

3B District Court Annual Report 2021

3B District Court Staff:

Presiding Judge: Robert K. Pattison (*Term expires 2025*) **Chief Judge Pro-Tem:** Jeffrey C. Middleton (*Term expires: 2027*)
Court Administrator/Magistrate: Tabitha Wedge (*hired 1987*) **Magistrate:** Mark Trowbridge Sr. (*hired 2019*)
Probation Officer/Magistrate: Autumnne Keifer (*hired 2014*)
Probation Officers: Daniel Frazine (*hired 2015*), Matthew Huff (*hired 2020*)
Judicial Secretaries/Court Recorders: Sue Eickhoff (*hired 2003 retired 2021*), Lori Rumsey (*hired 1991*), Laura Moore (*hired 2021*)
Deputy Clerks: Cindi Labencki (*hired 1991 retired 2021*), Vilma Taylor (*hired 2002 retired 2021*),
Dorine Channey (*hired 2005 retired/resigned 2021*), Michelle Baker (*hired 2013*), Kristi Meabon (*hired 2015*),
Sara Troyer (*hired November 2017*), Jenny Hagner (*hired 2019*), Samantha Overholt (*hired 2019 resigned 2021*),
Guadalupe Seymour (*hired 2021*), Priscilla Macias (*hired 2021*), Amanda Himes (*hired 2021 resigned 2022*),
Shayna Hovarter (*hired 2021*), Kim Steele (*hired April 2022*), Lisa Shugars (*hired September 2022*)

Internship Deputy Clerk: Reagan Roller (*May 2022-August 2022*)

3B District Court Highlights

The Unexpected:

- ♦ Judicial Secretary retires in January
- ♦ Three (3) Deputy Clerks retire with several years of service and knowledge.
- ♦ Two (2) Deputy Clerks resign positions and accept clerical positions with Prosecutor & Circuit Court.
- ♦ Several clerical vacancies, impacting court hiring, training and case processing times.

- Judge Pattison continues to spearhead the Courts in Schools Program throughout the county, with assistance from Probation Officer Autumnne Keifer. This program is designed to show local high school students a real court session, combined with information on the consequences of substance use and driving. Locations vary throughout the county, rotating to ensure all students are exposed to it before graduating high school. The program has been on hold due to 2020 COVID and restrictions on court hearings. It is expected to resume Spring 2023.
- Judge Pattison and Probation Officer, Dan Frazine, work with the Veterans Administrator, Stoney Summey, on specialized probation for select veterans.
- Judge Middleton and Judge Pattison had service assignments to other courts upon disqualification requests through SCAO.
- Tabitha Wedge continues to serve on the Michigan Court Administrator's Association (MCAA) Board as Treasurer. Holds position as Chairperson for the Membership and Technology Committees, maintains the Association website and actively assists with the planning and overseeing of the annual conference with registration and vendor receptions.
- Judges, Administrator, Magistrates, Probation Officers and Clerks continue to take advantage of trainings and networking opportunities available through yearly Association related conferences, State Court Administrator and Michigan Judicial Institute trainings.
- Judge Middleton, Judge Pattison and Autumnne Keifer remain active participants with the Community Corrections Advisory Board.
- Autumnne Keifer serves on the Twin County Community Probation Center (TCCPC) Board of Directors.
- Juvenile Court **Community Service**-continues to offer assistance with various District Court routine tasks.

3B District Court Caseload Dashboard

Non-Traffic Case Filing 2019-2021				Traffic Case Filing 2019-2021			
Case Type	2019	2020	2021	Case Type	2019	2020	2021
Felony	957	909	797	Misdemeanor & Civil Infractions	6914	4590	4588
Misdemeanors	1004	773	661	Parking	11	3	41
Civil Infractions	1584	869	907	OWI	147	146	112
Totals	3545	2551	2365	Totals	7072	4739	4741

Civil Case Filing 2019-2021

Note: Legislation guidelines and COVID restrictions impacted Landlord-Tenant case processing


Case Type	2019	2020	2021
Civil	1977	1373	1536
Small Claims	235	87	114
Summary	579	327	404
Totals	2791	1787	2054

Warrant Activity 2021

Search Warrants Issued: 321

Criminal Arrest Warrants Issued: 793
Felony: 319 Misdemeanor: 474

Bench Warrants Issued: 584



New/Revised Legislation Impacts:

- Summons versus Arrest warrants
- Probation violation guidelines
- Raise the Age
- Personal Identifying Information (PII)

3B District Court Sobriety Treatment Court

In 2021, the 3B District Court Sobriety Court adapted to change and learned how to operate after the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019 and 2020. The program continued meeting with participants twice a month however now on a virtual platform. Participants will attend in person if there had been missed groups, missed treatment sessions or positive tests since last seen by the judge. Participants in the program appreciate the virtual platform since some have transportation issues and would have to otherwise miss work; this helps alleviate stress.

The 3B District Court Sobriety Court continues to operate as a certified Sobriety Court through the State Court Administrative Office. The Sobriety Court receives Public Act 2 prevention funding for ignition interlock device installations for participants who qualify for a restricted license in Michigan. A 2015 study of ignition interlock devices used in Michigan Sobriety Courts showed the presence of an interlock device, while participating in a court, significantly reduces repeat drunk driving and general criminal offending, even at two years post-admission. The Sobriety Court also receives a Michigan Drug Court Grant to assist with financial assistance for Luke Nofsinger, Defense Counsel, and D. Spencer Price who facilitates a weekly SUD CBT group to address criminogenic needs or risk factors that affect recidivism. The group has brought the participants closer together and helps each of them focus on their goal of sobriety.

The goal of sobriety and other treatment courts is to reduce recidivism by providing participants with access to treatment, intensive supervision, and judicial review, for the purpose of maintaining long term recovery from substance use and increase public safety. The four-phase program takes, at minimum, 12 months to complete and the participants are required to participate in treatment, attend recovery support groups, and complete community service, in addition to the court obligations of reporting to probation, reviews with the judge, and testing for drugs and alcohol.

New Participants in 2021—9

Successful Completions in 2021 – 4

Unsuccessful Discharges in 2021 – 3 (noncompliant)



Sobriety Court Team Members:

Jeffrey C. Middleton – District Judge

Autumne Keifer – District Court Probation Officer

Matthew Huff – District Court Probation Officer

Daniel Frazine – District Court Probation Officer

Casey Johnson – Assistant Prosecutor

Pam Kiser – Day Reporting Center/Twin County Community Probation Center

Rose Ludwick (first half of 2021)/Ryan Smith (second half of 2021) – Community Corrections/SOBC Program Coordinator

Luke Nofsinger – Defense Counsel

D. Spencer Price – Private Treatment Provider

Sheila Guillen (first half of 2021)/Kristen Browning (second half of 2021) – CMHSAS/Treatment Provider

3B District Court Financial Dashboard

2021 Revenue Collections

Caseflow Asst-OWI	\$7,324.61
Caseflow Asst-Drug	\$1,250.81
Victim Rights Program-DC **	\$6,734.27
Court Costs	\$198,042.31
Reimbursed Court Appt Attorney	\$41,728.50
Civil Fees (Various)	\$70,605.00
Civil Fees (Filing) **	\$49,073.10
Contempt Charges	\$
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$13,575.00
Oversight Fees	\$54,802.96
Screening Fees	\$7,015.00
Bond Forfeitures	\$23,480.00
Ordinance Fines **	\$71,494.41
Interest CD	\$125.84
Cash Short/Over	\$-10.00
County Booking Fee	\$3,084.00
State Booking Fee	\$628.00
DC Jury Fees	\$40.00
Yearly Total:	\$548,993.81

**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 2021:

Fees: \$1,057,420.22
 Bonds: \$284,145.00
 Witness/Jury Received: \$498.44

2021 Total Monies handled through the Court: \$1,342,063.66

2021 Expenditures:

Amended 2021 Budget: \$1,392,249.81

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 Allpaid formerly Government Payment Services and Fivepoint 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 a more convenient method to handle their business.

	Jan	\$51,142.74
	Feb	\$41,894.33
	Mar	\$61,752.39
	Apr	\$55,076.15
	May	\$41,385.20
	Jun	\$40,599.01
	Jul	\$48,372.85
	Aug	\$55,375.95
	Sept	\$45,586.72
	Oct	\$39,119.88
	Nov	\$29,640.26
	Dec	\$31,242.17
Total Credit Card Payments:		
		\$541,187.65

3B District Court Probation 2021 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 an additional 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.

January 1st: Number of Adult Probationers	425	<i>Breakdown Offenses for December 31st Probationers:</i>	
Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers entering	257	*Felony reduction offenses:	21
Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers Discharged	302	*Misdemeanor offenses:	200
December 31st: Number of Adult Probationers	380	*Drug Law Violation:	82
		*Operate while Intoxicated	77



2021 Procedural, Operational & Legislation Highlights

District Court faced multiple challenges throughout 2021:

- **Retirement(s) of employees with years of knowledge and experience*
- **Hiring, training and transferring of several clerical staff positions*
- **Legislation changes affecting procedures, requirements and training throughout Apr, July and Oct.*

COVID Restrictions: remained in effect which caused increased case processing times for all areas

- **Criminal court hearings required by ZOOM*
- **Jury Trials Delayed*
- **Landlord Tenant filing restrictions, additional case processing and hearing requirements*

Newly Elected County Prosecutor

- **Procedural directives for officers: complaint reviews versus appearance citations: impact on Court case filing and processing times, acquittal/conviction times*
- **Removal of instant pretrial appearances: additional noticing/case processing times for court staff/judges*

Court Fee increase:

- **Necessary expense-court cost*
- **Probation Oversight*

Technology:

- **Online calendar viewing initiated*
- **Online case viewing initiated*
- **Grant Purchase and Research for: TV monitors for Court announcements and calendar viewing*
- **Grant Purchase and Research for: KIOSK purchase to offer payments and court check-in feature*
- **Grant Purchase and Research for: Upgrades to the courtroom JAVS recording equipment systems.*

Legislation:

- **Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration movement; impacted areas include:*
 - *Appearance Citations*
 - *Summons versus arrest warrants*
 - *Voluntary appearances and bench warrant guidelines*
 - *Judgment & Sentencing: non-jail, non-probation, contempt*
 - *Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA): expanded eligibility*
 - *Probation: length of probation, early discharge, technical probation violations*
 - *Decriminalization and civil infractions: removed license suspensions and holds*
- **Personal Identification Information (PII)*
 - *New guidelines for contact information*
 - *New forms*
- **Raise the Age*
 - *17 year old individuals; criminal matters become jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court*

