

# 3B District Court Annual Report-2015

## 3B District Court Staff:

**Judges:** Jeffrey C. Middleton-Chief Judge Pro Tem (*Term expires: 2021*),

Robert K. Pattison, Judge (*Term expires 2019*)

**Court Administrator/Magistrate:** Tabitha Wedge (*hired 1987*)

**Magistrate:** Mark Books (*hired 2009*)

**Probation Officer/Magistrate:** Ryan Smith (*hired 2009; resigned July*),

Autumne Keifer (*hired 2014*)

**Probation Officers:** Gina Wagner (*hired 2009*),

Daniel Frazine (*hired 2015*)

**Judicial Secretaries/Court Recorders:** Sue Eickhoff (*hired 2003*),

Lori Rumsey (*hired 1991*)

**Deputy Clerks:** Cindi Labencki (*hired 1991*),

Patricia Ellis (*hired 1997*),

Sally Hippen (*hired 2001*),

Vilma Taylor (*hired 2002*),

Cynthia Custard (*hired 2005*),

Dorine Channey (*hired 2005*),

Michelle Baker (*hired 2013*),

Cynthia Mostrom (*hired 2013; resigned August*),

Lori Miller (*hired 2013*),

Kristi Meabon (*hired 2015*)



## 3B District Court Highlights

### The Unexpected:

- ◆ Magistrate goes on family medical leave.
- ◆ Probation Ofcr/Magistrate, Ryan Smith resigns July.
- ◆ Probation Ofcr, Autumne Keifer, assumes Part-time Magistrate appointment, August.
- ◆ Deputy Clerk, Cynthia Mostrom, resigns August.
- ◆ Probation Ofcr, Daniel Frazine, hired September.
- ◆ Deputy clerk, Kristi Meabon, hired October.

### Continued Technology Focus:

- ◇ Poly Com utilization increases between Judge, Courtrooms and Sheriff Dept.
- ◇ Installation of new PC's enter the final installation January-March.
- ◇ JAVS system allows judges to view courtrooms, from chambers, for judicial availability.
- ◇ District Court Website continues to provide user friendly links of interest, form access and court questions.
- ◇ Active use of PDF Forms for electronic flow between court office and Sheriff Booking office.
- ◇ Civil clerk training webinars available from State.

- Judge Pattison (with assistance from Probation Officer, Autumne Keifer) initiates "Court in School"-April: The program blends actual court cases involving defendants who have pled guilty to alcohol and/or drug related offenses by conducting the sentencing at a school location. A presentation follows to focus on critical life choices that students and young adults make daily.
- Judges and Administrator continue to participate in regular Regional meetings.
- Judge Middleton and Judge Pattison had service assigned to other courts upon disqualification requests through SCAO.
- Tabitha Wedge continues to serve on the Michigan Court Administrator's Association (MCAA) Board.
- Judges, Administrator, Magistrates and the Probation Officers continue to take advantage of the training and networking opportunities available through yearly Association related conferences.
- Judge Middleton, Judge Pattison and Gina Wagner are active participants with the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

# 3B District Court Caseload Dashboard

## Non-Traffic Case Filing 2013-2015

Case Type	2013	2014	2015
Felony	781	691	804
Misdemeanors	1204	1136	1129
Civil Infractions	1275	1177	1267
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3260</b>	<b>3004</b>	<b>3200</b>

## Traffic Case Filing 2013-2015

Case Type	2013	2014	2015
Misdemeanor & Civil	7671	8472	11556
Parking	18	36	41
OWI	163	150	179
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7852</b>	<b>8658</b>	<b>11776</b>

## Civil Case Filing 2013-2015

Case Type	2013	2014	2015
Civil	1655	1402	1425
Small Claims	241	227	262
Summary	709	690	565
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2605</b>	<b>2319</b>	<b>2252</b>

## 2015 Warrant Activity

Search Warrants Issued: 212



Criminal Arrest Warrants Issued: 802

Felony: 333 Misdemeanor: 469

Bench Warrants Issued: 695



## Wedding Activity-2015

By statute the Court charges a \$10.00 fee for each marriage performed. This fee is deposited in the county's treasury making it a source of revenue generated at the District Court Office.

**63 Weddings were performed by the 3B District Court.**

## Sobriety Court

*“One of the most successful types of specialty courts is the Sobriety Court”...the most recent studies and literature would indicate that there is a better way known as “the judicial therapeutic approach”.*

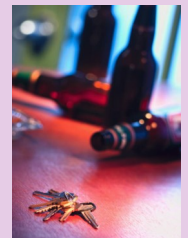
The main purpose is to reduce recidivism among repeat drunk drivers using court and community resources. The tools include: intensive supervision, individualized treatment, personal accountability, and frequent judicial review. The goals include: improved public safety and substance-free, sober lives for participants.

In 2015, program participants took 3730 alcohol/drug tests, of which only 148 were positive, 3 were excused and 3579 were negative results.

Status as of December 31st:

<i>Phase One-Stabilization/Treatment</i>	<i>7 enrolled</i>
<i>Phase Two-Healthy Living</i>	<i>8 enrolled</i>
<i>Phase Three-Maintenance of Recover</i>	<i>7 enrolled</i>
<i>Phase Four-Sobriety Recovery/Giving Back</i>	<i>7 enrolled</i>

## 3B DISTRICT COURT-SPECIALTY (SOBRIETY) COURT:



Panel consists of:

Jeffrey C. Middleton, District Judge  
 Gina Wagner-District Court Probation Officer  
 Ryan Smith-District Court Probation Officer/Magistrate-resigned July 2015  
 Autumn Kiefer-District Court Probation Officer  
 Joshua Robare-Assistant Prosecutor  
 Mark Lillywhite-UnderSheriff  
 Tony Calloway-Day Reporting  
 Spencer Price-Community Mental Health  
 Erin Goff-Community Corrections Representative

# 3B District Court Financial Dashboard

## 2015 Revenue Collections

Caseflow Asst-OWI	\$11,133.98
Caseflow Asst-Drug	\$1,712.15
Victim Rights Program-DC **	\$12,507.71
Court Costs	\$372,390.39
Reimbursed Court Appt Attorney	\$49,954.18
Civil Fees (Various)	\$78,885.00
Civil Fees (Filing) **	\$53,604.86
Contempt Charges	\$651.50
NSF Fees	\$25.00
Oversight Fees	\$88,884.83
Screening Fees	\$8,598.71
Bond Forfeitures	\$6,226.00
Ordinance Fines **	\$96,867.23
Interest CD	\$46.74
Cash Short/Over	\$0
District Court Drug Costs	\$1,250.00
County Booking Fee	\$2,760.00
State Booking Fee	\$556.00
DC Jury Fees	\$360.00
Yearly Total:	\$786,414.28

\*\*Indicates money collected is different than the portion that is retained at the county. Note: Court revenue figures may differ slightly from County records as they are generated yearly from January-December and may reflect credits and/or necessary adjustments that have been made.

### TOTAL FEES COLLECTED BY THE 3B DISTRICT COURT FOR 2015:

Fees: \$1,468,908.39  
 Bonds: \$317,127.07  
 Witness/Jury Received: \$3,121.75

2015 Total Monies handled through the Court: \$1,789,157.21

### 2015 Expenditures:

Amended 2015 Budget: \$1,058,123.00  
**Expended: \$1,015,099.26 Unexpended: \$43,023.74**

## Distribution of Various Court Revenue

The **State of Michigan** receives the following revenues from court cases:

- \$40 from each traffic civil infraction.
- \$10 from each non-traffic civil infraction.
- \$50 costs and \$75 Crime Victim Rights fee on each misdemeanor (changed effective 4/1/12).
- 56% - 79% from each civil case filing fee (depending on the case value).
- \$10 from each \$20 motion fee.

The **County Library Fund** receives the penal fine portion of assessments on all cases written under state law.

**Most other revenue collected is going to St. Joseph County.**

**Credit Card Revenue:** The court uses Government Payment Services to accept credit card payments. Payments can be made either by the telephone or online 24 hours a day. While a service fee is required, many of our clients find this to be more efficient and faster method to handle their court business.

Jan	\$27,400.70
Feb	\$36,680.20
Mar	\$40,227.96
Apr	\$30,401.76
May	\$30,794.58
Jun	\$32,948.61
Jul	\$37,198.21
Aug	\$42,299.48
Sept	\$39,978.16
Oct	\$42,944.60
Nov	\$34,264.85
Dec	\$42,766.92

*From 2014-2015, the court had an increase of 1249 transactions and \$129,058.57 revenue collections.*

## 3B District Court Probation 2015 Statistics:

Each Probation officer is assigned individual clients resulting in direct supervision responsibilities. These include Alcohol/Drug testing orders, fees being paid, work history and meeting with probationers on a regular basis. Oversight fees are charged as an expense to monitor the defendant placed on a probation term. Screening fees are also a requirement for various Alcohol and Drug convictions. Both of these fees are not subject to a State Breakdown and the monies collected are 100% payable to the County Funding Unit.

**Number of Probationers:** Average: 407 Per Officer ranges: 136

**Yearly Oversight fees collected:** \$88,884.83

**Yearly Screening fees collected:** \$8,418.71



## 2015 Statewide Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Beginning in 2013, the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) began requiring individual courts to participate in an annual statewide public satisfaction survey process to help determine how the Michigan court system was meeting the needs of the public. The results of the survey are intended to help individual courts:

- Identify areas where service to the public can be improved and develop action plans accordingly.
- Identify high performing area of service, commend those responsible, and share successful models across the system.
- Communicate results with funding unit representatives and the public to further public trust and confidence in the court.

The 3B District Court is extremely proud of the results of SCAO 2015 Public Satisfaction Survey, a few are listed below:

<b>SCAO 2015 Public Satisfaction Survey Results</b>	<b>Statewide Average 2015</b>	<b>3B District Court 2014</b>	<b>3B District Court 2015</b>
I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time.	87%	98%	<b>99%</b>
As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.	87%	100%	<b>93%</b>
I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.	93%	98%	<b>99%</b>
The way the case was handled was fair.	83%	89%	<b>92%</b>