

3B District Court Annual Report 2022

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 *resigns2023*)
Probation Officer/Magistrate: Autumnne Keifer (*hired 2014*) *Magistrate: Luke Lori (*hired 2023*)
Probation Officers: Daniel Frazine (*hired 2015*), Matthew Huff (*hired 2020*)
Judicial Secretaries/Court Recorders: Lori Rumsey (*hired 1991*), Laura Moore (*hired 2021*)
Deputy Clerks:
Michelle Baker (*hired 2013*), Kristi Meabon (*hired 2015 resigns 2023*), Sara Troyer (*hired November 2017*),
Jenny Hagner (*hired 2019*), Guadalupe Seymour (*hired 2021*), Priscilla Macias (*hired 2021*),
Amanda Himes (*hired 2021 resigns 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:

- ◆ Deputy Clerk resigns position and transfers to Prosecutor's Office.
- ◆ Continued Clerical vacancies, impacting court hiring, training and case processing times.
- ◆ Hire first Deputy Clerk Clerical Internship
- ◆ Covid Restriction Effects Continue: Staffing affects due to necessary leaves plus quarantine exposures.

- Judge Pattison's Courts in Schools Program continues to be on hold due to COVID restrictions on court hearings and is expected to resume Spring 2023. The program includes 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.
- 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 several Chairperson for various Association 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**, as well as the Courthouse Security Team, offer assistance with various District Court routine tasks.

3B District Court Caseload Dashboard

Non-Traffic Case Filing 2020-2022

Case Type	2020	2021	2022
Felony	909	797	1143
Misdemeanors	773	661	1481
Civil Infractions	869	907	907
Totals	2551	2365	3531

Traffic Case Filing 2020-2022

Case Type	2020	2021	2022
Misdemeanor & Civil Infractions	4590	4588	5472
Parking	3	41	18
OWI	146	112	219
Totals	4739	4741	5709

Civil Case Filing 2020-2022

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

Case Type	2020	2021	2022
Civil	1373	1536	1748
Small Claims	87	114	137
Summary	327	404	580
Totals	1787	2054	2465

Warrant Activity 2022

Search Warrants Issued: 346

Criminal Arrest Warrants Issued: 794

Felony: 464 Misdemeanor: 330

Bench Warrants Issued: 489



New/Revised Legislation Impacts:

- Landlord Tenant Case Handling
- Central Registry-MDHHS
- Raise the Age—17 yr.
- Personal Identifying Information (PII)
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3B District Court Sobriety Treatment Court

The 3B District Court Sobriety Court continues to operate as a certified Sobriety Court through the State Court Administrative Office. The Sobriety Court receives:

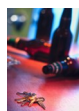
- Public Act 2 prevention funding: for ignition interlock device installations for participants who qualify to have a restricted license in Michigan and alcohol/drug testing required by Sobriety Court guidelines.
- Michigan Drug Court Grant to assist with financial assistance for Luke Nofsinger, Defense Counsel, and D. Spencer Price who facilitates a weekly SUD CBT group to address criminogenic needs or risk factors that affect recidivism.

The goal of the sobriety-specialty 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 participants are required to engage 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 2022—10

Successful Completions in 2022 – 6

Unsuccessful Discharges in 2022 – 2 (noncompliant)



Sobriety Court Team Members:

Jeffrey C. Middleton – District Judge
 Autumnne 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
 Melissa Bliss – Community Corrections/SOBC Program Coordinator
 Luke Nofsinger – Defense Counsel
 D. Spencer Price – Private Treatment Provider
 Betsy Wright – CMHSAS/Treatment Provider

3B District Court Financial Dashboard

2022 Revenue Collections

Caseflow Asst-OWI	\$5,661.13
Caseflow Asst-Drug	\$1,233.37
Victim Rights Program-DC **	\$6,112.06
Court Costs**	\$153,680.94
Reimbursed Court Appt Attorney	\$36,954.00
Civil Fees (Various)	\$73,215.00
Civil Fees (Filing) **	\$45,519.84
Contempt Charges	\$15.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$15,865.00
Oversight Fees	\$48,932.02
Screening Fees	\$5,045.00
Bond Forfeitures	\$850.00
Ordinance Fines **	\$77,864.80
Interest CD	\$123.46
Cash Short/Over	\$-110.00
County Booking Fee	\$400.00
State Booking Fee	\$80.00
DC Jury Fees	\$240.00
Yearly Total:	\$471,681.62

**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 2022:

Fees: \$1,105,466.04
 Bonds: \$170,967.26
 Witness/Jury Received: \$4696.83

2022 Total Monies handled through the Court: \$1,281,130.13

2022 Expenditures:
 Amended 2022 Budget: \$1,321,598.77

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.

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

Municipalities: Cities, Villages, Townships receive 1/3 of the fine/cost assessments on cases written under ordinance violations.

Most other revenue collected goes to St. Joseph County.

Credit Card Revenue: The court uses Allpaid formerly Government Payment Services and Fivepoint to accept credit card payments.

- ◇ Allpaid allows for payments to be made 24 hours a day, by telephone or online.
- ◇ Fivepoint allows for payments to be made online, the District Court counter or KIOSK area.
- ◇ The Court is in the process of updating the Case Management System to allow payments to post to the cases from the online case viewing website.

Total Credit Card Payments:
\$429,084.55

Total Credit Card Transactions: 4973

3B District Court Probation 2022 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	380	Breakdown Offenses for December 31st Probationers:	
Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers entering	221	*Felony reduction offenses:	16
Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers Discharged	278	*Misdemeanor offenses:	307

Breakdown of Probationers Serious Offense Categories:

Drug Law Violation:	48	Operate while Intoxicated	72	Other offenses:	203
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2022 Procedural, Operational & Legislation Highlights

District Court continues to face challenges throughout 2022:

- **Hiring, training and transferring of several clerical staff positions after the retirements of long term Employees, holding years of knowledge and experience, has left lasting operational results.*
- **Continued 2021 Legislation changes affect procedures processing times and staff training.*

COVID Restrictions-Courtroom Hearings:

- **Criminal court hearings are released from the ZOOM appearance requirement and resume in person September 2022.*
- **Jury Trials begin to be scheduled and cases resume.*
- **Landlord Tenant filings continue to increase, with additional case processing and hearing requirements.*

Technology:

- **Continued processing upgrades to the e-citation system with implementation to police vehicles.*
- **Implemented TV monitors for Court announcements and calendar viewing.*
- **Implemented KIOSK purchase to offer payments and court check-in feature.*
- **Complete upgrade to Courtroom C and D JAVS recording equipment systems.*
- **Second online Credit Card Company providing a reduced service fee to the patrons we serve.*
- **Case Management Updates: meet Legislation reporting requirements and allow court hearing email reminders.*
- **Upgrade to the Microfilm equipment*
- **Preparations for the installation of a Courthouse Fingerprint Livescan Unit*

Legislation Changes, Operational Administrative and Staff Knowledge Responsibilities :

- **Landlord Tenant case handling, court hearings and service requirements*
- **Personal Identification Information (PII) (continues from 2021)*
 - *New guidelines for contact information*
 - *New forms*
- **Raise the Age (continues from 2021)*
 - *17 year old individuals; criminal matters become jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court*
- **Central Registry adding offenses to be reported to Department Human Health Services for database.*
- **Continued Judicial Education Program begins preparation for implementation in 2024.*
- **Multiple Court Rule & Administrative Order amendments throughout the year.*
- **Constant flow for amended and new form(s) with implementation and expiration date requirements.*

