



57th District Court – Allegan County State of Michigan

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

Contact us: phone - (269) 673-0400 • fax - (269) 673-0490 • email - districtcourt@allegancounty.org

Website: <https://www.allegancounty.org/DistrictCourt>



District Court Clerk's Office, Judicial Staff and Probation

Pictured from left to right

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

Second row: Aimee Kragt, Linda Lenahan, Carole Carr (hidden), Jackie Hicks,
Sarah Miller, Chris Gates, Heather Bausick and Renee Stack;

Third row: Mark Ponitz, Nancy Eaton, Candy Mock, Cindy Cook, Deb Wolters, Michelle Carpenter,
Amber Browneye, Kayla Williamson, Hickory Buell, Mary Jo Ash and Kelly Miklusicak;

Not pictured: Kathy Evans, Kathy Miller, Emily Schwartz, Audrey VerBeek and Ken Giles;

Digital photos by Retired Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSO

57th District Court 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

A Message from the Chief Judge.....	4
History, Location and Overview	5
Administration Overview	7
Organizational Chart.....	9
Judicial Staff.....	10
Clerk's Office Staff	12
Probation Department Staff.....	14
Jurisdiction.....	16
Court Divisions	
Civil Division	17
Criminal Division	18
Traffic Division	18
Statistical Analysis	
Total New Case Filings	19
Total Dispositions.....	20
Total Re-Opened Cases	21
Caseload Mix.....	22
Clearance Rate	22
Caseage Trends and Caseload Management.....	23
Probation Department	
New Probationers	24
Statistics.....	25
Domestic Violence Diversion Program	26
7411 Drug Diversion Program	28
Minor in Possession Diversion Program	28
Alcohol Assessments	29
Probation Supervision and Oversight Costs	29
Electronic Home Monitoring Program	29
LEIN Entry (Warrants and Criminal History).....	30
Community Service in Lieu of Fine and Costs	31
Mental Health Treatment Court	32
West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court	33
Sobriety Treatment Court	34
Adult Drug Treatment Court	35

Table of Contents - continued

Revenues 36

Expenses 37

Historical Review Total Revenues and Expenses 38

Historical Review General Fund Revenues and Expenses..... 39

Outstanding Receivables 40

State Reimbursed Funds 41

Collections 42

Programs and Panels

 Court Appointed Attorneys/Allegan Public Defender's Office..... 44

 Victim Impact Panel 44

Marriages..... 44

2021 Highlights..... 45

A Message from the Chief Judge

In March of 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court issued Orders changing court operations for all courts in Michigan during the COVID- 19 pandemic. Over the course of the last two years, we very slowly began resuming normal functioning as we were able to do so given the changing positivity rates of the virus within Allegan County. Criminal cases resumed first, then civil cases. Currently, over 90% of the cases being heard are still being done remotely via Zoom technology. The only court proceedings that have not yet been resumed are jury trials. The current plan is to resume those in April of 2022.

Some of the changes in court operations that were put into place because of the virus will probably become standard for court functions across Michigan. Police officers can continue to save time and resources by obtaining arrest and search warrants electronically. Parties, attorneys and witnesses will still want to utilize the convenience of Zoom remote hearings to handle their routine court matters. I also expect that upcoming changes in Michigan law may further facilitate making some of these changes permanent for courts. Like everything else in our lives, technology will play a bigger role in court functions in the future.

We also had a number of personnel changes in the court during 2021 with the retirements of some very experienced employees. Candy Mock, who started with the court in January of 1995, Kathy Evans, who started with the court in January of 1999 and Deb Wolters, who started with the court in 2004, all retired from the court during 2021. We truly appreciate all their years of service to the court and wish them the best during their well-earned retirements.

One of the many changes to court operations due to the virus was the broadcasting on YouTube of court proceedings when the court buildings were closed to the public to facilitate the legal requirement of public viewing of court proceedings. That is another change to court operations in Michigan that will continue to be in place. If you wish to view court proceedings in the Allegan County courts, or any other court in the Michigan, you can now do so without even leaving your home! Go to the website: micourt.courts.michigan.gov/virtualcourtroomdirectory to be able to observe court operations for yourself at your convenience.



Joseph S. Skocelas
Chief District Court Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph S. Skocelas". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joseph S. Skocelas
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 \$6,500 (increased on 1/1/21). 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



District Court Administrative Team

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

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

Digital photos by Retired 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/Zoom 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 may review uncontested judgments of divorce on cases with no minor children. During COVID-19, the review of uncontested judgments of divorce by the Magistrate was suspended to allow us the opportunity to focus entirely on the backlog at the District Court.

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.

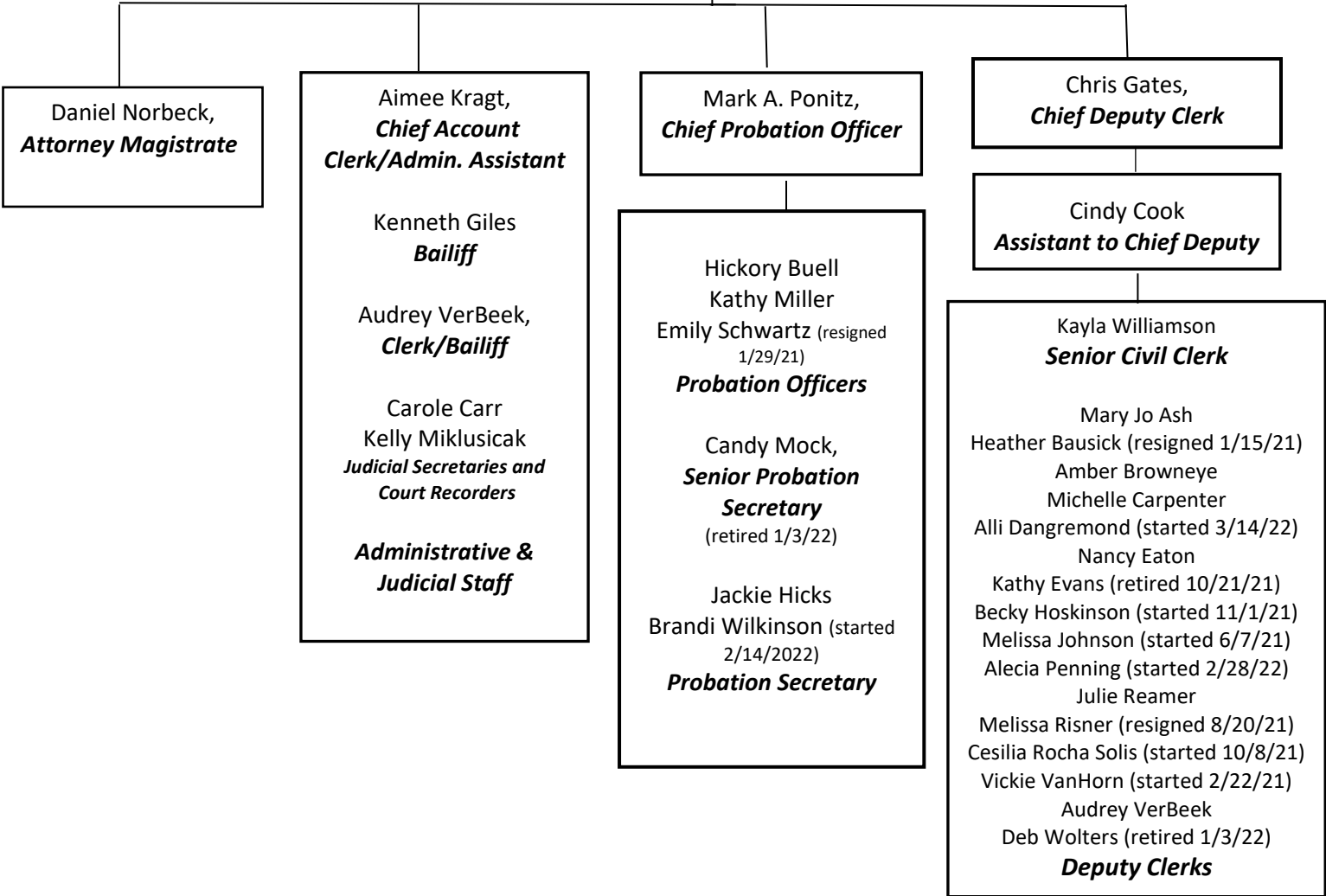
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The Public

HONORABLE JOSEPH S. SKOCELAS
Chief Judge

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. BAILLARGEON
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 and Judge William A. Baillargeon;

Left to right, back row: Kelly Miklusicak, Magistrate Daniel Norbeck, Aimee Kragt and Carole Carr;

Not pictured: Ken Giles and Audrey VerBeek

Digital photos by Retired Detective Craig Gardiner, ACSD

HONORABLE JOSEPH S. SKOCELAS, Chief 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, 2014 and 2020 for six-year terms.

HONORABLE WILLIAM A. BAILLARGEON, 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 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.

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: Julie Reamer, Chris Gates and Cindy Cook;
Left to right, second row: Alecia Penning, Melissa Johnson, Vickie VanHorn, Nancy Eaton and Jackie Hicks;
Left to right, back row: Michelle Carpenter, Mary Jo Ash, Cesilia Rocha Solis, Amber Browneye, Kayla Williamson and Rebecca Hoskinson;
Not pictured: Audrey VerBeeke
Digital photos by Linda Lenahan

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 in the Civil Division, transferred from Facilities Management on August 13, 2018. Heather resigned from District Court effective 1/15/21 and transferred to Allegan County Parks and Recreation Department.

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, Assistant to the Chief Deputy District Court Clerk, first transferred from the Friend of the Court to District Court on June 6, 2016. After transfer, Cindy worked for nearly four years in the Civil Division and then transferred into the Traffic/Criminal Division on February 24, 2020. On December 14, 2020 Cindy was promoted to the Assistant to the Deputy District Court Clerk.

ALLI DANGREMOND, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, was hired by the District Court on March 14, 2022.

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, had been employed with the District Court since January 1999. Kathleen retired from the Court on October 21, 2021.

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

REBECCA HOSKINSON, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, started with the Court on November 1, 2021.

MELISSA JOHNSON, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, started with the Court on June 7, 2021.

ALECIA PENNING, Deputy Court Clerk in the Civil Division, started with the Court on February 28, 2022.

JULIE REAMER, Deputy Court Clerk in the Civil Division, transferred from Facilities Management on February 24, 2020.

MELISSA RISNER, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, transferred from the Friend of the Court to District Court on January 25, 2021. Melissa transferred back to the Friend of the Court on August 20, 2021.

CESILIA ROCHA SOLIS, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, started with the Court on October 8, 2021.

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.

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.

VICKIE VANHORN, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, transferred from the Treasurer's Office to District Court on February 22, 2021.

DEBORAH WOLTERS, Deputy Court Clerk in the Traffic/Criminal Division, had been employed with the District Court since April 2004. Deborah retired with the Court on January 3, 2022.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT STAFF



District Court Probation Staff

*Left to right, first row: Brandi Wilkinson and Jackie Hicks;
Left to right, back row: Hickory Buell, Mark Ponitz and Kathy Miller*
Digital photos by Linda Lenahan

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, had been employed with the District Court since January 1995. Candice retired on January 3, 2022.

EMILY SCHWARTZ, Probation Officer, has been employed with the District Court since January 16, 2017. Prior to District Court, Emily worked as a Conciliator-Investigator with the Friend of the Court. Emily resigned from District Court Probation effective 1/29/2021.

BRANDI WILKINSON, Secretary, has been employed with the District Court since February 14, 2022.

JURISDICTION

DIVISIONS	JURISDICTION	FACTS TO KNOW
CIVIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil suits up to \$25,000 • Small claim suits up to \$6,500 (effective 1/1/21) • 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

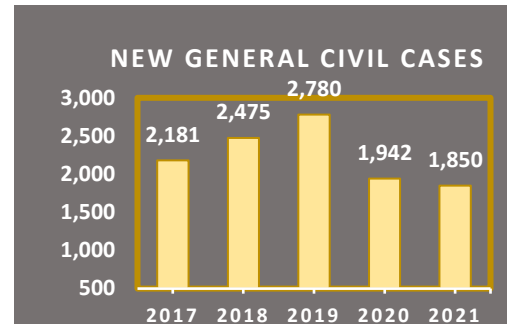
NEW CASES FILED

CIVIL DIVISION

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

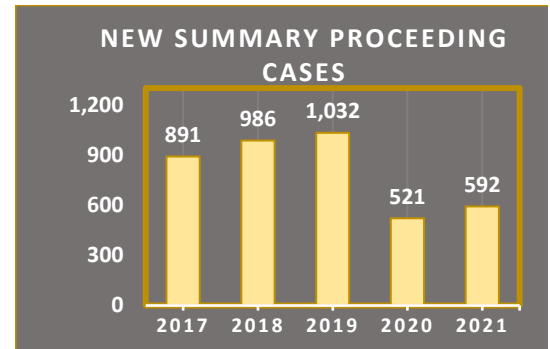
The **General Civil Division** processes all civil cases under the \$25,000 jurisdictional limit; limited claim and delivery civil actions; limited writ of attachment and garnishment; and forfeiture or seizure of certain property.

The bar chart reflects the five-year trend in general civil filings. Case filings over the five-year trend decreased 331 cases from 2017 to 2021. New case filings decreased 92 cases from 2020 to 2021.



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.

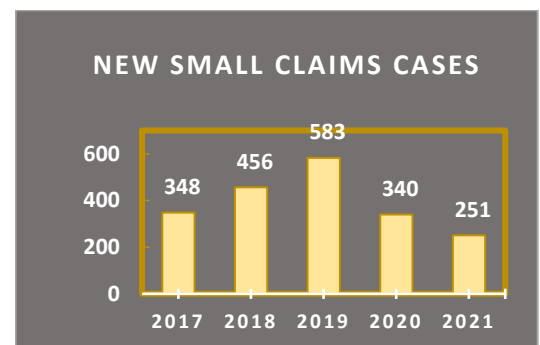
The bar chart reflects the five-year trend in summary proceeding filings. New filings over the five-year trend decreased 299 cases from 2017 to 2021. New case filings increased 71 cases from 2020 to 2021.



The **Small Claims Division** processes cases with recoverable maximum monies up to \$6,500.00 (increased from \$6,000 to \$6,500 on 1/1/21). 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 bar chart reflects the five-year year trend in small claim filings. Case filings over the five-year trend decreased 97 cases from 2017 to 2021. New case filings decreased 89 cases from 2020 to 2021.

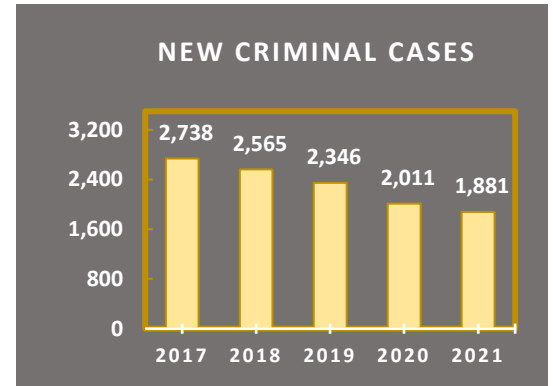


NEW CASES FILED

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 2021, nine (9) felony pleas were accepted by District Court Judges.

In 2021, the criminal division processed 1,881 new case filings. The Court conducted felony preliminary examinations and waiver hearings and bound over 833 cases to the 48th Circuit Court. This number includes traffic division bind overs, as well. The criminal division disposed of 3,329 cases.



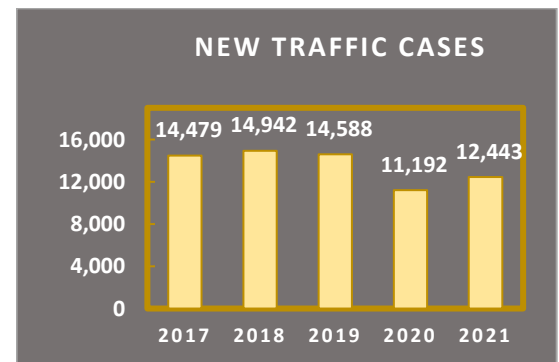
The bar chart reflects the five-year trend in criminal division filings. Case filings over the five-year trend decreased by 857 cases from 2017 to 2021. New case filings decreased 130 cases from 2020 to 2021.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

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

In 2021, the traffic division accepted 12,443 new case filings. The traffic division disposed of 14,136 cases through various dispositions, i.e., guilty plea, admission of responsibility, default, dismissal, warrant, and trial/hearing verdict. In 2021, the Judges disposed of 9 cases by jury verdict (all case types) and 194 cases by bench trial, formal or informal hearing for all case types.

The bar chart reflects the five-year trend in traffic division filings. Case filings decreased by 2,036 cases from 2017 to 2021. New case filings increased 1,251 cases from 2020 to 2021.



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.

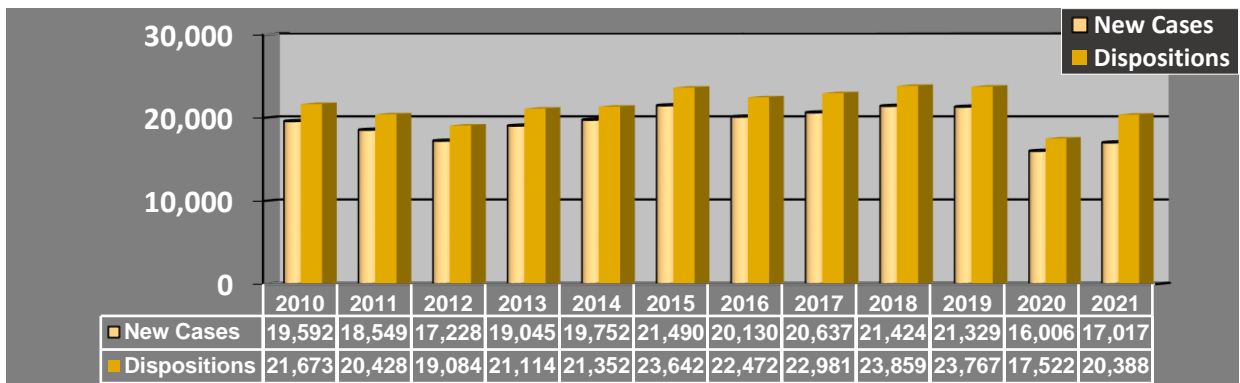
In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office significantly changed the methodology of counting cases in the District Court. The Court went from tracking 16 different case type classifications to 21 different classifications.

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	12,443
Criminal cases filed	1,881
Civil cases filed	<u>2,693</u>
Total new cases filed	17,017

A comparison of total new case filings and dispositions from 2010 through 2021 are reflected in the graph below. The twelve-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced a decrease of 2,575 new cases filings from 2010 through 2021. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 1,011 new case filings from 2020 to 2021.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS



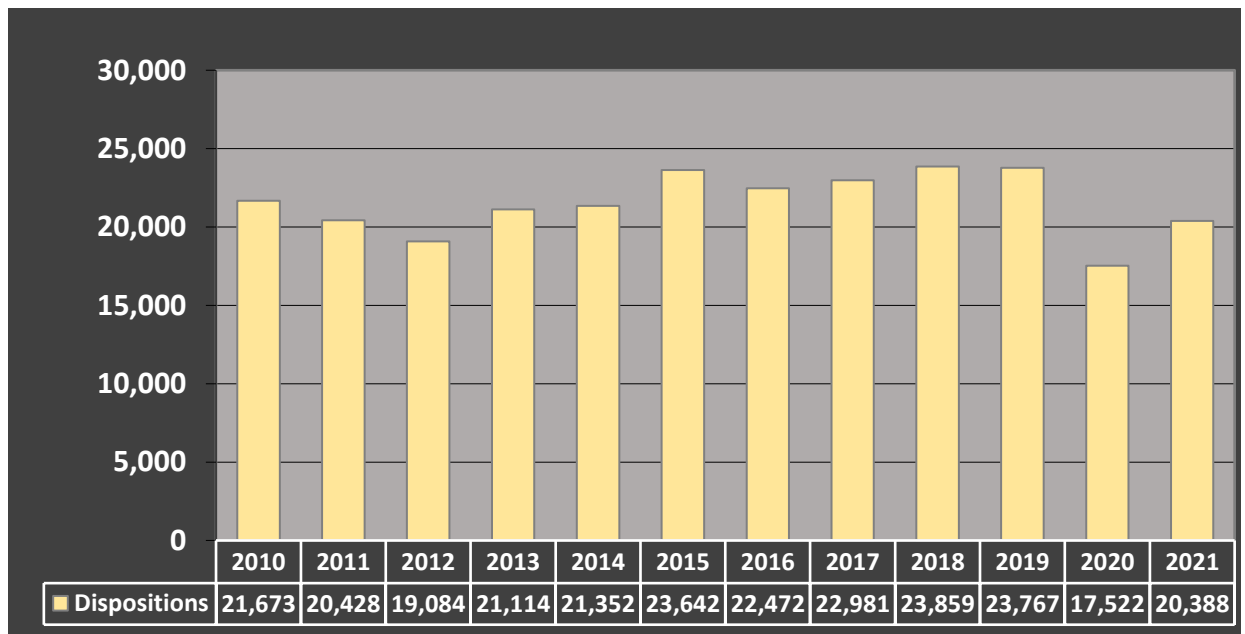
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS

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	14,136
Criminal cases	3,329
Civil cases	<u>2,923</u>
Total dispositions	20,388

Total dispositions for all divisions from 2010 through 2021 are reflected in the graph below. The twelve-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced a decrease of 1,285 case dispositions from 2010 through 2021. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 2,866 case dispositions from 2020 to 2021.



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS



TOTAL RE-OPENED CASES

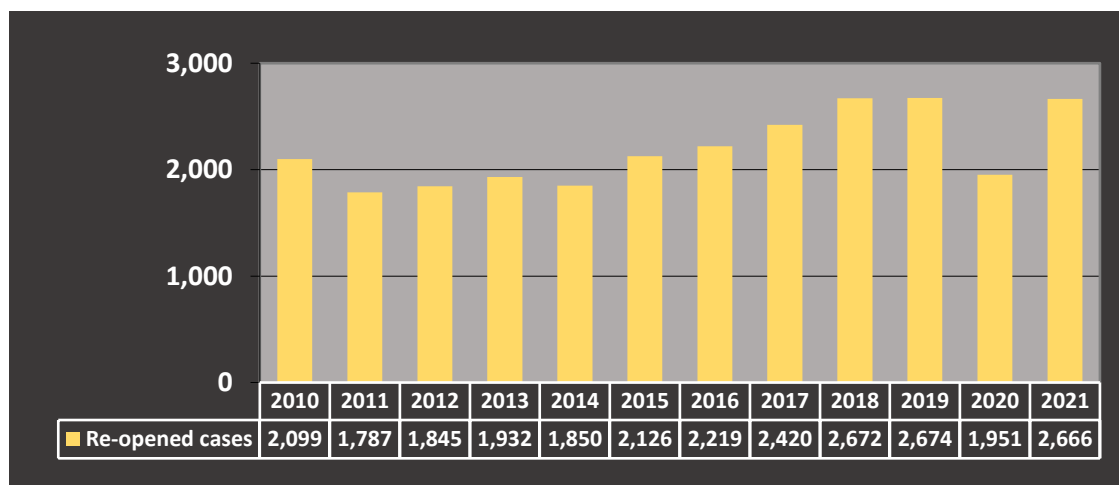
Cases are counted as re-opened when a defendant is arrested and arraigned on a warrant, a new trial is ordered by an appellate court, or a plea or judgment is set aside. The Court uploads these numbers to the State Court Administrative Office’s web site. The number of re-opened cases was not tracked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



TOTAL RE-OPENED CASES FILED

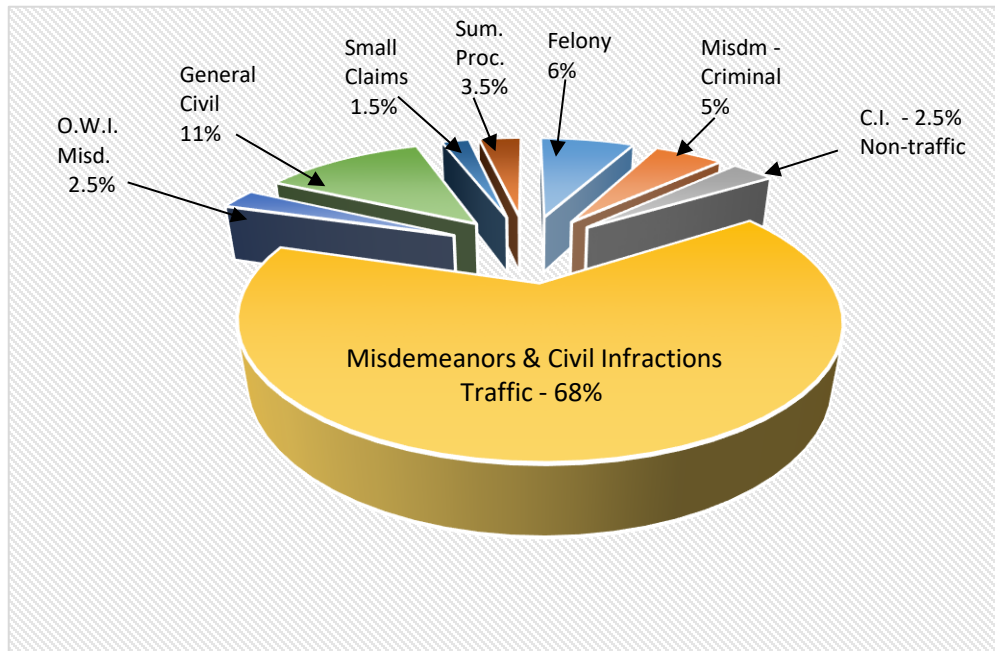
Traffic cases re-opened	1,302
Criminal cases re-opened	1,302
Civil cases filed re-opened	<u>62</u>
Total cases re-opened	2,666

Total re-opened cases for all divisions from 2010 through 2021 are reflected in the graph below. The twelve-year bar graph reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 567 re-opened cases from 2010 through 2021. The one-year trend reflects that the Court experienced an increase of 715 cases from 2020 to 2021.



CASELOAD MIX

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

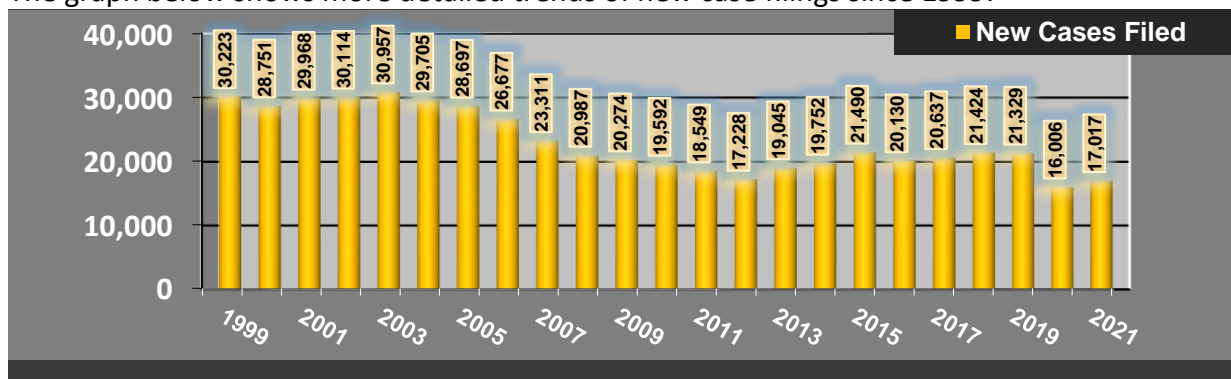


Clearance Rate Ratio of Dispositions to New Case Filing

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

New Case Filings and Reopened Cases	19,683
Dispositions	20,388
Ratio	104%

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



CASEAGE TRENDS AND CASELOAD 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 that includes data from 2020 comparing the 57th District Court to the Statewide District Court Average. In 2020, due to the Michigan Supreme Court Orders regarding COVID-19 and suspension of court hearings, all courts started experiencing significant backlog and delays. The statistics below reflect those changes in 2020.

CASE AGE TRENDS – PERCENTAGE DISPOSED

Felonies – Disposed within 28 Days

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide Court Average	76%	77%	76%	74%	72%	70%	70%	53%
57 th District Court	76%	77%	85%	85%	82%	84%	82%	68%

Misdemeanors – Disposed within 126 Days

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide Court Average	95%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%	92%
57 th District Court	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	91%

Civil Infractions – Disposed within 84 Days

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide Court Average	95%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%	91%
57 th District Court	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	96%

General Civil – Disposed within 455 Days

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide Court Average	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	97%
57 th District Court	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Summary Civil without Jury Demand – Disposed within 126 Days

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Statewide Court Average	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	96%	96%	96%	86%
57 th District Court	97%	98%	97%	96%	98%	96%	97%	97%	96%	94%	82%

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 2021 was 281. The total number of probationers being supervised by the Probation Officers for the period ending December 31, 2021 was 460 including diversion programs.

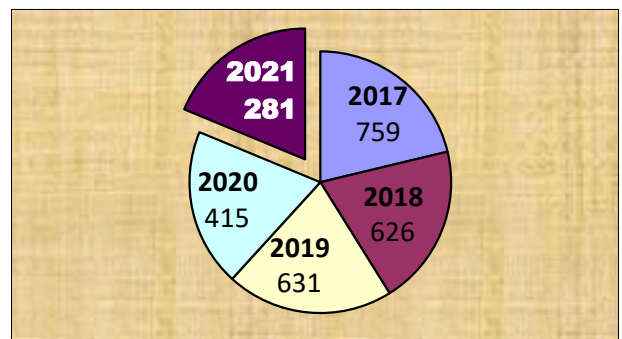
The difference between the total number placed on probation (281) and supervised (460) reflects the number of probationers who completed their terms and conditions of probation and were released. The time span of probation can generally range from a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of two years. Consequently, 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	13	18	13	5	10	7	8	21	8	14	8	11	136
BAILLARGEON	23	14	16	2	13	12	10	11	21	10	12	1	145
NORBECK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	36	32	29	7	23	19	18	32	29	24	20	12	281

The pie chart reflects the total number of cases or individuals that were placed on probation from 2017 through 2021. For the period of 2017 through 2021, the caseload decreased 478 cases. Caseload decreased by 134 cases between 2020 and 2021.



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	12	10	0	3	13	8	6	11	13	14	9	5	104
Operate while Intoxicated – 2 nd	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	5	1	0	1	0	16
Impaired Driving	14	7	11	0	2	2	2	2	6	5	2	1	54
Assault & Battery	0	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	2	2	2	0	15
Domestic Violence	2	4	9	1	3	3	5	6	4	3	0	5	45
Larceny	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malicious Destruction of Property	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Drug Offenses	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stalking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
CSC – Attempted 4 th Degree/ Accosting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
All Other Charges	4	7	0	1	3	2	1	5	3	0	4	1	31
TOTAL	36	32	21	7	23	19	18	32	29	24	20	12	273

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Felonies reduced to misdemeanors & placed on probation	6	7	7	1	2	3	1	5	2	4	1	1	40

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.

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.

PROBATION

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).

	2006 -	2007 -	2008 -	2009 -	2010 -	2011 -	2012 -	2013 -	2014 -	2015 -	2016 -	2017 -	2018 -	2019 -	2020 -	2021 -
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
New DV charges filed	423	446	489	473	500	505	462	432	387	513	486	445	433	494	463	
DV charges adjudicated	427	472	485	467	508	475	541	489	446	558	593	573	517	438	579	
Pled under program	112	124	135	128	140	148	156	105	128	117	147	120	120	56	78	
Successfully completing program	68	74	80	108	106	108	109	121	87	110	87	120	80	79	43	
Not completing program	24	40	46	52	39	26	30	24	32	11	28	37	30	18	15	
Pled guilty to DV but not under program	128	133	132	101	111	84	78	114	119	129	123	116	96	77	89	
Dismissed or nolle prosequi	94	96	102	97	41	90	141	116	96	110	122	149	135	129	214	
Bound over to Circuit Court	32	28	35	24	12	12	27	24	34	41	68	41	56	64	92	
Reduced DV III to miscellaneous charges	3	3	2	5	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Reduced from DV III to DV II	3	4	8	17	7	14	13	19	10	31	8	10	7	7	8	
Reduced from DV II to DV I	11	6	7	38	19	20	17	28	21	24	28	20	11	8	23	
DV-Aggravated to DV Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Reduced from DV to Disorderly	15	12	40	38	7	19	15	36	36	39	30	26	20	24	48	
Reduced from DV to Assault & Battery	22	23	15	8	3	15	9	19	17	27	19	24	29	11	2	
Reduced to misc. charges not included above	8	4	1	8	3	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Guilty as charged after bench trial	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	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	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	0	2	1	
Not guilty after bench trial	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Not guilty after jury trial	3	3	5	4	2	0	2	2	1	0	4	2	2	2	6	
Mental Health Court	-	-	-	6	5	4	5	3	6	2	7	10	9	5	5	
Recharged after successful completion of the program	16	9	12	13	15	7	16	16	23	36	18	19	18	30	*30	

**Of the 30 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, one (1) was dismissed by the Judge, seven (7) were bound over to Circuit Court, three (3) pled guilty to disturbing the peace and nine (9) are still pending.

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 drug 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.

In November of 2018, Michigan voters approved a ballot proposal that legalized the possession and use of small amounts of marijuana for recreational purposes for adults 21 and over. Prior to this change, the majority of 7411 diversion cases involved the possession of marijuana. The Court has seen a significant decrease in program participation due to recreational marijuana's legalization.

Judge	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
SKOCELAS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
BAILLARGEON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL 2021	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

MINOR IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

DEFERRAL PROGRAM FOR FIRST TIME MISDEMEANOR OFFENDER

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 offenses of Minor in Possession of Alcohol as allowed by statute, however, the number of participants has dropped to zero again in 2021. In 2021, thirty-one (31) civil infraction MIP tickets were filed with the Court and one (1) misdemeanor.

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PROBATION

ALCOHOL ASSESSMENTS

On April 15, 1996, the Probation Officers began conducting alcohol assessments. Under MCL 257.625(b)(5), the Judge must order each defendant to undergo screening and assessment before imposing a sentence on most drunk driving offenses. A total of 131 assessments were completed during 2021. The assessment fee is \$90.00. The assessments will generate total revenues of \$11,790.00. Revenues collected for 2021 were \$22,969.91.

2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
TOTAL	24	14	10	2	18	9	5	10	11	12	8	8	131

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 2021 were \$123,579.26.

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 2021, 81 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	4	3	3	0	2	3	3	5	4	9	5	1	42
BAILLARGEON	4	2	0	2	5	2	4	8	4	2	3	3	39
TOTAL	8	5	3	2	7	5	7	13	8	11	8	4	81

LEIN ENTRIES

The District Court implemented LEIN warrant entry in late June 2002. Since its implementation, the Clerk's Office has entered approximately 62,833 new warrants and cancelled another 52,560 warrants. In 2021 alone, 2,822 warrants were entered and 3,236 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, 2021, the Court has entered 60,315 criminal history transactions (2,589 in 2021). 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.

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



Mental Health Court Graduate
Michael Milburn and Judge Skocelas

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 to create a Mental Health Treatment Court in Allegan County. The treatment court is fully certified by the State Court Administrative Office as a Mental Health Treatment Court in Michigan. The court operates on grant funding also awarded by the State Court Administrative Office. The program accepts both felony and misdemeanor cases.

Since its inception, 464 defendants have been referred to the program. Of those, 199 were accepted into the program and 265 were rejected. Of the 199 who were accepted, 131 have successfully graduated, and 4 are currently in the program – 1 in Phase I and 3 in Phase II. After acceptance into the program, 64 were discharged unsuccessfully – 51 for cause and 13 for other reasons.

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 also includes frequent random drug/alcohol screens. The court provides 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.

During the pandemic from 2020 until the present time, the Mental Health Court Treatment Team continued to conduct virtual or telephone review hearings to check in with all of our participants every other week. Very few new cases were referred to the program during this time as the vast majority of new criminal cases stopped coming into the court system for a substantial period of time. It is expected that the more cases will be referred to the program as the courts fully reopen.

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

The West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court began operation on February 7, 2014, and was 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 9 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 41 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 our field agents, Troy McCabe, who performs the remote supervision and substance abuse testing.

As required by statute, this court achieved certification in 2019 from the State Court Administrative Office. COVID-19 has prevented us from having the formal, well attended graduations of the past, but we are moving forward nonetheless.

SOBRIETY TREATMENT COURT

In May of 2017, 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 twenty-three (23) current participants both male and female. To date, we have graduated fifty-eight (58) participants and helped seventy (70) participants gain a restricted driver's license. As required by statute, this court achieved certification in 2019 from the State Court Administrative Office.

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 the 57th District and 48th Circuit Court Probation Department.

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, nine (9) in 2019, and two (2) in 2020 totaling eighty (80) participants since inception.

The cumulative total over the past ten years is forty-nine (49) participants successfully completing the drug court. The Drug Court Program ceased operations in September 2021. All the active participants at that time were successfully transferred to the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program.

While the adult drug treatment court was made up of cases of the 48th Circuit Court, it was developed and presided over by Judge Baillargeon. The administration of the court was carried out by Attorney Magistrate Daniel Norbeck.

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	\$1,428.42
Drunk Driving Reimbursement Fund	22,931.02
Court Costs	991,500.75
Appointed Attorney Fees	44,572.41
10% Bond Costs	50.00
Crime Victims' Rights Fund	15,326.26
Civil Filing Fees	143,919.00
Miscellaneous Fees	9,985.75
Driver's License Reinstatement Fees	35,066.64
Motion Fees	8,200.00
NSF Fees	150.00
Bond Forfeitures	64,440.00
DNA Sample Fee (Court)	111.00
Ordinance Fine and Costs	64,408.84
Jury Reimbursement	3,795.70
Insurance Fee	4,966.00
Probation Alcohol Assessments	22,969.91
Probation Oversight Costs	123,579.26
Cities, Townships, Villages	27,527.70
DNA fee – Sheriff's Department	277.50
State Treasury – Trust and Agencies	814,651.08
Libraries	510,809.94
Veterans' Court Participant Fees	2,959.00
Mental Health Court Participant Fees	400.00
Sobriety Court Participant Fees	15,703.00
48 th Circuit Court Drug Court Participant Fees	3,971.82
Interest Earned	277.79
Cash Over/Short	150.00
Credit Card Fees	(-3,650.57)

EXPENSES

EXPENDITURE	DISTRICT COURT	PROBATION DEPT.
Salary and wages	\$1,010,780.88	\$321,325.15
Employee benefits	403,861.45	121,522.92
Office supplies	10,920.67	2,694.00
Printing and binding	15,557.89	0
Books and maps	741.00	0
Probation Assessment Fees	0	2,675.00
Jury	6,823.20	0
Witnesses	0	0
Interpreter fees	3,812.44	0
Court appointed attorney fees	0	0
Memberships and subscriptions	3,703.37	0
Other Contractual Services	5,315.05	0
Travel Expense – routine	82.28	0
Education – miscellaneous	109.63	839.76
Education – travel	0	0
Education – registration	0	0
Travel – visiting judge	0	0
Repairs and maintenance	13,467.00	0
Software lease	37,049.60	0
Equipment	2,925.79	0
TOTAL	\$1,515,150.25	\$449,056.83

CUMULATIVE TOTALS

REVENUES

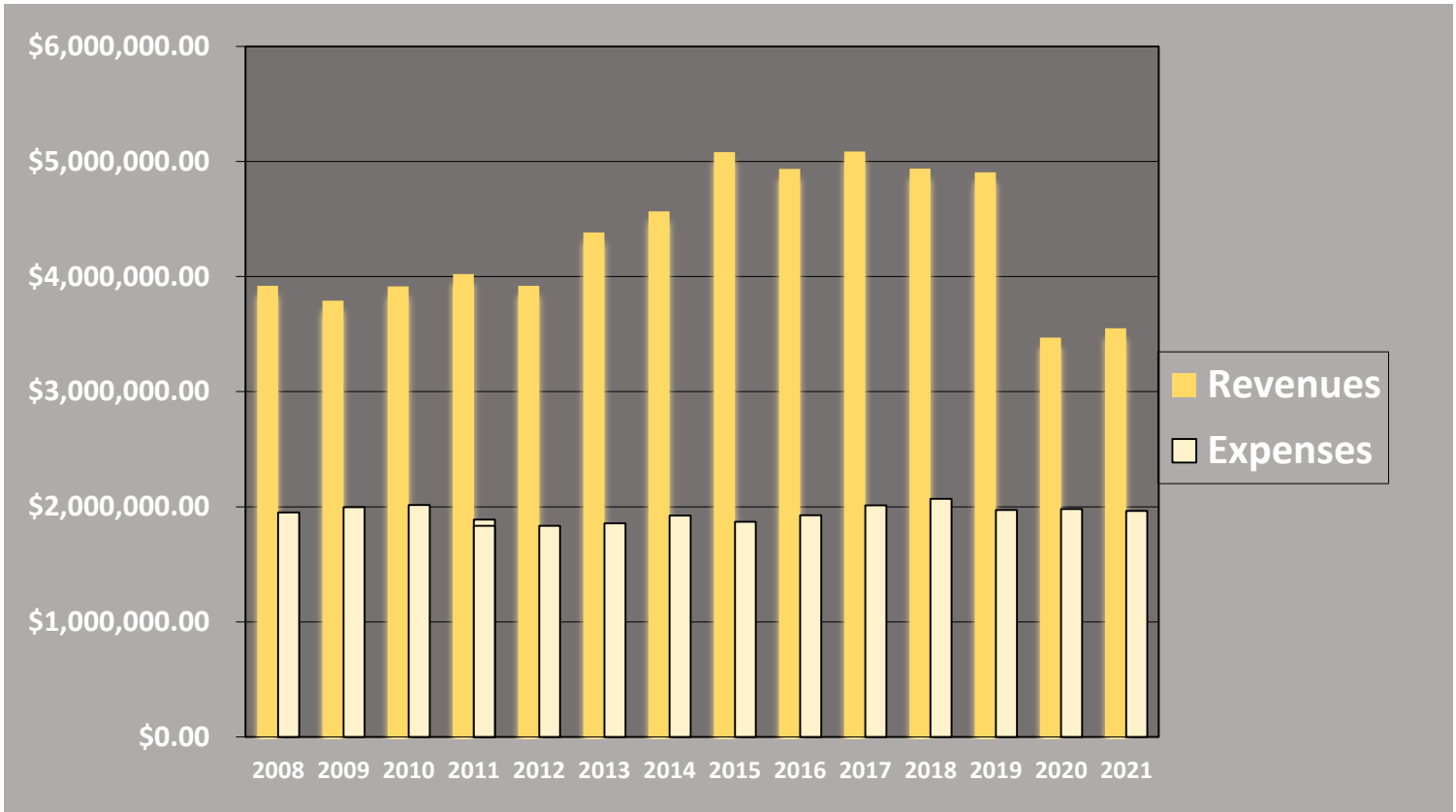
General fund	\$1,553,882.76	
Jury Reimbursement	3,795.70	
Interest	277.79	
Credit Card Fees/Cash over/short	(3,500.57)	
Trust and Agencies	842,178.78	
Libraries	510,809.94	
Grant Specialty Courts	23,033.82	
Problem Solving Court Transfer to Another Court	2,881.00	
Restitution Payable	61,385.33	
Bonds Payable	556,504.46	
	TOTAL	\$3,551,249.01

EXPENDITURES

Court	\$ 1,515,150.25	
Probation	449,056.83	
	TOTAL	\$1,964,207.08

HISTORICAL REVIEW

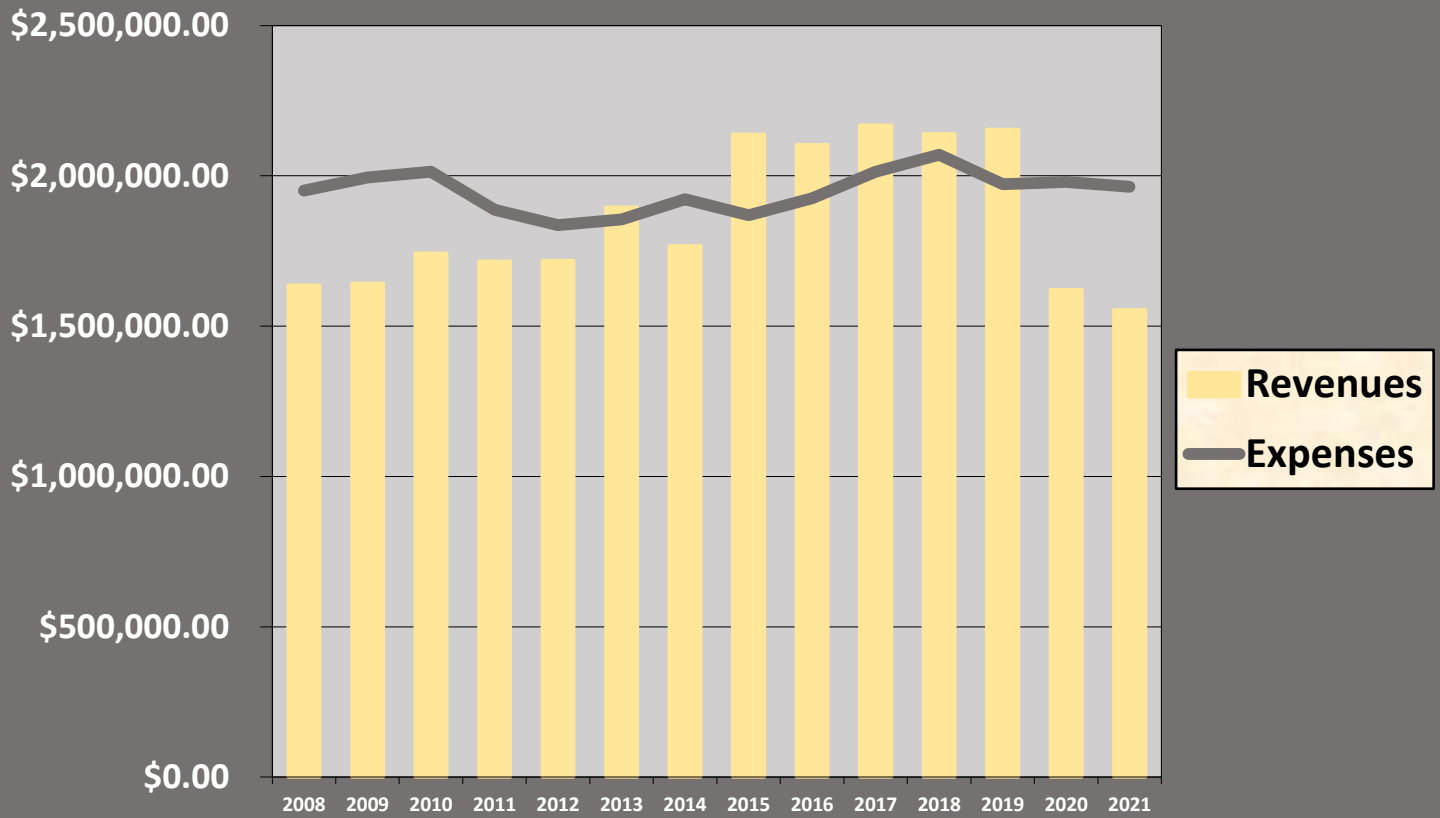
TOTAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES



YEAR	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
REVENUES	\$3,920,655	\$3,790,152	\$3,915,994	\$4,023,172	\$3,921,085	\$4,382,490	\$4,567,811
EXPENDITURES	\$1,950,950	\$1,994,908	\$2,013,918	\$1,887,212	\$1,835,615	\$1,855,130	\$1,922,152

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
REVENUES	\$5,080,615	\$4,935,447	\$5,085,965	\$4,939,267	\$4,905,995	\$3,471,079	\$3,551,249
EXPENDITURES	\$1,868,794	\$1,925,358	\$2,013,421	\$2,069,860	\$1,972,562	\$1,980,213	\$1,964,207

HISTORICAL REVIEW GENERAL FUND REVENUES & EXPENSES



YEAR	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
REVENUES	\$1,636,257	\$1,642,388	\$1,742,456	\$1,716,273	\$1,718,525	\$1,896,170	\$1,767,422
EXPENDITURES	\$1,950,950	\$1,994,908	\$2,013,918	\$1,887,212	\$1,835,615	\$1,855,130	\$1,922,152

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
REVENUES	\$2,139,375	\$2,104,122	\$2,168,337	\$2,139,909	\$2,155,262	\$1,621,086	\$1,554,456
EXPENDITURES	\$1,868,795	\$1,925,358	\$2,013,421	\$2,069,860	\$1,972,562	\$1,980,213	\$1,964,207

OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES

Outstanding Receivables as of December 31, 2021

Probation	Non-Probation	TOTAL
\$517,541.37	\$7,246,879.39	\$7,764,420.76

AGE	Probation	Non-Probation	TOTAL
1-15 days	\$600.00	\$11,390.70	\$11,990.70
16-30 days	1,469.00	49,315.00	50,784.00
31-60 days	11,315.00	107,116.40	118,431.40
61-90 days	28,409.50	82,187.60	110,597.10
91-180 days	72,980.00	255,531.94	328,511.94
181-360 days	68,277.95	459,360.59	527,638.54
361-540 days	52,474.45	342,107.14	394,581.59
541-720 days	4,635.00	268,214.39	272,849.39
Over 720 days	277,380.47	5,671,655.63	5,949,036.10
COURT TOTALS	\$517,541.37	\$7,246,879.39	\$7,764,420.76

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 2021, the District Court received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$22,931.02.

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 2021, the District Court received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$1,428.42.

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 2021, the Allegan County Funding Unit received a total of \$438,989. Funding trends are listed below.

FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY2020	FY2021
\$442,188	\$421,968	\$398,795	\$411,353	\$403,095	\$427,380	\$427,229	\$434,003	\$429,872	\$438,578	\$388,800	\$438,989

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 2012 / 2013	FY2013 / 2014	FY2014 / 2015	FY2015 / 2016	FY2016 / 2017	FY2017 / 2018	FY2018 / 2019	FY2019 / 2020	FY2020 / 2021
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	10/1/18 – 9/30/19	10/1/19 – 9/30/20	10/1/20 – 9/30/21
\$4,017.50	\$3,067.50	\$1,125.00	\$1,025.00	\$4,072.50	\$2,891.60	\$4,645.40	\$2,872.70	\$3,795.70

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.

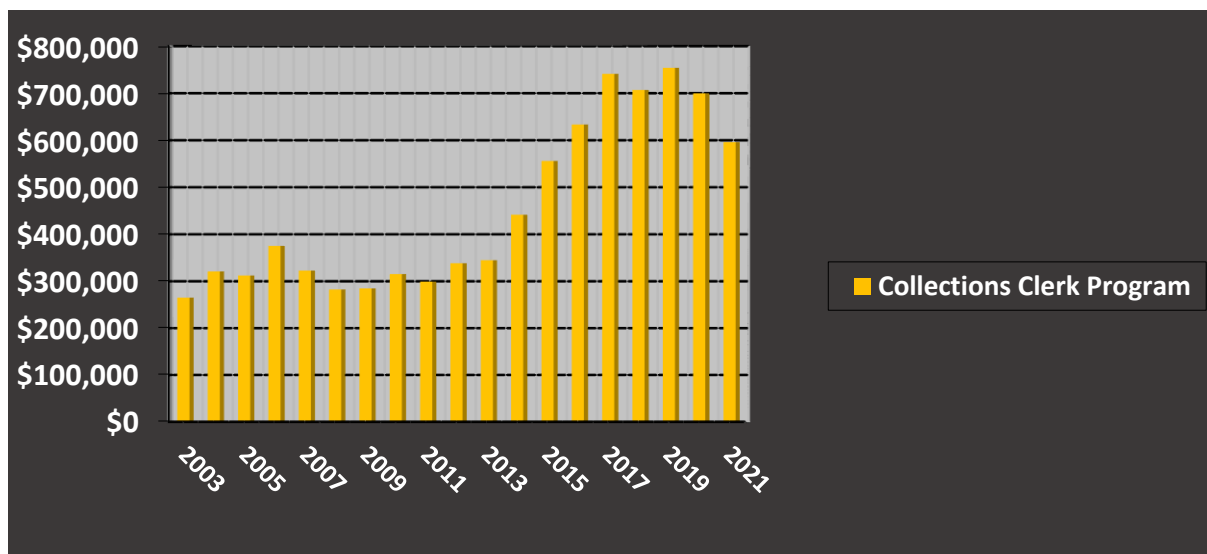
In 1997, the District Court purchased a software package that works in conjunction with the primary court case management software (supplied by the Supreme Court) to assist in tracking outstanding receivables at the District Court. The package was only fully implemented in September 2001. Since its implementation, the Court has been successful in bringing in revenues of \$8,335,384.28. In 2020 alone, the collections program was responsible for \$699,804.91 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, 2021, outstanding receivables amounted to \$7,764,420.76. Of that amount, \$1,428,225.80 is less than 2-years old while \$3,896,870.82 is between 2 – 7 years old. Of the total outstanding receivables, over 2.7 million dollars is due for criminal restitution.

PAST YEARS' COLLECTIONS HISTORY

2003	265,121.93		2012	338,331.35
2004	321,049.15		2013	344,857.23
2005	312,206.41		2014	441,423.06
2006	375,230.98		2015	555,905.75
2007	322,899.69		2016	633,453.78
2008	282,599.76		2017	741,162.01
2009	284,906.20		2018	706,956.14
2010	315,308.17		2019	753,911.11
2011	299,194.54		2020	699,804.91

COLLECTIONS TOTAL FOR 2021

JANUARY	\$57,203.52
FEBRUARY	\$54,468.17
MARCH	\$91,573.64
APRIL	\$78,838.61
MAY	\$37,759.60
JUNE	\$39,989.66
JULY	\$42,153.30
AUGUST	\$43,963.83
SEPTEMBER	\$40,986.62
OCTOBER	\$38,062.50
NOVEMBER	\$38,396.87
DECEMBER	\$32,344.92
YEAR END TOTAL:	\$595,741.24



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.

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 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 creation of a 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 utilizing both staff attorney(s) and contractual attorneys to provide representation. In mid-2019, the Public Defender began accepting cases in Allegan County replacing our prior system.

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. In 2021, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, 207 defendants attended either an in-person or virtual session.

MARRIAGES

In March 2020, all in-person wedding ceremonies were suspended due to COVID-19. No marriage ceremonies were conducted in 2021 due to social distancing limitations in place.

2021 Highlights

- January 1, 2021 – Jurisdiction limit increases to \$6,500 in small claims matters.
- January 15, 2021 – Heather Bausick resigns from the District Court Clerk’s Office. She transfers to the County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.
- January 29, 2021 – Emily Schwartz resigns from the District Court Probation Department.
- February 2, 2021 – Vickie VanHorn transfers from the Treasurer’s Office into the Clerk’s Office.
- March – 26th Annual Report for the year 2020 completed and distributed.
- **April 1, 2021 - Criminal Justice Reform: 2020 Jail Task Force Legislation on Court Proceedings – Part 1 of legislative changes implemented involving appearance citations, summons, changes to arrest warrant and bench warrant waiting period, limiting placement on probation, early release of probation, limiting jail terms and changes to probation technical violations.**
- April 7, 2021 – Linda Lenahan and Kayla Williamson provide training to the Legal Assistance Center on Landlord Tenant cases in District Court.
- April 8, 2021 – Judge Skocelas and Linda Lenahan made annual “*State of the Court*” presentation to Board of Commissioners virtually via Zoom.
- **April 11, 2021 – Clean Slate Legislation becomes effective. Group of bills collectively known as the “Clean Slate” package includes rules and procedures in Michigan courts to allow an individual to have a prior conviction set aside. In addition to make several changes to existing paper applications, it starts a two-year development of an automatic set aside process.**
- Spring/Summer 2021 - Completed records retention and disposal pursuant *STATE OF MICHIGAN RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE - GENERAL SCHEDULE #13 - DISTRICT COURTS*.
- May 26, 2021 – All LEIN operators re-certified for another two year period per audit requirements.
- Spring/Summer/Fall 2021 – Court applies for and is awarded grant funds for the Mental Health Court, Regional Veterans’ Treatment Court and the Sobriety Court.
- June 7, 2021 – Melissa Johnson hired into the District Court Clerk’s Office – Traffic and Criminal.
- **June 9, 2021 – Jury trials resume in District Court for the first time since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.**
- June 21, 2021 – All Michigan Courts are advanced to the final Phase 4 of the COVID-19 Return to Full Capacity Guidelines by State Court Administrator Tom Boyd.
- June 24, 2021 – All Allegan Courts move to a multi-tenant AS400 with Judicial Information Systems (JIS) for their case management system needs.
- July 1, 2021 – Court amends access to Juror Personal History Questionnaires though LAO 2021-13 expanding access electronically to these questionnaires.
- July/August 2021 – Court administrators complete review of prior wage study contacting comparable counties utilized to gain updated wage information.
- **August 10, 2021 – Jury trials suspended due to rise in the Delta variant of COVID-19. Suspension in place until April 1, 2022.**
- August 20, 2021 – Melissa Risner transfers from the Clerk’s Office back to the Friend of the Court.
- September 14, 2021 – Stakeholder’s Meeting Regarding Effectiveness of the Michigan Supreme Court’s Emergency Measures conducted.
- September 30, 2021 – 48th Circuit Court Drug Court ends. Existing participants are transferred into the 48th Circuit Court’s Swift and Sure Sanctions Program.
- **October 1, 2021 – Raise the Age legislation goes into effect – 17 year olds are no longer treated like adults in the criminal justice system. Cases are now filed in the Circuit Court (Family Division).**

2021 Highlights - continued

- **October 1, 2021 - Criminal Justice Reform: 2020 Jail Task Force Legislation on Court Proceedings – Part 2 of changes implemented. Several Motor Vehicle Code offenses are decriminalized to civil infractions. Statute sections of 257.907(11) are repealed that required suspension of a driver's license pursuant to 257.321a if a person failed to comply with an order or judgment issued. Secretary of State immediately reinstated licenses that were suspended, revoked, or restricted for reasons no longer eligible under the act. This impacted 3,000 existing cases in our court and severely impacts and limits enforcement efforts of the court.**
- October 8, 2021 – Cesilia Rocha Solis hired into the District Court Clerk's Office.
- October 11, 2021 – TCF bank merged into Huntington Bank – all court accounts changed.
- October 21, 2021 – Kathy Evans retires from the District Court Clerk's Office after 22 years of service.
- **Fall 2021 – Board of Commissioners approve the addition of a new deputy district court clerk position for 2022.**
- Fall 2021 – Courts contract with Tyler Jury Management Solution to provide a state of the art jury solution.
- November 2, 2021 – Linda Lenahan is re-certified as a TAC for the Court during LEIN training.
- End of November – new and improved county website (including the courts) released to the public.
- November 10, 2021 – Courts apply for and receive supplemental grant funding for COVID-19.
- November 29, 2021 – Courts complete two weeks of public satisfaction surveys distributed in conjunction with the State Court Administrative Office.
- End of the Year – Court bargaining groups approve agreement with the County to move from 17 step to 9 step wage table over the next five years. Five year agreement also includes double-step increase annually for most employees and .25% wage adjustment annually.
- End of the Year – New front entrance and sally port construction is completed. County prepares to open to the public in early 2022.
- January 3, 2022 – Candy Mock retires from the District Court Probation Department after 27 years of service to the court and 29 years to the county.
- January 3, 2022 – Deb Wolters retires from the District Court Clerk's Office after 17 years of service.