

# 3B District Court Annual Report 2023

## 3B District Court Staff:

**Presiding Judge:** Robert K. Pattison (*Term expires 2024*)      **Chief Judge Pro-Tem:** Jeffrey C. Middleton (*Term expires: 2027*)  
**Court Administrator/Magistrate:** Tabitha Wedge (*hired 1987*)      **Magistrate:** Mark Trowbridge Sr. (*resigns 2023-relocated*)  
**Probation Officer/Magistrate:** Autumnne Keifer (*hired 2014*)      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 2017 resigns 2024*),  
Jenny Hagner (*hired 2019*),      Guadalupe Seymour (*hired 2021*),      Priscilla Macias (*hired 2021*),  
Shayna Hovarter (*hired 2021*),      Kim Steele (*hired April 2022*),      Lisa Shugars (*hired September 2022*)  
Elaine Gibson (*hired Jan 2024-due to staff resignation*)      Stephanie Moore (*hired October 2024-due to staff resignation*)  
**Internship Deputy Clerk:** Reagan Roller (*January—April 2023*)

## 3B District Court Highlights

### “Some” Unexpected:

- ◆ Deputy Clerk resigns position and one transfers to County Clerk-Circuit Court and one to Friend of Court.
- ◆ Continued Clerical vacancies which impact court hiring, training and case processing times.
- ◆ Magistrate retires due to family relocation
- ◆ Return of Interim Deputy Clerk Clerical Internship
- ◆ Court Administrator, Tabitha Wedge, receives Dave Walsh Distinguished Service Award for *Leadership in Court Administration in the State of Michigan*
- ◆ First (1st) 3B District Court Administrator, David Recher, passed away.
- ◆ Courtroom YouTube viewers make money donation to Community Corrections to assist 3B District Court sobriety court participants.
- ◆ County Employee Contests: District Court 's competitive side takes 1st Place with Judge Pattison's winning soup. 😊

- Judge Pattison's Courts in Schools Program continues with plans to resume. The program includes assistance from Probation Officer/Magistrate 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 under the influence.
- Judge Middleton and Judge Pattison fulfill service assignments to other courts upon disqualification requests through State Court Administrator Office (SCAO).
- Tabitha Wedge continues to serve on the Michigan Court Administrator's Association (MCAA) Board as Treasurer. She holds several Chairperson positions representing Court Administration on committees, maintains the Association website and actively assists with the planning and overseeing of the annual conference. (*She was honored with the Dave Walsh Distinguished Service Award for Leadership and Dedication in Court Administration at the 2023 Fall Conference.*)
- 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 and Luke Lori serve on the Twin County Community Probation Center (TCCPC) Board.
- Juvenile Court **Community Service**, as well as the Courthouse Security Team, offer assistance with various District Court routine tasks.
- Courthouse building renovation planning discussions continue.
- Random YouTube viewers make payments for clients through the website.

## 3B District Court Caseload Dashboard

<b>Non-Traffic Case Filing 2021-2023</b>				<b>Traffic Case Filing 2021-2023</b>			
Case Type	2021	2022	2023	Case Type	2021	2022	2023
Felony	797	1143	1174	Misdemeanor & Civil Infractions	4588	5472	6505
Misdemeanors	661	1481	1207	Parking	41	18	22
Civil Infractions	907	907	896	OWI	112	219	204
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2365</b>	<b>3531</b>	<b>3277</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>4741</b>	<b>5709</b>	<b>6731</b>


<b>Civil Case Filing 2021-2023</b>			
<i>Note: Legislation guidelines and COVID restrictions impacted Landlord-Tenant case processing</i>			
Case Type	2021	2022	2023
Civil	1536	1748	1735
Small Claims	114	137	144
Summary	404	580	509
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2054</b>	<b>2465</b>	<b>2388</b>

**Warrant Activity 2023**

**Search Warrants Issued: 294**

**Criminal Arrest Warrants Issued:**  
*Felony: 340      Misdemeanor: 369*

**Bench Warrants Issued: 350**



**New/Revised Legislation Impacts:**

- Landlord Tenant Case Handling
- Clean Slate
- Michigan Judicial Continued Education Credits
- Continued provisions to Pretrial Supervision Legislation
- Continued advancement with Michigan Indigent Defense guidelines

**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 provided 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, who serves as 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 2023—#12

Successful Completions in 2023— #9

Unsuccessful Discharges in 2023— #4 (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

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

## 2023 Revenue Collections

Caseflow Asst-OWI	\$ 7,504.57
Caseflow Asst-Drug	\$
Victim Rights Program-DC **	\$ 6,732.81
Court Costs**	\$ 206,669.18
Reimbursed Court Appt Attorney	\$ 37,412.00
Civil Fees (Various)	\$ 70,650.00
Civil Fees (Filing) **	\$ 49,823.10
Contempt Charges	\$ 725.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 30,076.00
Oversight Fees	\$ 51,062.00
Screening Fees	\$ 5,805.00
Bond Forfeitures	\$ 15,110.00
Ordinance Fines **	\$ 73,522.51
Interest CD	\$ 193.06
Cash Short/Over	\$ 15.00
County Booking Fee	\$ 140.00
State Booking Fee	\$ 28.00
DC Jury Fees	\$ 40.00
Yearly Total:	\$ 555,508.23

*\*\*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 THRU THE 3B DISTRICT COURT FOR 2023:

Fees: \$ 1,285,222.71  
 Bonds: \$ 288,802.26  
 Witness/Jury Received: \$ 1,456.80

2023 Total Monies handled through the Court: \$ 1,575,481.77

## 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.*

**The majority of 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 working to provide software programming changes to the Case Management System to allow payments to post to the cases from the online case viewing website.

**Total Credit Card Payments:**

**\$ 499,160.38**

**Total Credit Card Transactions: 4299**

## 3B District Court Probation 2023 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 322

Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers entering 262

Between January 1st-December 31st: Number of Probationers Discharged 242

Breakdown Offenses for December 31st Probationers:

\*Felony reduction offenses: 21

\*Misdemeanor offenses: 321

Breakdown of Probationers Serious Offense Categories:

Total: 342

Drug Law Violation: 20

Operate while Intoxicated 117

Other offenses: 205



# 2023 Procedural, Operational & Legislation Highlights

## **District Court continues to face challenges throughout 2023:**

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

## **Court Building Renovations:**

- \*\*Interior modifications began inside the building concerning several pipes.*
- \*\*Phasing and beginning steps began for remodeling phase process.*
- \*\*Roof construction starts in October.*

## **Legislation Changes, Operational Administrative and Staff Knowledge Responsibilities :**

- \*\*Landlord Tenant case handling, court hearings and service requirements evolve increasing staff responsibilities.*
- \*\*Clean Slate—Set Aside Legislation causes unexpected data shutdowns to criminal data for several months. In addition, increased staff responsibilities were required to re-align computer data to Michigan State Police records for data accuracy.*
- \*\*Continued Judicial Education Program announced to begin in January 2024 requiring additional continued education certification credits for Judges and Magistrates.*
- \*\*Multiple Court Rule & Administrative Order amendments throughout the year.*
- \*\*Constant flow for amended and new form(s) with implementation and expiration date 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 with JAVS recording equipment systems.*
- \*\*Added second online Credit Card Company providing a reduced service fee to the patrons we serve.*
- \*\*Case Management Updates made to meet Legislation reporting requirements and allow court hearing email reminders.*
- \*\*Upgrade to the microfilm equipment.*
- \*\*Preparation made for the installation of a Courthouse Fingerprint Livescan Unit.*

