. Many of these veterans continue to visit and support the efforts of their fellow veterans that continue to make up our veteran participant corps.



Partnering with the court from all three counties are county commissioners, judges, prosecutors, probation, law enforcement, mentors, community supervision providers, treatment providers, the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, veteran employment representatives and veterans service organizations service officers. Attorney Magistrate Daniel W. Norbeck is the Administrator/Case Manager for the Veterans Treatment Court. Magistrate Norbeck directs two field agents, Nicholas Hogue (South) and Troy McCabe (North) who perform the remote supervision and substance abuse testing.

Tenth Graduation Ceremony – May 4, 2018

On May 4, 2018, the West Michigan Regional Veterans’ Treatment Court celebrated its 10th graduation honoring two veterans who completed the rigorous 18 month program. Judge William Baillargeon presides over this court that demands rigorous honesty, community service, random drug and alcohol testing as well as full compliance with care plan set out and provided by VA medical professionals.

This is a veterans’ court that covers the counties of Allegan, Ottawa and Van Buren. On May 4, 2018 Ottawa Circuit Court Judge Jon Hulsing joined with Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Clement to preside over the special graduation ceremony held in the court rooms of the 58th District Court in Holland Michigan. Justice Clement spoke about all specialty courts before assisting with this graduation. Van Buren Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Brickley assisted in the event as well as serves as a substitute judge when Judge Baillargeon is unable to conduct the regular review sessions.

A special guest speaker was United States Medal of Honor recipient Jim McCloughan.



Left to Right: Ken Johnson, Alum/Mentor; Jeremy Jones, graduate; Judge Baillargeon; Medal of Honor Recipient Jim McCloughan; David Haner, graduate; Judge Kathleen Brickley; Judge Jon Hulsing; Floyd Banks, Alum/Mentor; Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Clement.

SOBRIETY TREATMENT COURT

In April of 2018, the 57th District Court created a new treatment court specifically designed to address Operate while Intoxicated (OWI)- 2nd offenses. The goals of this new treatment court are to:

- Goal One: Divert offenders from jail.
- Goal Two: Eliminate substance use among substance abusers.
- Goal Three: Reduce OWI Recidivism.

The target population criteria includes:

1. Allegan County resident or residing within the Court's jurisdiction.
2. No history of serious violent behavior or felony weapon charges.
3. Alcohol and/or drug addicted or serious substance abuse pattern.
4. Repeat OWI offender.

The mission of the 57th District Court Sobriety Treatment Program is to promote community safety and reduce alcohol and drug abuse through a coordinated program involving intensive supervision, judicial interaction, treatment, incentives, sanctions and accountability.

The program is now at full capacity with thirty (30) current participants both male and female. To date, we have graduated ten (10) participants and helped thirty-two (32) participants gain a restricted driver's license.

The program was developed and presided over by Judge Baillargeon. Attorney Magistrate Daniel W. Norbeck is the Administrator/Case Manager for the Sobriety Court and the probation for the participants is overseen by both 57th District and 48th Circuit Court Probation Department. Chief Probation Officer Mark Ponitz assumes the probation supervision of participants.

ADULT DRUG TREATMENT COURT

MCL 600.1060(c) defines drug treatment courts as ". . . a court supervised treatment program for individuals who abuse or are dependent upon any controlled substance or alcohol." These courts are specially designed to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent substance-abusing offenders and to increase the offenders' likelihood of successful habilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicial supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, and use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and rehabilitation services.

Drug treatment courts evolved to address the revolving-door cycle in which drug and alcohol offenders moved in and out of the justice system. Drug treatment courts treat addiction as a complex disease and provide a comprehensive, sustained continuum of therapeutic interventions, treatment, and other services to increase a participant's periods of abstinence and reduce the rate of relapse, re-arrest, and incarceration. Michigan has been a pioneer in the drug treatment court movement.

The Allegan drug treatment court is a minimum 18 month program (up to 60 months) for non-violent felony substance abuse offenders including probation violations. The participant must be a resident of Allegan County. The program is comprised of five phases:

- Phase 1 – 60 day minimum (mandatory jail incarceration)
- Phase 2 – 4 month minimum (initial release from incarceration)
- Phase 3 – 4 month minimum (stabilization)
- Phase 4 – 4 month minimum (maintenance)
- Phase 5 – 4 month minimum (pre-graduate)



The drug court's first participant was admitted on June 30, 2011. Since then, six (6) additional participants were admitted in 2011, three (3) in 2012, thirteen (13) in 2013, seven (7) in 2014, six (6) in 2015, twelve (12) in 2016, ten (10) in 2017 and twelve (12) in 2018 totaling sixty-nine (69) participants since inception. The cumulative total over the past eight years is thirty-three (33) participants successfully completing the drug court. There are currently fifteen (15) active participants.



While the Adult drug treatment court is made up of cases of the 48th Circuit Court, it was developed and presided over by District Court Judge Baillargeon. The administration of the court is carried out by 57th District Court Administrator Linda Lenahan.

REVENUES & EXPENSES

Revenue is generated as a by-product of the fines, costs, and fees imposed by the Judges and Attorney Magistrate. State Constitution and statutes determine how the money is distributed.

The Court maintains and monitors two expense and revenue budgets: the District Court budget and the District Court Probation Department budget. Revenues collected from the District Court Probation Department for alcohol assessments and supervision/oversight costs are combined with the District Court's general fund revenues that are deposited on a monthly basis with the County Treasurer.

REVENUES

AGENCY OR FUND	AMOUNT
Drug Case Reimbursement Fund	\$2,655.05
Drunk Driving Reimbursement Fund	40,610.22
Court Costs	1,227,969.70
Court Appointed Attorney Fees	136,009.23
Bond Costs	339.90
Crime Victims' Rights Fund	23,058.73
Civil Filing Fees	177,290.00
Miscellaneous Fees	13,996.00
Driver's License Reinstatement Fees	32,503.60
Motion Fees	10,570.00
NSF Fees	200.00
Bond Forfeitures	70,020.00
Ordinance Fine and Costs	99,959.30
Jury Reimbursement	2,891.60
Insurance Fee	7,865.00
Probation Alcohol Assessments	40,745.78
Probation Oversight Costs	266,687.93
Cities, Townships, Villages	44,332.61
DNA fee – Sheriff's Department	323.90
State Treasury – Trust and Agencies	1,021,218.41
Libraries	737,308.40
Veterans' Court Participant Fees	1,600.00
Mental Health Court Participant Fees	1,250.00
Sobriety Court Participant Fees	14,124.11
Interest Earned	182.53
Cash Over/Short	15.00
Credit Card Fees	(-13,984.87)

EXPENSES

EXPENDITURE	DISTRICT COURT	PROBATION DEPT.
Salary and wages	\$953,424.03	\$333,831.42
Employee benefits	402,614.53	146,511.38
Office supplies	14,579.12	2,715.30
Printing and binding	8,943.87	293.18
Books and maps	909.50	0
Consultants	0	0
Probation Assessment Fees	0	4,340.00
Jury	5,948.18	0
Witnesses	0	0
Interpreter fees	16,782.29	0
Court appointed attorney fees	130,099.96	0
Memberships and subscriptions	3,371.30	50.00
Other Contractual Services	0	0
Telephone	0	0
Travel Expense – routine	1,013.81	0
Education – miscellaneous	214.67	646.25
Education – travel	1,022.21	486.69
Education – registration	0	220.00
Travel – visiting judge	0	0
Repairs and maintenance	8,854.91	0
Software lease	32,016.84	0
Equipment	970.67	0
TOTAL	\$1,580,765.89	\$489,094.22

CUMULATIVE TOTALS

REVENUES

General fund	\$2,150,804.34
Jury Reimbursement	2,891.60
Interest	182.53
Credit Card Fees/Cash over/short	(13,969.87)
Trust and Agencies	1,065,551.02
Libraries	737,308.40
Grant Specialty Courts	16,974.11
Restitution Payable	89,911.82
Bonds Payable	889,613.54

TOTAL

\$4,939,267.49

EXPENDITURES

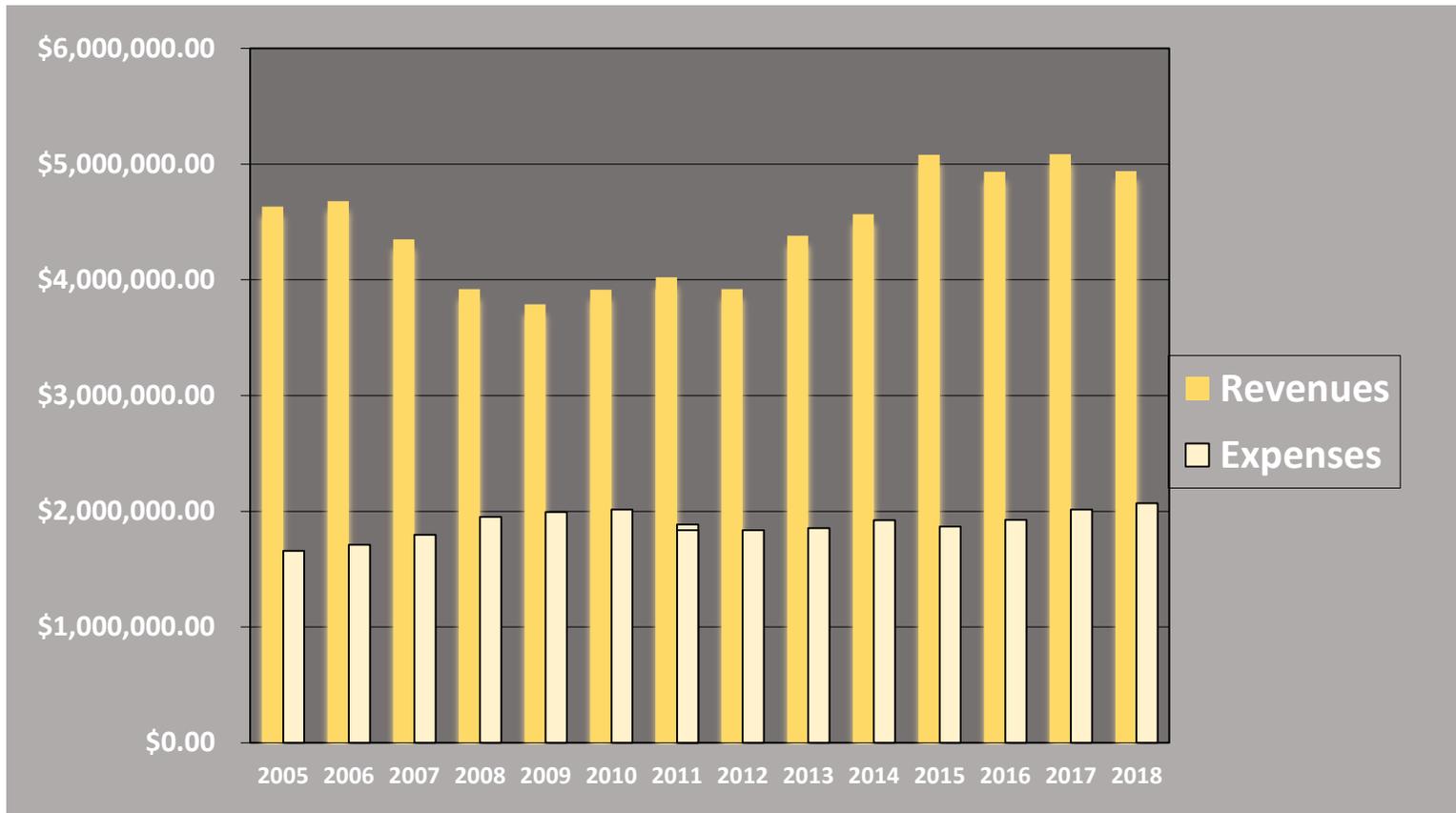
Court	\$ 1,580,765.89
Probation	489,094.22

TOTAL

\$2,069,860.11

HISTORICAL REVIEW

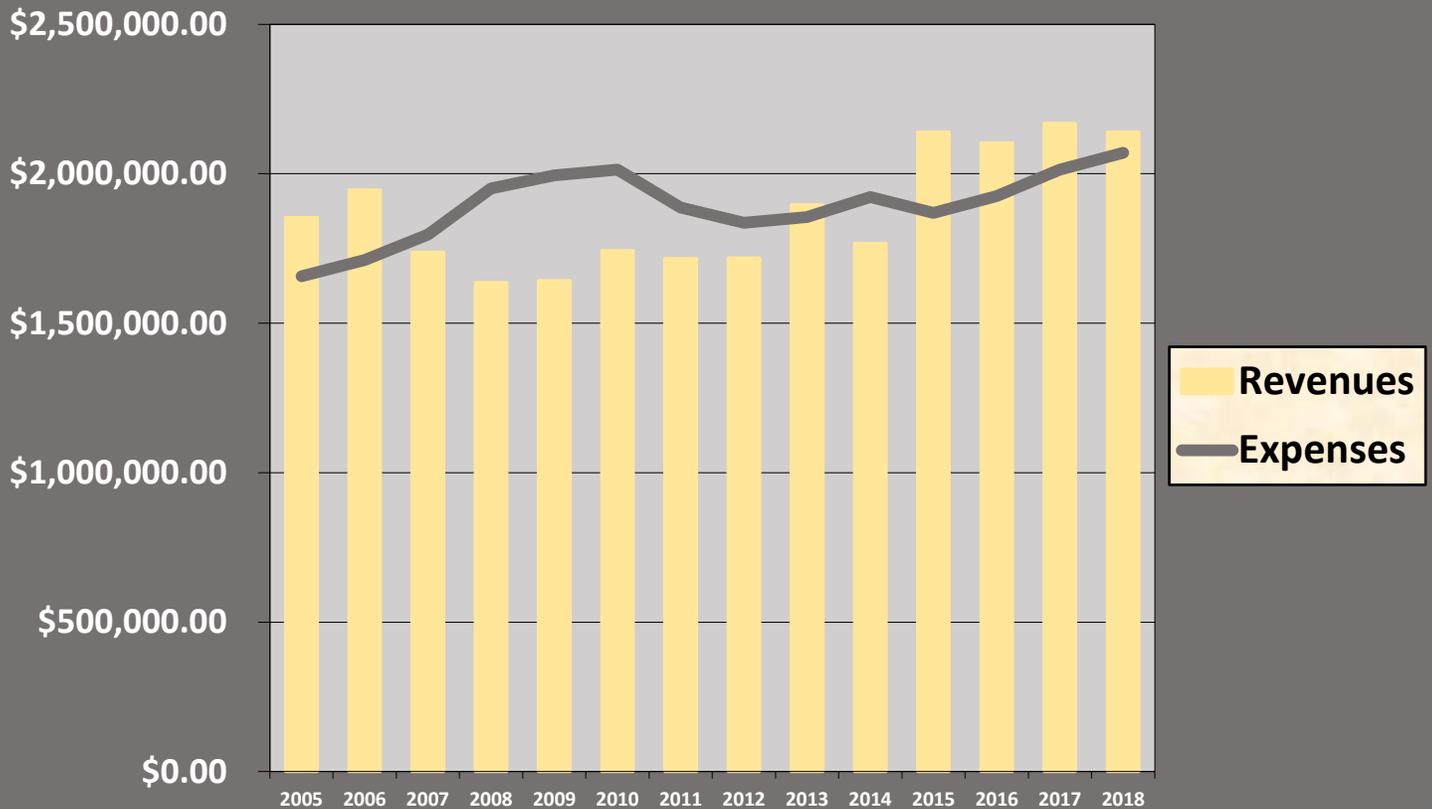
TOTAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES



YEAR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
REVENUES	\$4,631,724	\$4,818,825	\$4,350,209	\$3,920,655	\$3,790,152	\$3,915,994	\$4,023,172
EXPENDITURES	\$1,657,204	\$1,711,667	\$1,796,847	\$1,950,950	\$1,994,908	\$2,013,918	\$1,887,212

YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
REVENUES	\$3,921,085	\$4,382,490	\$4,567,811	\$5,080,615	\$4,935,447	\$5,085,965	\$4,939,267
EXPENDITURES	\$1,835,615	\$1,855,130	\$1,922,152	\$1,868,794	\$1,925,358	\$2,013,421	\$2,069,860

HISTORICAL REVIEW GENERAL FUND REVENUES & EXPENSES



YEAR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
REVENUES	\$1,853,541	\$1,945,736	\$1,737,558	\$1,636,257	\$1,642,388	\$1,742,456	\$1,716,273
EXPENDITURES	\$1,657,204	\$1,711,667	\$1,796,847	\$1,950,950	\$1,994,908	\$2,013,918	\$1,887,212

YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
REVENUES	\$1,718,525	\$1,896,170	\$1,767,422	\$2,139,375	\$2,104,122	\$2,168,337	\$2,139,909
EXPENDITURES	\$1,835,615	\$1,855,130	\$1,922,152	\$1,868,795	\$1,925,358	\$2,013,421	\$2,069,860

OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES

Outstanding Receivables as of December 31, 2018

Probation	Non-Probation	TOTAL
\$774,288.48	\$6,632,934.58	\$7,407,223.06

AGE	Probation	Non-Probation	TOTAL
1-15 days	\$1,995.00	\$31,861.00	\$33,856.00
16-30 days	4515.00	63,444.00	67,959.00
31-60 days	35,211.27	106,194.38	141,405.65
61-90 days	53,679.20	133,456.82	187,136.02
91-180 days	126,387.17	339,345.73	465,732.90
181-360 days	175,563.41	629,274.14	804,837.55
361-540 days	75,307.28	882,006.45	957,313.73
541-720 days	19,872.00	541,872.18	561,744.18
Over 720 days	281,758.15	3,905,479.88	4,187,238.03
COURT TOTALS	\$774,288.48	\$6,632,934.58	\$7,407,223.06

STATE REIMBURSED FUNDS

DRUNK DRIVING FUNDS

1991 PA 98 (MCL 257.625h) created the drunk driving case flow assistance fund for the express purpose of defraying costs associated with the processing of drunk driving cases charged as violations under MCL 257.625 or 257.625m, 324.80176, 324.81134 or 324.82127 or substantially corresponding local ordinances. This Act requires the State Court Administrative Office to distribute a portion of these funds to every District Court. The funds are not intended for any other general fund purpose and are not intended to supplant any portion of the District Court's current appropriation. For the year 2018, the District Court received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$40,610.22.

DRUG CASE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FUND

The Drug Case Information Management Fund [MCL 257.323d; MSA 9.2023(4)] was created to promote the timely disposition and reporting of cases in which the defendant is charged with a violation of 333.7401 through 333.7417 and 333.7453 through 333.7455 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to those sections. The State Court Administrative Office is responsible for disbursement of the funds collected under this Act. For the year 2018, the District Court received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$2,655.05.

COURT EQUITY FUNDS

The Court Equity Fund, established by 1996 PA 374, MCL 600.151b, is a state fund created to provide funding to trial court funding units. The fund creation was effective with the state fiscal year beginning October 1, 1996, and funds are distributed to county trial court funding units. The formula for distribution is primarily based on caseload, but includes a county's portion of statewide judgeships as a factor. For the state fiscal year 2018, the Allegan County Funding Unit received a total of \$429,872.00. Trends in this funding for Allegan County are listed below.

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
\$512,357	\$468,647	\$442,188	\$421,968	\$398,795	\$411,353	\$403,095	\$427,380	\$427,229	\$434,003	\$429,872

JURY REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS

The Jury Reimbursement Fund, [MCL 600.151e] was established to reimburse the funding unit the added expense of the October 1, 2003 implementation of MCL 600.1344 which increased juror fees. Fees were increased again April 1, 2018 by 2017 PA 51. The public act also increased juror mileage reimbursement from 10 cents per mile to 20 cents per mile. Jurors are now compensated \$30.00 for their first day (\$15.00 for a half day) of jury service and \$45.00 for each subsequent day (\$22.50 for a half day) of jury service. The reimbursement is semi-annual covering the periods October 1 – March 31 and April 1 – September 30.

FY 2009 / 2010	FY 2010 / 2011	FY 2011 / 2012	FY 2012 / 2013	FY 2013 / 2014	FY 2014 / 2015	FY 2015 / 2016	FY 2016 / 2017	FY 2017 / 2018
10/1/09-9/30/10	10/1/10-9/30/11	10/1/11-9/30/12	10/1/12-9/30/13	10/1/13-9/30/14	10/1/14-9/30/15	10/1/15-9/30/16	10/1/16-9/30/17	10/1/17-9/30/18
\$5,530	\$4,272.50	\$2,437.50	\$4,017.50	\$3,067.50	\$1,125.00	\$1,025.00	\$4,072.50	\$2,891.60

COLLECTIONS



Pursuant to MCR 1.110 adopted January 1, 2002, fines, costs and other financial obligations imposed by the Court must be paid at the time of assessment, except when the Court allows otherwise, for good cause shown. The implementation of this court rule along with a desire to collect the Court's outstanding receivables helped the 57th District Court implement a Collections Policy. Under the Court's policy, notices of non-payment, bench warrants, and orders to show cause will be promptly generated by the Collections Clerk in cases where fines remain past due for more than 60 days.

In hardship cases, upon showing of good cause, the Collections Clerk may arrange a payment schedule with the defendant. The need for additional time, however, will have to be documented with proof of employment and financial records provided to the Clerk. The Court now spends a significant amount of time updating current addresses, verifying financial records, and tracking down defendants who are delinquent in their payments.

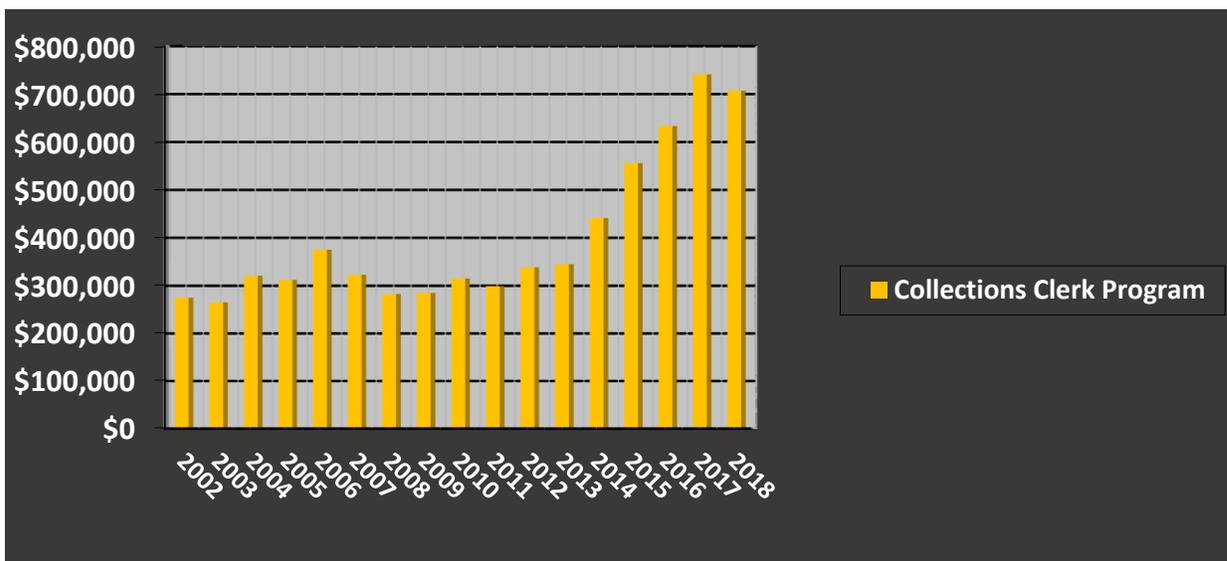
In 1997, the District Court purchased a software package that works in conjunction with the primary court case management software (supplied by the Supreme Court) to assist in tracking outstanding receivables at the District Court. The package was only fully implemented in September 2001. Since its implementation, the Court has been successful in bringing in revenues of \$6,881,668.26. In 2018 alone, the collections program was responsible for \$706,956.14 of the District Court revenues. Our Collections Clerk is assigned the responsibility of monitoring outstanding receivables and payment plans within the Court. Initially, the monthly results were very lucrative to the Court. Collections have maintained a steady pace at the Court. As of December 31, 2018, outstanding receivables amounted to \$7,407,223.06. Of that amount, \$2,783,881.23 is less than 2-years old while \$3,681,665.30 is between 2 – 7 years old. Of the total outstanding receivables, over 2.3 million dollars is due for criminal restitution.

PAST YEARS' COLLECTIONS HISTORY

2002	275,013.02		2010	315,308.17
2003	265,121.93		2011	299,194.54
2004	321,049.15		2012	338,331.35
2005	312,206.41		2013	344,857.23
2006	375,230.98		2014	441,423.06
2007	322,899.69		2015	555,905.75
2008	282,599.76		2016	633,453.78
2009	284,906.20		2017	741,162.01

COLLECTIONS TOTAL FOR 2018

JANUARY	\$56,186.71
FEBRUARY	75,032.56
MARCH	71,795.14
APRIL	50,343.31
MAY	60,255.97
JUNE	55,696.41
JULY	51,703.91
AUGUST	54,468.67
SEPTEMBER	49,532.99
OCTOBER	71,346.76
NOVEMBER	52,661.15
DECEMBER	57,932.56
YEAR END TOTAL:	\$706,956.14



Programs and Panels

COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS

The right to assistance of counsel to any person charged with a crime is a fundamental right made applicable to State Court proceedings by the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution. At the time of arraignment on the warrant or complaint, the Court advises the defendant of entitlement to an attorney's assistance at all subsequent Court proceedings. The Court will appoint an attorney at public expense after completion of a written financial statement completed by the defendant indicating that the defendant is financially unable to retain an attorney.

The 57th District Court utilizes a contract method of appointing attorneys in criminal misdemeanor cases. Heidi L. Wolf and Matthew Antkoviak are the attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants on misdemeanor cases. On January 1, 2019, Jessica Winsemius replaced Matthew Antkoviak as a misdemeanor court appointed attorney. The 48th Circuit Court contracts with attorneys appointed for indigent defendants on felony cases. James Mikel McEwen, Robert Champion, Paul Klein, Matthew Antkoviak and Fred Jensen are the attorneys appointed to represent Felony Tier 1 cases. In addition to the current Tier 1 attorneys, Emily Green, Chris Burnett are appointed as Felony Tier 2 attorneys.

MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

The commission was created as a result of efforts to improve legal representation for indigent criminal defendants. In October 2011, Governor Snyder issued Executive Order 2011-12, establishing the initial Indigent Defense Advisory Commission, which was responsible for recommending improvements to the state's legal system. These recommendations served as the basis for legislation to address this need and called for the 15-member Indigent Defense Commission that the governor signed into law in July 2013.

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission is charged with developing and overseeing the implementation, enforcement, and modification of minimum standards, rules, and procedures to ensure that indigent criminal defense services providing effective assistance of counsel are delivered to all indigent adults in this state consistent with the safeguards of the United States constitution, the state constitution of 1963, and with the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Act. They will identify and encourage best practices for delivering the effective assistance of counsel to indigent defendants charged with crimes. They will collect data, support compliance and administer grants to achieve these goals. They will accomplish their mission through collaboration, transparency and accessibility to all partners in the criminal justice community.

Grant funding is available to court funding units to assist in reimbursing for the costs of implementing these standards. Allegan and Van Buren County are collaborating in a regional effort to provide legal representation to indigent criminal defendants in both counties. The Regional Office will employ a hybrid solution using both staff attorney(s) and contractual attorneys to provide representation.

VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

Allegan County's first Victim Impact Panel Meeting held in April of 1992, was a coordinated effort by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office, and the Judges of the 57th District Court. The Victim Impact Panel is a creative sentencing option available to Judges for persons convicted of alcohol/drug driving offenses as well as Minor in Possession deferred sentences. The panel resulted from a dedicated effort between Mothers Against Drunk Driving and District Courts, and originated in the northwestern United States several years ago. Victim Impact Panels are intended to be mutually beneficial to the panelists as well as the offenders. Victim Impact Panel meetings are held by MADD at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every other month at the Griswold Auditorium. In 2018, 80 defendants attended the Victim Impact session in Allegan. Due to the infrequency of the Allegan meetings, defendants can satisfy this attendance requirement in many locations such as Holland, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo areas.

MARRIAGES

The Magistrates perform marriage ceremonies every Friday. In 2018, 159 happy couples were united. The marriages are performed in one of the available courtrooms or the hearing room.

Highlights

BREAKING NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES - PRIOR YEARS

1995 – 2005 highlights can be located in the 2013 Annual Report

2006 – 2012 highlights can be located in the 2015 Annual Report

2013 – 2016 highlights can be located in the 2016 Annual Report

2017 Highlights

- 2017 – Vocational Technical Criminal Justice Class (VoTech) provides the District Court Clerk's Office five interns throughout 2017 for educational work experience. Interns included: Tegan McNeese, Ryan Hoeksema, Nick Agy, Trinity Deridder and Aaron Maule.
- February 2017 – Completed a physical inventory of open case files in the Clerk's Office and Probation Department.
- February 14, 2017 – LEIN audit conducted by Trevor Carlsen of Michigan State Police.
- March – 22nd Annual Report for the year 2016 completed and distributed.
- March 1, 2017 – District Court begins using Calendar Integration and internet calendars for Scheduling Court events through Judicial Information Systems (JIS).
- March 2017 – Courts begin review of court recording systems – reviewed BIS and JAVs for future capital purchase in 2018 and 2019. In August, court review team selects BIS for updated equipment and software.
- March 7, 2017 – meet with Thermo Fisher Scientific to review viability of drug testing lab in Allegan County Courthouse.
- March 30, 2017 – David Handsor, the court liaison from SOS visits District and Circuit Court.
- April 12, 2017 – District Court hosts MSP and SOS regional training in the Zimmerman Room.
- April 13, 2017 – Judge Baillargeon and Linda Lenahan made annual "State of the Court" presentation to Board of Commissioners.
- Spring 2017 - Completed records retention and disposal of Michigan trial court records pursuant to Schedule 16.
- April 21, 2017 – May 12, 2017; 8th graders from Plainwell Public Schools visit and learn about the District Court, the Prosecutors Office, and the Allegan County Jail.
- May 2017 – 57th District Court honored by Michigan Secretary of State's Office for 100% compliance in record accuracy and timeliness for the 2016 calendar year.
- May 3, 2017 – Allegan County visits Ottawa County (Holland and Grand Haven) Courts to see their drug testing facilities.
- May 9 and May 11, 2017 – Linda Lenahan and Renee Stack provide training to the Jail Booking Staff.
- Spring/Summer/Fall 2017 – Court applies for and is awarded grant funds for the C48 Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Regional Veterans' Treatment Court and a Sobriety Court.
- Summer/Fall – Integrated Court Calendar Monitors (Phase I) installed on the main floor for all courts.
- August 7, 2017 – Kent County Circuit Court visits the Mental Health Court and team.
- October 12, 2017 – Court in School conducted at Fennville High School by Judge Baillargeon.
- Fall 2017 – begin planning conversion from Allegan County AS400 – JIS Cloud.
- October 27, 2017 – Active Shooter Drill conducted the entire afternoon. Building is closed during drill.
- October 13, 2017 – November 17, 2017; 8th graders from Plainwell Public Schools visit and learn about the District Court, the Prosecutors Office, and the Allegan County Jail.
- December 8, 2017 – Employee Recognition Luncheon held.
- December 15, 2017 – Vocational Technical (VoTech) criminal justice class visits the District Courtrooms.

2018 Highlights

- 2018 – Vocational Technical Criminal Justice Class (VoTech) provides the District Court Clerk’s Office five interns throughout 2018 for educational work experience. Interns included: Ryan Hoeksema - 11/27/17 – 1/19/18, Jazmyn Ream - 1/22/18 – 3/09/18, Tegan McNees - 3/12/18 – 5/25/18, Keagan Augustine - 9/04/18 – 10/19/18, Esther Tyrrell - 10/22/18 – 11/30/18 and Marcasha Marvin - 12/03/18 – 1/25/19.
- 2018 – Clerks attend Clerk Certification Training in Kalamazoo and Lansing throughout the year.
- January 2018 – Completed a physical inventory of open case files in the Clerk’s Office and Probation Department.
- March – 23rd Annual Report for the year 2018 completed and distributed.
- March 19, 2018 – Court in School conducted at Wayland High School by Judge Baillargeon.
- March 2018 – three large monitors installed outside the District Court Clerk’s office displaying court schedules for the current day for the three courtrooms.
- April 11, 2018 – David Handsor, the court liaison from SOS visits District and Circuit Court.
- April 12, 2018 – Judge Baillargeon and Linda Lenahan made annual “*State of the Court*” presentation to Board of Commissioners.
- April 23 – May 18, 2018 – All Michigan Courts participate in a time study for judicial activities determining future judicial resource recommendations.
- April 27, 2018 – public access to District Court calendars added to our District Court website.
- Spring 2018 - Completed records retention and disposal pursuant *STATE OF MICHIGAN RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE - GENERAL SCHEDULE #13 - DISTRICT COURTS*.
- May 2018 – 57th District Court honored by Michigan Secretary of State’s Office for 100% compliance in record accuracy and timeliness for the 2017 calendar year.
- May 18, 2018 – Alicia Nevenzel transfers from District Court to a new position in the Circuit Court Family Division.
- May 25, 2018 – Barry County court recorders visit court for demonstration of BIS court recording system.
- June 1, 2018 – installed and began using new credit card machine from Michigan Retailers Association for onsite credit card payments. Service fees were reduced significantly from previous vendor Chemical Bank.
- June 6, 2018 – Courts receive a demo of the new BIS software for court recording systems.
- June 12, 2018 – new BIS software and complete equipment replacement occurs in Circuit Courtroom A Judge Bakker for a pilot period.
- June 19, 2018 – SCAO auditor at court to review our Collections Policies and Procedures.
- June 22, 2018 – new process implemented with Allegan County Jail to begin scanning documents to the jail instead of faxing. Also part of the process includes printing court orders directly in the jail arraignment room saving the court officers traveling back and forth from the jail to the courthouse.
- July 25, 2018 – new polycoms installed by the Michigan Supreme Court in every Judge’s Courtroom.
- Spring/Summer/Fall 2018 – Court applies for and is awarded grant funds for the C48 Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Regional Veterans’ Treatment Court and a Sobriety Court.
- August 13, 2018 – Heather Bausick transfers from Facilities Management into the District Court Clerk’s Office – civil division.
- September 28, 2018 – name and case search applications added to District Court website.
- October 1 -5, 2018 – All Allegan Courts distribute and collect Public Satisfaction surveys.
- October 12, 2018 – November 2, 2018; 8th graders from Plainwell Public Schools visit and learn about the District Court, the Prosecutors Office and the Allegan County Jail.
- December 7, 2018 – Employee Recognition Luncheon held.
- December 12, 2018 – Recognized staff for years of service (anyone have 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 etc. years of service).
- December 31, 2018 – District Court Recorders outsource their transcripts to a roster of certified transcriptionists.



Staff Recognized for Years of Service in 2018

Left to right, first row: Michelle Carpenter (20 years), Sarah Miller (20 years), Chris Gates-Edson (20 years);
Left to right, back row: Judge Joseph Skocelas, Mark Ponitz (30 years), Amber Browneye (5 years), Aimee Kragt (30 years), Mary Jo Ash (5 years), Jackie Hicks (15 years), Linda Lenahan and Judge William A. Baillargeon.