

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

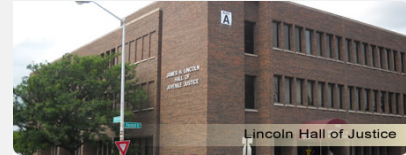




Coleman A. Young Municipal Center



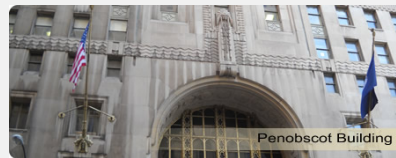
Frank Murphy Hall of Justice



Lincoln Hall of Justice



Mediation Tribunal



Penobscot Building

Mission of Third Judicial Circuit Court

The Court provides accessible and equal justice with timely dispute resolution.

Vision of the Future

As a national leader in court performance and the administration of justice, the Court is recognized for:

- Using innovative and best practices;
- Building trust and confidence in the judicial branch; and
- Providing exemplary public service, programs, and work environment including professional facilities and effective technology.

Core Values

- *Fair:* We are just, impartial, inclusive, and honorable in all we do.
- *Proactive:* We anticipate and prepare in advance for opportunities and challenges.
- *Responsive:* We are flexible and react quickly to changing needs and times.
- *User-friendly:* We are accessible and understandable.
- *Collaborative:* We involve and work well with each other, court users, and partners.



**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN**

ZENELL B. BROWN
EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

711 COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
TWO WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3413

(313) 224-5261



Dear Chief Judge Kenny:

As I reflect on 2021 and our continuing efforts to navigate this ongoing pandemic, I conclude that the people—the judges, the staff, the judicial partners, and their willingness to collaborate and plan have been the reasons we continue to move forward.

We have experienced setbacks and backlogs. The pandemic was not a respecter of justice, and there were even moments when Murphy's Law seemed like it was the only law in operation. In those moments, we took the time to have the needed conversations to get the input and feedback from our internal personnel and external stakeholders. From the conversations, we ended 2021 with action plans: Action plans for remote work; continued and more efficient usage of Zoom and remote processes; the usage of the Huntington Bank Conference Center (former TCF Conference Center) for increased jury selections to address the criminal and civil backlogs; increase usage of alternative dispute and technology solutions to help alleviate the backlog of domestic relations cases. Although we burned the midnight oil on many occasion, not all plans came to fruition as we desired. But having a plan to address an issue definitely gave us a foundation to move forward.

I must acknowledge the Diversity and Inclusion Plan released this year. Judge Bazzi, Judge Hood, and the mixed team of staff and managers met regularly to complete the plan. Our Court's D&I efforts have gained national attention. Our plan was not based on the platitudes of being woke for a moment but created out of the input of judges and staff of what it means for the Court to be conscious, deliberate, and intentional in creating inclusion and belonging for our personnel, court users, and the public. This living document encompasses our commitment to justice for all and our determination to ensure it regardless of an individual's identity or circumstances. I look forward to watching this plan unfold.

We made it through a challenging year. With the wisdom of lessons learned and best practices under our belts, we are ready for 2022 and continued progress and improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zenell B. Brown".

Zenell B. Brown
Executive Court Administrator



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

OF MICHIGAN

TIMOTHY M. KENNY
CHIEF JUDGE

701 COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
TWO WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3413

(313) 224-5430



Dear Judges, Court Employees and Staff, Partners and Stakeholders:

In 2021, judges and court staff continued to utilize technology to meet the service needs of the public and attorneys. Access to justice was improved for self-represented parties by allowing individuals to attend court proceedings by Zoom rather than needing to miss work and attend in person.

The use of technology required court staff and judges to grow in their technology skills, as well as in patience with the glitches that invariably arise with users of various levels of technological expertise.

The Court went on a “listening tour” in 2021, and conducted Zoom sessions with stakeholders in the Civil, Family, and Criminal Divisions. Valuable feedback was provided to the Court with suggestions on how to improve service to the public, our partners, and our stakeholders. The “listening tour” will become an annual event for the Third Circuit Court.

The year 2021 ushered in efforts to provide COVID vaccination opportunities for judges and staff. Health and safety precautions continued throughout the year including PPE protection, test kits, and free box lunches for those called for jury duty. The Court was a leader in protecting employees and all who came to the courthouse.

The year 2021 was a year of adapting to the ever-growing use of virtual court proceedings, the establishment of a remote work policy, revisions of workplace COVID policies, and service delivery improvements.

My thanks to our hardworking judges and staff who rise to the occasion daily to meet the challenges facing the Third Circuit Court.


Hon. Timothy M. Kenny
Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan

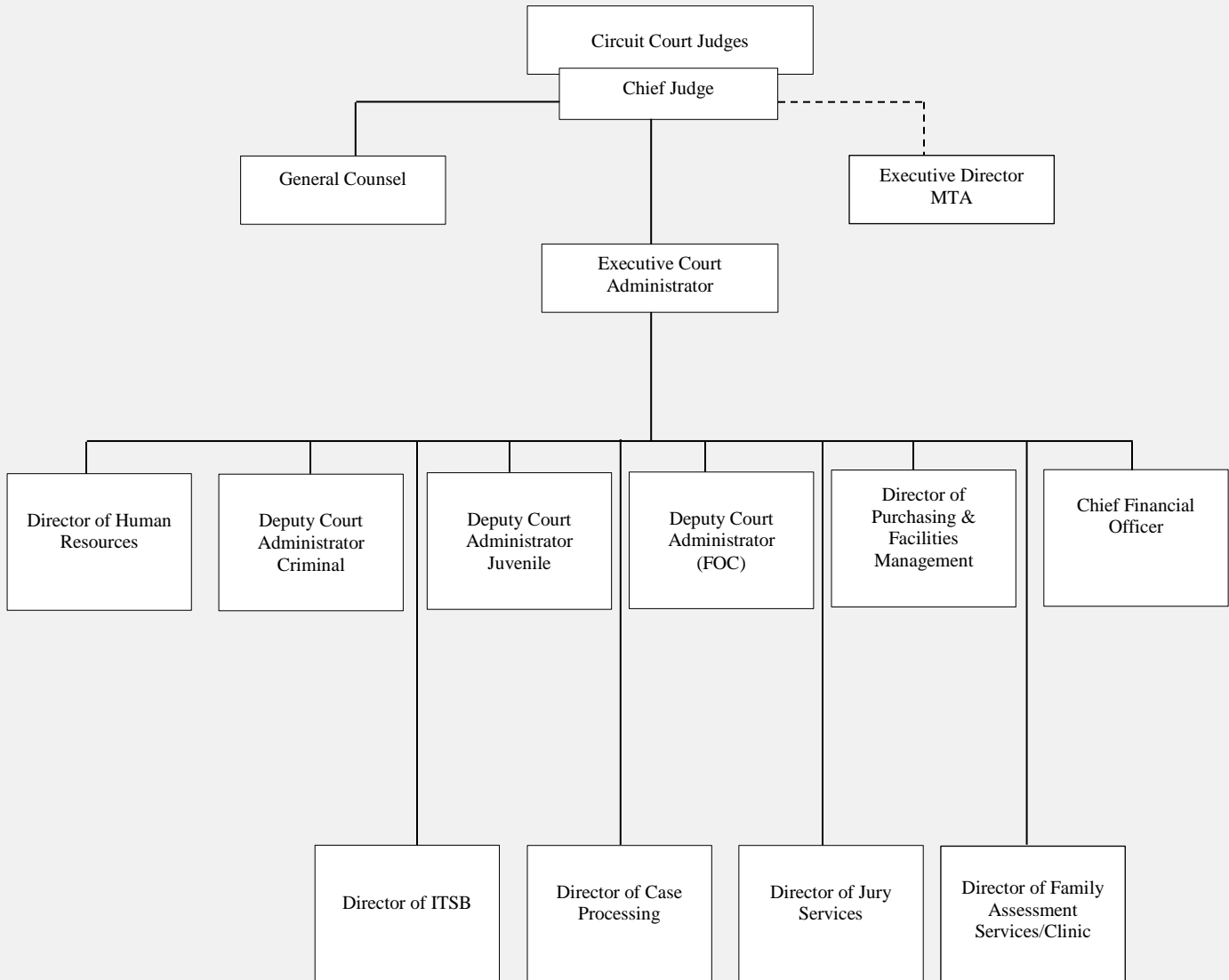
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THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Chief Judge & Administrative Team

(Back Row L-R) Mike Guich, Rich Lynch, Eric Weems, Richard Smart, Toby Horner

(Front Row L-R) Lyn Roberts, Tamela Aikens, Benita Cheatom, Cherece Hurley, Toielynn Smith, Chief Judge Timothy M. Kenny, Zenell Brown, Yvette Blackmon, Michelle Chiaravalli, Jillian Fitzgerald, Tammi Palmer, Janice Hiller, Erin Lincoln

(Not Pictured) Sam Girgenti, Alisa Shannon, Lisa Timmons, Yvonne Owen

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

Patricia Perez Fresard, Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding

David J. Allen
Annette J. Berry
Edward Ewell, Jr.
Sheila Ann Gibson
John H. Gillis, Jr.

David A. Groner
Dana Margaret Hathaway
Charles S. Hegarty
Susan L. Hubbard
Muriel D. Hughes
Qiana Denise Lillard

Kathleen M. McCarthy
John A. Murphy
Leslie Kim Smith
Martha M. Snow
Brian R. Sullivan

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Prentis Edwards, Jr., Presiding

Chandra W. Baker-Robinson
Mariam Bazzi
Gregory Dean Bill
James R. Chylinski
Kevin J. Cox
Paul J. Cusick
Wanda A. Evans
Tracy E. Green

Bridget Mary Hathaway
Thomas M. J. Hathaway
Catherine L. Heise
Noah Hood
Donald Knapp, Jr.
Bruce U. Morrow

Kelly A. Ramsey
Mark T. Slavens
Lawrence S. Talon
Deborah A. Thomas
Regina D. Thomas
Margaret M. Van Houten
Shannon N. Walker
Darnella D. Williams-Claybourne

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Melissa A. Cox, Presiding

Yvonna Abraham
Eric Cholack
Charlene M. Elder

Helal A. Farhat
Alexis A. Glendening
Adel A. Harb
Mary Beth Kelly

Lisa M. Neilson
Lynne A. Pierce
Carla G. Testani

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE

Edward J. Joseph, Presiding

Karen Y. Braxton
Jerome C. Cavanagh

Christopher D. Dingell

Cylenphia LaToye Miller
Frank S. Szymanski

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT REFEREES

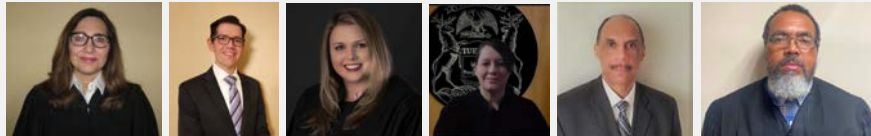
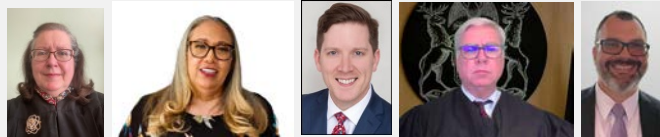
FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Stephanie Witucki, Chief Referee

Diane Biggar
Gwendolyn Davis-Yancey
Daniel Ferency
Craig Feringa

Eric Gloudemans
Rosanne Hostnik
Michael Kwarcinski
Lauren Wright Middleton

Christine Rodriguez
Lynn Ruhlman
Hulen Simpson
Edrick Thompson



(Referees: Top Picture - Chief Referee. 2nd/3rd Row: Alphabetical order starting left to right. Referee Ruhlman not pictured.)

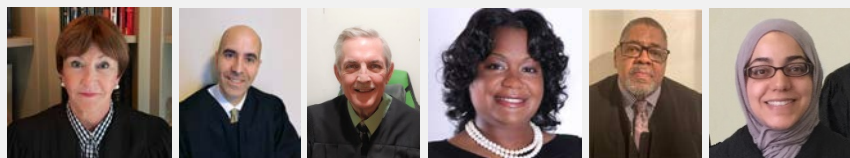
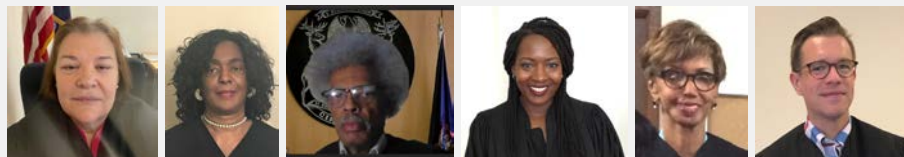
FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE

James A. Catchings, Jr., Chief Referee

Kathleen Allen
Wanda Cal
Anthony Crutchfield
Raeigen Evans

Leslie Graves
Nicholas J. Hathaway
Laura D. Kellett
Sean Kerman

Daniel M. McGuire
Brandi Taylor
Charles W. Wilson, III
Mona M. Youssef



(Referees: Top Picture - Chief Referee. 2nd/3rd Row: Alphabetical order starting left to right.)

JUDGES JOINING THE BENCH IN 2021

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of **Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit Court** according to the best of my ability.*



Hon. Chandra Baker-Robinson

Judge Chandra Baker was elected to the Third Judicial Circuit Court in November 2020 and is assigned to the Criminal Division.

Prior to being elected, Judge Baker was a Lead Attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. She headed the Wayne Arson Reduction Unit (W.A.R) responsible for prosecuting arson for-profit crimes involving real property (insurance fraud), arson of multi-unit buildings in which one of those units is a dwelling and arsons where someone was killed or injured. Judge Baker has been a prosecutor for nearly 12 years, and she has litigated felonies of all kinds including homicide, armed robbery, and various other felony cases. She was awarded Prosecutor of the Year 2017-2018 by the International Association of Arson Investigators for her work in combating arson in Wayne County.

Judge Baker volunteered for Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents (S.K.I.P) from 2004-2008 and she won the volunteer award in 2008. She currently volunteers with Grace Kids, the Children's Ministry at Grace Community Church in Detroit. She also serves as a board member for Citadel Community Development Corporation.

Judge Baker was raised in Detroit and attended Cass Technical H.S. She then received her B.A. Degree from the University of Michigan and her Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 2003.



Hon. Mary Beth Kelly

Judge Mary Beth Kelly was elected to the Third Circuit Court in November 2020 and serves in the Family Division - Domestic Relations. Judge Kelly previously served on Third Circuit Court for 11 years when she was appointed by then-Gov. John Engler in 1999. She became the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of Third Circuit Court. She was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court on November 2, 2010 and took office on January 1, 2011. During her tenure, she served as co-chair of the Michigan Race Equity Coalition, which examined the need for the juvenile justice and foster care systems to improve policies and racial disparities through accurate and meaningful data. On October 1, 2015, Judge Kelly returned to private practice at Bodman PLC in Detroit. Judge Kelly has served as a visiting judge in the Domestic Relations-Family Division and was a contributor on the Third Circuit Court's committee to reimagine the delivery of services provided by the Court's Clinic for Child Study.

JUDGES JOINING THE BENCH IN 2021



Hon. Yvonna C. Abraham

Judge Yvonna C. Abraham was appointed as Judge to the Wayne County Circuit Court on July 1, 2021 and serves in the Family Division - Domestic Relations. Prior to her appointment she was a Magistrate and Director of Probation with the 20th District Court in Dearborn Heights. Judge Abraham earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She serves as a faculty member for the Michigan Judicial Institute, New Magistrate Training Seminar and as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University teaching courses in business law. She was the President of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates prior to her appointment, and currently a member of the State Bar Judicial Ethics Committee, a member of the State Court Administrator's Office court forms committee, and Women Lawyer Association of Michigan. She is also a member of the Henry Ford College Business Advisory Board, the Wayne Mental Health Advisory Board, the Arab American Women's Business Council Board, Dearborn Heights Rotary Board, and HYPE Athletics Community Board. Judge Abraham enjoys spending her time mentoring aspiring law students and providing internship opportunities to college students.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION TEAM JOINING THE COURT IN 2021



ToieLynn Smith

ToieLynn Smith is the current Deputy Court Administrator for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan – Family Division – Juvenile. Wayne County Juvenile Court has 6 judges and 13 referees who hear matters involving child abuse and neglect cases and delinquency matters. Throughout her 25+ year career with the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan, Ms. Smith has held various leadership roles and was recently elevated to the position of Deputy Court Administrator on December 1, 2021, where she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Juvenile Court.

Ms. Smith is a graduate of Central Michigan University; she is a Certified Diversity Professional, a Michigan Diversity Council Advisory Board Member, and a graduate of the Crain's Business Institute Leadership Academy.

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Lyn Roberts – Chief Financial Officer

Budget and Finance

The Office of Budget and Finance is responsible for the processing and recording of accounting and financial information for the Court. The office's responsibilities include budget and accounting services for general fund accounts, grants and contracts, and fiduciary accounts; accounts receivable and accounts payable processing; financial reporting; and collections.

Accounts Payable

The Accounts Payable Unit processes payments to contractors and vendors that provide services to the Court. The Unit continues to work with the IT Department to automate the payment process for high volume requests from vendors who provide language interpreting services and court officers. Implementing the automated payment system for these high volume requests will continue to be a significant technological improvement, especially since the unit does remote work on a hybrid basis due to the pandemic during fiscal year 2020-2021. The Court's Accounts Payable Unit played a key role in processing payments to vendors who provided goods or services to the Court in response to the coronavirus, as well as other vendors, during the pandemic.

During fiscal year 2020-2021, in addition to processing vendor, contractual, and attorney payments for all Court Divisions, this Unit processed payments to attorneys for more than 12,000 cases.

Court Collections

The Collections Unit, which is responsible for the collection of court-imposed costs, fines, and fees, is one of the top priorities of the Court. In February 2015, the Collections Unit devoted staff to the Criminal Division in order to increase collection efforts. During fiscal year 2021, \$2,391,408 was collected in court costs, attorney fees, and late fees in the Criminal Division. In addition, the unit mailed out 4,588 delinquency notices and established 311 payment agreements.

Budget and Grants Accounting

The Budget Unit and Grants Accounting Unit are responsible for managing and analyzing performance of the Court's general fund, capital fund, and grant funded programs for short and long-term planning. This includes preparing and submitting annual budgets, annual five-year capital improvement plans, and quarterly revenue and expenditure projections to Wayne County in accordance with deadlines required by the County. The Grants Unit is responsible for all financial requirements set forth in the terms and conditions of all Court grant awards, which includes adherence to applicable federal and state laws, guidelines, financial reporting requirements, and regulations. In fiscal year 2021, the Grants Unit met the financial responsibilities related to the funding of the Friend of the Court (FOC), Child Parent Legal Representation (CPLR), the Juvenile Clinic Family Assessment Services with Child Care and Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network funding, three Juvenile Division Child Care Fund Programs, two Juvenile Division Specialty Court Programs, four Criminal Division Specialty Court Programs, and several other grants. The total available funding managed by the Grants Unit for these programs exceeds \$34.6 million, with approximately \$29.1 million for the FOC and \$5.5 million for other grants.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

The Budget Unit and Grants Accounting Unit spent a significant amount of time on reporting COVID-related labor and direct expenses to Wayne County for federal CARES funding reimbursement. Direct expenses include expenses related to transitioning to virtual hearings, remote work, and preparing the public for the reopening of court facilities. The Court's direct COVID-related expenses since March 2020 amount to approximately \$4.3 million and include juror hazard pay, personal protective equipment, laptops and software to facilitate remote work, and cleaning of touchpoints.

Also, the Financial Services Unit (FSU) provides financial support to the Wayne County Friend of the Court. The primary function of FSU is local receipting of child support. In 2021, FSU processed 5,838 transactions totaling approximately \$2.1 million compared to 9,807 transactions and approximately \$3.5 million in 2020. Normally, the annual range is in excess of 24,000 transactions and approximately \$7.7 million. The reduction in volume is due to the closure of court facilities to the public due to the coronavirus. Although in-person payment windows were closed at the Court, Friend of the Court customers were provided with online payment options, as well as Pay Near Me or MoneyGram options at 7-Eleven, Family Dollar, CVS, and Walmart stores located in various Wayne County communities. Ancillary functions include suspense management and arrears adjustments in accordance with State and other applicable authoritative guidelines.



Tammi Palmer – Director of Case Processing and Court Reporting Services

Case Processing

Case Processing provides central support to the bench, gathers and reports required data to the State Court Administrative Office, serves as a primary resource to judges and their staff on caseflow methods and procedures, and provides information to the public. Support to the bench includes scheduling and noticing hearings, maintenance of the party/attorney records, development and distribution of statistical and management reports, maintenance of automated caseflow management programs, and training judicial staff members. Annually, Case Processing prints and mails over 80,000 notices of court events to attorneys and parties and answers over 13,000 phone calls. Case Processing also performs assigned counsel functions for the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section and assists with caseflow management at Friend of the Court (FOC).

Many processes were modified as a result of the pandemic. The Court went from holding in-person hearings to utilizing Zoom. The use of Zoom required changes in the manner in which cases were scheduled and noticed. Zoom instructions are now included with hearing notices and Zoom hearing information is now provided at 3rdcc.org.

New processes were developed for the filing of pleadings. Provisions were made for the filing of all pleadings remotely.

The manner in which reports were delivered to judges and their staff was also modified. The reports and statistics that used to be delivered via interoffice mail can now be delivered electronically.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Court Reporting Services

The Court Reporting Services Department is responsible for coordinating court reporting coverage for all divisions of the Court, assigning appellate counsel and submitting transcripts to the Court of Appeals, and acting as the liaison between the Court of Appeals and the Third Circuit Court. The Department also processes all transcript requests in each division, maintains archival storage of all records of court reporters and recorders, provides staff support to video courtrooms, and orders interpreters for proceedings. There are 60 JAVS units available for use by judges/hearing officers. The JAVS technology reduces costs and produces a video that can be viewed by the public.

As a result of the pandemic, many processes had to be modified in this department as well. The judges and hearing officers began using Zoom to conduct hearings. The Zoom technology allows the judges and hearing officers to conduct hearings remotely for the safety of the court staff and litigants. YouTube channels were developed so that the Court could guarantee the First and Sixth Amendment right to a public viewing of hearings. Links to these channels were added to the Court's website.

Court Reporters are now being used more often during the selection of a jury. Prior to the pandemic, judges selected a jury in their courtroom and then proceeded to trial. Due to the pandemic distancing requirements, the jury selection process had to be modified. Jury selection occurred in larger spaces such as the jury assembly room or larger courtrooms. When jury selection occurs outside of a courtroom, JAVS cannot be used.

The pandemic required the Court to modify the manner in which foreign language and American Sign Language interpreters were used. These service providers appeared remotely via Zoom.

The manner in which the Court provides Communication Access Realtime Translation Service (CART) for deaf or hard of hearing individuals who read English fluently also had to be modified as a result of the pandemic. Previously when the courtrooms were open to the public, these services were provided on screens in the courtroom, they now must be provided remotely during Zoom sessions.

The Court modified the manner in which people view the recordings of their hearings. Where the public once appeared in the building to review a tape of a hearing, these recordings are now reviewed via Zoom sessions with shared screens.

Due to the fact that there was limited access to the court buildings, a new vouchering system was instituted to accommodate the electronic filing of vouchers by court reporters in the Third Circuit Court and District Courts.



Michelle Milligan Chiaravalli – Director of Family Assessment Services/Clinic

The Family Assessment Services

In March 2020, the Clinic for Child Study (Clinic) and Family Assessment, Mediation and Education (FAME) departments were merged under one department of Family Assessment Services. This department covers all assessment services within the Family Division of the Court.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

FAME

FAME provides court-ordered evaluations, psychological testing, and mediations for families where the parents are in conflict regarding custody and/or parenting time. The Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU) partners with Wayne Mediation Center and serves the increasing need for mediation and alternative dispute services in Domestic Relations. DRU also coordinates both Court-funded and grant-funded family education programs.

Due to COVID-19, FAME transitioned to conducting custody, parenting time and psychological testing virtually via Zoom and continued to service the public via this method throughout the year. No shows continue to decline likely due to availability of virtual appointments. In 2020 there were 33 no shows, and in 2021 there were only 20 no shows. In 2021 there were 306 referrals for Custody evaluations and 70 referrals for parenting time assessments.

On the Parenting Time Docket, 173 cases were mediated resulting in 75 agreements placed on the record. The In-Court Mediation Project (ICMP) received 184 referrals, 138 matters were mediated and 92 of the mediations reached agreements.

FAME offers parent education for divorcing and never married parents who live apart from each other. FAME offers two online parent education programs: Children in Between and Online Parenting Programs.com. The two online parent education programs served 249 parents in 2021. The Co-Parenting, Communication, and Coaching (3C) Program is more intensive. It is conducted in-person. In 2021, 384 parents completed the 3C program. Participant satisfaction surveys consistently indicate very high satisfaction and parents wish they would have “had this information sooner.”

The Clinic for Child Study

The Clinic has been accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 2001. The current accredited programs include Assessment and Referral (adults, children and adolescents) and Outpatient Treatment (children and adolescents).

The Clinic provides the following services to the Juvenile Section to assist in delinquency and child welfare cases.

Delinquency

The Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) includes predictive risk for future court involvement, mental health concerns, adverse childhood experiences (ACES) items as well as youth strengths. The assessment provides an early opportunity to determine the juvenile’s strengths, the risk of recidivism, as well as any needs for mental health and/or substance use treatment.

Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) Short Screener is used in general populations to identify clients with behavioral health disorders.

Upon completion of the YASI and GAINSS, the results are provided to assigned defense counsel so they can advocate on behalf of their client for diversion from the official docket. Clinic staff also provide immediate referrals to the youth and family after the assessment for any needed services including but not limited to mental health services, substance use services, housing, and education assistance.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Competency/Criminal Responsibility Assessments

Psychological Assessment for Designated Cases

Eligibility Assessments for Juvenile Mental Health Court

Initial social history and psychological assessment for Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotics Dependence (STAND)

Delinquency Predisposition Assessments

Treatment Services

The Sexual Awareness Information and Treatment (SAIT) program was developed in 1989 to assist probationary youth before the Court for Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) offenses. This program was initially based on a psycho-educational model, but was later expanded to be a comprehensive treatment program for Juvenile Sex Offenders. The SAIT program is conducted as a closed group, with no members admitted after the third session. Youth are required to attend and participate in group for a total of 21 weeks and must repeat if they complete less than 17 sessions. Youth are also encouraged to participate in individual treatment sessions in preparation for the SAIT group. If substantial progress regarding inappropriate sexual behavior or other emotional issues is not apparent at the completion of the group, youth are referred for additional individual treatment sessions. The SAIT program is designed with curriculum appropriate for youth in the 15 to 18 year age range.

Child Welfare Cases

Best Interest Assessments

Permanency Planning

Custody and Parenting Evaluations when the case begins in Juvenile Court

Adoption Home Study Assessments for guardians and family members petitioning the Court to adopt youth in their care

Due to COVID-19, the Clinic transitioned to conducting all services virtually via Zoom and continued to service the public via this method throughout the year.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

2021 Referrals/Consumers Served

Family Assessments for Protective Hearings Referrals	212
Custody Assessments Referrals	2
Adolescent Assessments for Delinquency Disposition /Probation Planning Referrals (includes JSAU and CAAU)	69
Adolescent Competency Assessments Referrals	52
Adolescent Criminal Responsibility Assessments Referrals	51
Adolescent Designated Assessment Referrals	3
Adolescent Assessments for S.T.A.N.D. Referrals	7
Adoption Assessments	21
YASI Assessments	509
Social History Only (subset of Dispositional, JMHC, STAND)	5
JMHC	11
Clinic Treatment Unit Served (Sexual Awareness and Information Treatment)	31
Competency Restoration Served	2

SAIT/Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) Recidivism – Felony Convictions Per Criminal and Juvenile Odyssey Lookups

Closure Year	Date Reviewed	Total Successfully Closed	No Felony Convictions	Felony Convictions	CSC Convictions	Recidivism %
2020	February 2022 (1 year post closure)	9	9	0	0	Felon: 0% CSC: 0%
2018	February 2022 (3 years post closure)	54	49	5	2	Felony: 9.3% CSC: 3.7%

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Benita Cheatom – Director of Human Resources

Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for the Court’s full-time positions, including judges. These activities include recruitment, timekeeping, payroll, interpretation of workplace laws and regulations, training and development, support for management staff, and negotiating and administering labor agreements. This office administers Court-provided benefits, and acts as the liaison on behalf of Court staff with regard to benefits provided and administered by Wayne County. The Court filled vacancies through recruitment and promotional processes, conducted desk audits, and updated job descriptions. Negotiations with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Government Administrators Association (GAA); and Judicial Attorneys Association (JAA) were conducted and completed.

Activities related to and resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic such as employee health screening, contact tracing, notifications, isolation, and quarantine administration continued. Protocols have been and will continue to be adjusted in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and local health authorities.

In partnership with the Information Technology Services Bureau (ITSB), HR went live with the addition of the Workforce Ready module to the Kronos Workforce Central Timekeeping system. Addition of the new module has enabled a recruitment workflow from application through onboarding and has improved efficiency with the incorporation of employee records that had previously been maintained in a separate system.

This office worked with the Strategic Plan Remote Work team which completed and issued a Remote Work Policy that enabled the Court to address ongoing COVID-19 pandemic needs, as well as post pandemic needs. The Court’s Employee Handbook was also updated and published. Upcoming activities include working with and supporting the efforts of the Strategic Plan Diversity and Inclusion team and commencement of negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Mike Gruich – Director of Information Technology Systems Bureau

Information Technology Systems Bureau

The Information Technology Systems Bureau (ITSB) provides technology support to the court staff and our law enforcement partners to meet the Court’s evolving business needs. The department provides the application and technical operating environment necessary to meet the operating and administrative business objectives of the Court.

ITSB staff provide standard hardware and software support. Over the past year ITSB staff have implemented the following projects:

- **Remote work for court staff** – Implemented processes and procedures to help staff working remotely. Provide the necessary hardware and software to accomplish the Court’s mission.
- **Zoom support for court proceedings** – With the transition from in-person to Zoom hearings, ITSB staff implemented processes and procedures needed for a virtual court session.
- **Paperless initiatives** – ITSB continued to work on paperless processing. Electronic submission of Personal Protection Orders (PPO) was implemented which created the ability for each courtroom to process documents electronically.

The public can access the court register of actions through the Court’s website www.3rdcc.org.

Website and Social Media

The Court has a presence on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Twitter: 3rdccorg

Facebook: Third Judicial Circuit Court

Linked In: Wayne County Third Circuit Court

Website: 3rdcc.org

Instagram: 3rdccorg



Through social media, the Court publishes holiday closings, emergency closings, and press releases for upcoming events, performance measure data, legal community events, and accomplishments. The court staff and the public are welcome to visit, follow, and like the Court on social media.

To receive Third Judicial Circuit Court’s monthly eNewsletter and stay informed, court staff and the public may join by sending contact information (name and e-mail address) to 3CCE-News@3rdcc.org.

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Yvette Blackmon – Director of Jury Services

Jury Services

The Jury Services Department coordinates jury operations and obtains jurors for the Third Judicial Circuit and Probate Courts, as well as provides qualification services for all district courts in Wayne County.

The Department’s responsibilities include developing processes and procedures for regularly collecting and analyzing information regarding the performance of the jury system to ensure fair representation and inclusiveness; the effectiveness of qualification and summoning procedures; the responsiveness of individual citizens to jury duty summonses; the efficient and effective usage of citizens called to serve for jury duty; and the cost effectiveness of the jury system.

In 2021, the Civil and Criminal Divisions resumed jury trials on July 19th. The Civil and Criminal Divisions held two jury trials per week since July 19th. The following safety precautions were taken to mitigate risks to protect the public and staff.

- Seating in the jury assembly rooms were spaced six feet apart to ensure social distancing.
- Decreased the amount of jurors in juror assembly.
- Jurors were provided with PPE upon check-in.
- Jurors were provided lunch.
- Jurors received an increase in jury compensation.
- Functions such as voir dire and deliberation were held in more spacious areas.
- Frequent sanitization of the jury assembly area.
- Hand sanitizer stands were placed throughout the building.
- The Jury Department has relaxed requirements for excusals and postponements.
- Provided jurors with information on the summons about what the Court is doing to ensure their safety while serving jury duty.
- Provided juror health and safety video on the 3rdcc.org website.
- Plexi-shields have been installed in the jury assembly and courtrooms to provide a protective barrier.

Jury Services 2021 Statistics

Total Jurors Called to Appear for Service	5,194
Total Number of Jurors Who Appeared for Service	1,993
Total Number of Jurors Who Failed to Appear for Service	3,201

*A fox should not be on the jury at a goose’s trial.
~Thomas Fuller~*

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Eric Weems – Director of Purchasing and Facilities Management

Purchasing and Facilities Management

The Purchasing and Facilities Management Department, with a staff of four full-time employees, is responsible for the procurement of goods and services for all divisions of the Court. The department oversees building services and renovations, organizes staff moves, processes metered mail and inter-office court mail, reports equipment repairs, transports employees, and addresses courthouse security issues. The department is also responsive to the workplace needs for efficiency, client privacy and safety, and manages projects both large and small throughout four Court locations.

Since March of 2020, the Facilities Department has been tasked with the challenge of assisting the Court with operating within a new environment known as COVID-19. The Court, along with the Facilities Department, had to adjust and adopt new procedures and protocols rather quickly in order to continue to service the community, remain efficient, and to provide a safe environment for staff, visitors, and stakeholders.

The Facilities team was not only responsible for obtaining PPE (like masks and hand sanitizer) for staff and visitors, Facilities also aided and assisted in numerous other projects as well. Facilities assisted the Court's Budget and Finance Department with the successful implementation of the Emergency COVID CARES Act for Court expenditures purchased during the COVID emergency in order to procure items that are COVID related. This allowed the Court to make purchases related to COVID-19 easier and expedient with funds that were set aside to assist with items needed to keep the Court moving.

Facilities also assisted and aided with the deep cleaning of all Court divisions before and after a COVID-19 exposure. Facilities worked alongside our cleaning teams and Deputy Court Administrators to help develop a regular cleaning schedule for touch point cleaning such as door knobs and elevator buttons, along with having areas deep cleaned once the Court was notified of an exposure to COVID-19. The Court has put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the safety and well-being of its staff, visitors, and stakeholders.

Lastly, Facilities is working with Wayne County to complete three important upcoming building moves. Juvenile Detention will move to Hamtramck Jail Division while the new CJC Complex is completed. The Lincoln Hall of Justice, Bldg. C move will occur, and the largest of the three moves will occur early 2023 with the moving of our Criminal Division, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, to the newly built Criminal Justice Complex, known as the CJC.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

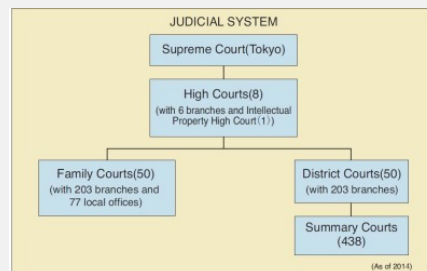
Judge from Japan Program



Supreme Court of Japan



Courtroom of the Grand Bench
of the Supreme Court



Each year since 1972, a judge from the Japanese judicial system has come to Michigan to research and study the American judicial system. This partnership between the Third Circuit Court, Wayne State University Law School, and the Supreme Court of Japan ensures that each visiting judge will return home with a wealth of knowledge concerning America's judicial system with an emphasis on Michigan trial courts. Judge Toshinobu Akiyama was the very first judge to visit the Third Circuit Court in 1972. Since that time, the Court has hosted over 46 judges since the inception of the Visiting Judge from Japan Program.

In February of 2020, OOSUKA Hiroyuki, The Director of the Secretary Division, General Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Japan, regrettably informed Third Circuit Court that Japan was not able to send a judge to our court for the 2020-21 year. On behalf of the Court, Chief Judge Kenny expressed sadness and shared that the judges and court staff have truly enjoyed the opportunity to interact and learn from visiting judges.

The Court plans to continue to share information about the court programs and operations with the Supreme Court of Japan and looks forward to the program resuming. We reached out again this year to some of the judges who participated in the program to see how they were doing and to give us an update.

Judge Toshihiko Fujii – Visiting Judge 2016 – 2017



Visit to Toyama Prefecture



Cherry Tree in Iwate Prefecture

Judge Fujii is continuing his work at the Supreme Court of Japan, Criminal Affairs Bureau, General Secretariat, as a Staff Attorney. He is currently in charge of planning digital transformation in criminal procedures. He also is engaged in the planning system development for eFiling and a paperless court.

He is very busy during the week but enjoys traveling with his wife during the holidays. This summer he travelled to Iwate Prefecture and visited Morioka District Court to see the famous cherry tree which has been growing from a huge granite fissure. (It is said to be 380-years-old and is still growing!) It symbolizes the spirit of endurance against all hardships and he was impressed by its dignified appearance.

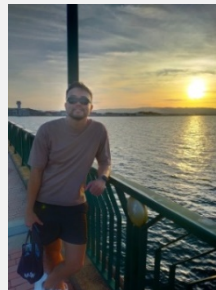
Though digital transformation is a multi-year project and they still have a long way to go, he hopes his work will bear fruits in the end, just like the tree that blooms beautifully in spring.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Judge Keisuke Koizumi – Visiting Judge 2017 – 2018



Hiking in Yakushima (屋久島)



Sunset in Nagasaki (長崎) Prefecture

Judge Koizumi, known as “Judge K”, currently sits in the Miyazaki District and Family court. He mainly hears civil cases. The Japanese courts are trying to install the e-court system. Judge Koizumi indicated what he has learned about the e-court system and remote hearing in the Third Circuit Court helps him to conduct civil procedures in his court. Judge K enjoys hiking these days. He shared a picture of hiking in Yakushima. Yakushima is an island in the southern part of Japan. He also is sporting his 2017 Detroit Half Marathon shirt on his hike. He is doing well and misses Michigan.

Judge Tatsunori Mashimoto – Visiting Judge 2018 – 2019



After working for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry for two years, Judge Mashimoto was transferred to the Juvenile Division of the Tokyo Family Court. He is now handling Juvenile cases.

Judge Mashimoto has not been able to go on many trips due to COVID. But many competitions have gone back to being held in person, so he has participated in several full Marathons. He ran the Marathon in Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture and beat his previous time of 3:10:00.

Judge Masahiro Dogauchi – Visiting Judge 2019 – 2020



Kyoto



Conference in MOFA

Judge Dogauchi continues to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was assigned to in April of 2020. He is currently involved in the negotiation of the UN Convention for combatting cybercrime. In September of 2022, as part of the Japanese delegation, he attended the negotiation meeting of the Convention at the UN Headquarters in New York. This was his first overseas trip since he returned home from Detroit. He is finding it refreshing and stimulating to create new legal norms, not based on specific cases which he faced in the courtroom, but on all possible events that may occur in the future.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

HISTORY OF THE JUDGES FROM THE JAPAN PROGRAM

Year	Name	Name: English Translation	Year	Name	Name: English Translation
1972	秋山壽延	Toshinobu Akiyama	1996	大垣貴靖	Takayasu Ogaki
1973	原田敏章	Toshiaki Harada	1997	青木孝之	Takashi Aoki
1974	安広文夫	Fumio Yasuhiro	1998	品田幸男	Yukio Shinada
1975	平谷正弘	Masahiro Hiraya	1999	上岡哲生	Tetsuo Kamioka
1976	池田勝之	Katsuyuki Ikeda	2000	坂田威一郎	Iichiro Sakata
1977	飯村敏明	Toshiaki Imura	2001	近藤暁郎	Akio Kondo
1978	中山一郎	Ichiro Nakayama	2002	野澤晃一	Koichi Nozawa
1979	村瀬 均	Hitoshi Murase	2003	田辺暁志	Satoshi Tanabe
1980	園尾隆司	Takashi Sonoo	2004	倉成 章	Akira Kuranari
1981	升田 純	Jun Masuda	2005	宮崎朋紀	Tomoki Miyazaki
1982	井上弘通	Hikomichi Inoue	2006	出口博章	Hiroaki Deguchi
1983	杉原則彦	Norihiko Sugihara	2007	阿保賢祐	Kensuke Abo
1984	木口信之	Nobuyuki Kiguchi	2008	高原大輔	Daisuke Takahara
1985	永野厚郎	Atsuo Nagano	2009	大野健太郎	Kentaro Ono
1986	白井幸夫	Yukio Shirai	2010	新宅孝昭	Takaaki Shintaku
1987	始関正光	Masamitsu Shiseki	2011	倉知泰久	Yasuhisa Kurachi
1988	定塚 誠	Makoto Jozuka	2012	渡邊充昭	Mitsuaki Watanabe
1989	増田 稔	Minoru Masuda	2013	高石直樹	Naoki Takaishi
1990	吉村典晃	Noriaki Yoshimura	2014	栢分宏和	Hirokazu Kayawake
1991	矢尾 涉	Wataru Yao	2015	前田優太	Yuta Maeda
1992	西田隆裕	Takahiro Nishida	2016	藤井俊彦	Toshihiko Fujii
1993	田中健治	Kenji Tanaka	2017	小泉敬祐	Keisuke Koizumi
1994	西田時弘	Tokihiro Nishida	2018	増本龍憲	Tatsunori Mashimoto
1995	川畑正文	Masafumi Kawabata	2019	道垣内正大	Masahiro Dogauchi

MEDIATION TRIBUNAL ASSOCIATION



Lisa Timmons – Director of Mediation Tribunal Association

The Mediation Tribunal Association (MTA) is a non-profit agency established in 1979 that provides alternative dispute resolution services for the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and many district courts in the County of Wayne. The MTA is led by its Executive Director, Lisa W. Timmons, and governed by its Board of Directors. The MTA Board consists of judges from the Civil Division of Wayne County Circuit Court; a judge from the United States District Court; a neutral director; and two attorney directors, representing both the Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) and the Association of Defense Trial Counsel (ADTC).

The MTA maintains a roster of over 1,500 attorneys who serve as case evaluators under MCR 2.403. In 2021, there were 11,461 cases set for case evaluation. Those case types included general civil, employment, medical malpractice, commercial, and business court. Dispositions for 2021 are as follows:

Third Circuit Court Case Evaluation 2021 Caseload

Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	11,461
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	821
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	2
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	974
Cases Adjourned by the Court	2408
Total Cases Evaluated	7,256

Third Circuit Court Case Evaluation 2021 Dispositions

Total Awards	12,030
Awards Accepted (13.71% of total)	1,874
Total Awards Rejected and Continuing to Disposition	10,156

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



Richard Lynch – General Counsel

The Office of General Counsel serves as the official legal advisor to the Court. The Office staff consists of ten attorneys, a law librarian, two administrative assistants, and two Self-Help Navigators. The Office is divided into five sections overseen by the General Counsel with the support of Administrative Assistant, Lisa Stroud. Ms. Stroud also oversees the Summer Intern Program. Lynn Reeves oversees the operations of the Law Library and supervises the Self-Help Center Navigators, Sonya Powers and Azaria Finley. The Civil Section has two attorneys: Julie Dale, Associate General Counsel – Civil Division, and Amanda Cunningham. The Criminal Section consists of four attorneys: Kimberley Reed Thompson, Associate General Counsel – Criminal Division, Sauda Ahmad-Green, Josef Funchess, and Linda Sims, and Administrative Assistant Brenda Westbrook. The Family Division supports the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Sections. It consists of Cynthia Sherburn, Associate General Counsel – Family Division, Millicent Melhado, and Amelia Maggio.

The Office of General Counsel assists the Court in a number of ways. Operations include legal representation of the Court, its judges and staff, and the coordination of representation by outside counsel depending upon the case when claims are brought against the Court or its employees or judges. It also provides a number of other legal services to members of the bench and department managers for the Court. Services include legal research for the Court supported by formal proposed opinions and orders, legal memoranda, or informal briefings. Staff draft or review proposed local court rules, local administrative orders, and docket directives. Staff review and help prepare comments to court rules or administrative orders proposed by the Supreme Court. Office attorneys provide in-depth training for judges, court staff, and other personnel on novel or complex legal issues and serve as presenters at conferences. Attorneys prepare, negotiate, and review requests for proposals, contracts, and memoranda of understanding between the Court and vendors, outside agencies, labor unions, and other governmental entities. The Office serves as a liaison between the Court and other agencies, such as the State Court Administrative Office, Wayne County Corporation Counsel, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General’s Office. Attorneys provide the syllabi of U. S. Supreme Court decisions and prepare updates on decisions by the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Finally, the Office provides a full range of law library services. This includes a traditional library at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center campus, assisting chambers with the maintenance of subject specific collections, and the coordination of electronic legal research resources.

The Self-Help Center program continues to operate under the umbrella of the law library. While the COVID-19 pandemic limited operations this year, efforts continue to expand the program to better serve the community. In 2021, Self-Help Center staff began collaborating with the Detroit Bar Association – Legal Services Clinic committee to facilitate matching pro-bono attorneys with individuals seeking assistance. Traditionally, the Wayne County Self-Help Center offers services at the Penobscot Building. The Center offers services at the Penobscot Building Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (CAYMC) each Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in courtroom 1901. Lynn Reeves oversees the Center and supervises Navigators Azaria Finley and Sonya Powers. Lisa Stroud and Jalona Colvard, of the Executive Court Administrator’s Office, also assist Ms. Reeves in the delivery of Self-Help Center services.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

The Office of General Counsel also assisted in the development or expansion of various specialty court programs in the Criminal Division and Family Division- Juvenile Section. The Office continues to conduct the Business Court case screening to ensure proper case assignment. Attorneys in the Office also oversee the court officer program and assist the Court in the enforcement of orders through various show cause programs and the review of subpoenas and FOIA requests directed to the Court. The Office participated in the internal and external review required to move forward with the statewide implementation of the proposals of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission regarding indigent criminal defense. The attorneys of the Criminal Section, under the leadership of Kimberley Reed Thompson, continue to support the community through the Boy Scouts of America, Great Lakes Field Service Council Explorer program at Detroit Pershing High School. Designed to introduce high school students to the varied aspects of the law and law-related careers, the Criminal Section attorneys continued the program via Zoom to ensure a level of continuity for the Explorer program participants.

Summer Law Clerks

The Third Judicial Circuit's long-standing practice of bringing summer law clerks into the Court again fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Operational modifications required to ensure court operations continued to the extent practicable under the Michigan Supreme Court, State, and local public health orders again limited the Court's participation in this worthy program. The Court hopes that conditions permit the return of the Summer Law Clerk program in 2022.



Farewell

Millicent Melhado and Azaria Finley both moved on from the General Counsel's Office in 2021. We wish them well in their new endeavors and thank them for their dedicated service.

CIVIL DIVISION



Hon. Patricia Fresard, Chief Judge Pro Tem & Presiding Judge – Civil Division

The Civil Division is comprised of 18 Circuit Court Judges, including the Chief Judge. The Civil Division has original jurisdiction in all general civil cases initiated in Wayne County where the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000. The Civil Division serves as the appellate court for civil appeals from every district court in Wayne County, and for administrative agency decisions. In 2021, there were 668 Business Court cases filed and 17,735 overall new civil case filings.

In 2021, Civil Division Judges and staff demonstrated their commitment to the Court’s mission of providing accessible and equal justice with timely dispute resolution by resuming in-person jury trials and finding balance between virtual and in-person proceedings. In July of 2021, in-person jury trials resumed. The Court, in consultation with the Wayne County Department of Health, Human, and Veteran Services, determined that two jury pools per week could be safely accommodated. The limited number of jury pools required cooperation and communication among Judges, staff, attorneys, and litigants. Usually, oldest cases were given priority for trials. Safety was the Civil Division’s top consideration – all jurors and trial participants underwent health screenings upon entering CAYMC, masks and social distancing were required, and courtrooms were outfitted with plexi-glass barriers. By the end of 2021, the Civil Division had made considerable progress toward erasing its backlog of cases awaiting jury trials, thanks to the hard work of Civil Judges, staff, and the amazing team at Jury Services. While jury trials were in person, most other Civil Division proceedings remained virtual. Civil Division Judges logged thousands of hours on Zoom. Hon. Patricia Perez Fresard, Presiding Judge of the Civil Division and Chief Judge Pro Tem, participated in virtual bench-bar conferences organized in conjunction with the Detroit Bar Association to answer questions and receive feedback from attorneys regarding Civil Division operations. The valuable input of the bar will inform Civil Division policies as the bench works toward a “new normal.” Through cooperation, communication, and hard work, the dedicated Judges and staff of the Civil Division met the challenges of 2021 and emerged as an even stronger bench.

CIVIL DIVISION JUDGES

Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge

Patricia Perez Fresard, Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding

David J. Allen
Annette J. Berry
Edward Ewell, Jr.
Sheila Ann Gibson
John H. Gillis, Jr.

David A. Groner
Dana Margaret Hathaway
Charles S. Hegarty
Susan L. Hubbard
Muriel D. Hughes
Qiana Denise Lillard

Kathleen M. McCarthy
John A. Murphy
Leslie Kim Smith
Martha M. Snow
Brian R. Sullivan

CIVIL DIVISION

Civil and Tort Case 2021 Statistics

	General Civil*	Auto Negligence and No Fault	Other Civil Damage**	Other Civil***	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	2,476	11,910	1,940	102	67	51	31	16,577
New Filings	5,837	9,715	1,410	388	125	192	68	17,735
Reopened Cases	211	626	110	14	5	11	0	977
Total Caseload	8,524	22,251	3,460	504	197	254	99	35,289
Dispositions Resulting From:								
Jury Verdicts	3	11	3	0	0	0	0	17
Bench Verdicts	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	11
Orders Entered	0	0	0	0	36	98	30	164
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	3,077	5,261	574	80	0	0	0	8,992
Transferred	109	121	77	1	9	9	0	326
Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	1,432	4,348	779	253	0	0	0	6,812
Dismissed by Court	426	513	69	34	73	74	29	1,218
Inactive Status	37	128	37	1	0	3	0	206
Other Dispositions	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	9
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	5,091	10,392	1,540	371	118	184	59	17,755
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	3,433	11,859	1,920	133	79	70	40	17,534

*General Civil cases are business claims, partnership termination, condemnation, employment discrimination, environmental matters, forfeiture, housing and real estate, foreclosure, land contracts, contractual obligations, labor relations, antitrust, franchising, trade regulation, and corporation receivership.

**Other Civil Damage cases include Medical malpractice, other professional malpractice, other personal injury, product liability, dram-shop act and all other claims for damages not otherwise included.

***Other Civil cases are proceedings to restore, establish or correct record; claim and delivery to recover personal property; receivers in supplemental proceedings; supplemental proceedings; and, miscellaneous proceedings.

CRIMINAL DIVISION



Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr., Presiding – Criminal Division

The Criminal Division is comprised of 23 Circuit Court Judges and has sole jurisdiction over all felony and high misdemeanor offenses committed in Wayne County. This Division also serves as the appellate court for criminal appeals filed from every district court in the county. The Criminal Division’s mission is to administer criminal justice in a fair, professional, and efficient manner. The Division manages various ancillary services and departments throughout the Court, including Pretrial Services, Trial Court Services, Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program, and Adult Drug Treatment Court. In 2021, there were 9,508 new case filings in the Criminal Division.

CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES

Prentis Edwards, Jr., Presiding

Chandra W. Baker-Robinson
 Mariam Bazzi
 Gregory Dean Bill
 James R. Chylinski
 Kevin J. Cox
 Paul J. Cusick
 Wanda A. Evans
 Tracy E. Green

Bridget Mary Hathaway
 Thomas M. J. Hathaway
 Catherine L. Heise
 Noah Hood
 Donald Knapp, Jr.
 Bruce U. Morrow

Kelly A. Ramsey
 Mark T. Slavens
 Lawrence S. Talon
 Deborah A. Thomas
 Regina D. Thomas
 Margaret M. Van Houten
 Shannon N. Walker
 Darnella D. Williams-Claybourne

Criminal 2021 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	583	3,079	16	26	3,704
New Filings	815	8,647	11	35	9,508
Reopened Cases	115	946	2	0	1,063
Total Caseload	1,513	12,672	29	61	14,275
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	14	2	0	0	16
Bench Verdicts	4	25	0	0	29
Orders Entered	0	0	0	17	17
Guilty Pleas	226	5,467	9	0	5,702
Transferred	6	229	0	4	239
Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	9	36	0	0	45
Dismissed by Court	44	655	5	9	713
Inactive Status	110	1,009	1	0	1,120

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Criminal 2021 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	413	7,423	15	30	7,881
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	1,100	5,249	14	31	6,394



Alisa Shannon – Deputy Court Administrator (Criminal Division)

The Court Administration Office of the Criminal Division manages the following Court Departments: Trial Court Services, Specialty Court Services, and Pretrial Services. It provides general oversight of all other Court Departments in the division. This office also serves as the liaison for all outside agencies which impact the division, including but not limited to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Clerk's Office, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, the State Court Administrative Office, as well as other circuit and district courts.

Trial Court Services

The Office of Trial Court Services (TCS) is responsible for coordinating the assignment of counsel in felony matters for indigent defendants in Wayne County, pursuant to the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and *Gideon v. Wainwright*. Additionally, the Trial Court Services Department is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of all warrants within forty-eight (48) hours of entry (excluding holidays and weekends). This process is mandated by The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Michigan State Police (MSP) for second party verification of all Failure to Appear (FTA) and Violation of Probation (VOP) warrants entered into LEIN by Third Circuit Court.

Specialty Court Services

The Office of Specialty Court Services oversees the following operations in the Criminal Division: Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC), Mental Health Treatment Court (MHC), Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), and Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP).

Due to the pandemic, Specialty Courts had low participation levels. The Office of Specialty Court Services continues to partner with various organizations and events: Veterans Treatment Court outreach with the Southeast Michigan Veterans Stand Down in October; Mental Health Court incorporating a Med Drop program for participants, which was sponsored by Genoa Healthcare and the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network. The effects from the pandemic still linger; however, Specialty Court Services continues to engage with community partners virtually to reinforce collaboration of ideas and efforts to promote Specialty Court Programs.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The **Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC)** is a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders whose criminal justice involvement stem from alcohol and/or drug abuse. Court staff and community service providers work together to break the cycle of addiction and crime for these defendants. Successful program completion may result in the dismissal of the original charge, a reduced sentence, no jail or prison time, or a combination of the above.

Adult Drug Treatment Court	ADTC
Participants from previous year	25
New Participants Accepted	10
Discharged Participants	8
2021 Graduated Participants	8
Active Participants 2021	19

The **Mental Health Court (MHC)** is designed to provide comprehensive, judicially monitored, psychiatric treatment for individuals who have non-violent criminal backgrounds and are severely and persistently mentally ill. Many participants also have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Defendants are given an opportunity to voluntarily participate (through conditional release) in community treatment and court approved service plans as an alternative to incarceration and the normal criminal prosecution process and punishment. The goals of the program are to provide reduced recidivism, quicker and less costly case resolution, jail bed space savings, and more consistent mental health treatment.

Mental Health Court	MHC
Participants from previous year	19
New Participants Accepted	9
Discharged Participants	10
2021 Graduated Participants	7
Active Participants 2021	11

The **Veterans Treatment Court (VTC)** program is designed to divert eligible Veterans from the traditional criminal justice system and ensure their treatment needs for PTSD, mental health issues, or co-occurring disorders are addressed and provided. Candidates must have a discharge other than dishonorable to be eligible for VTC. Like the Court's other treatment programs, VTC provides a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders. The court staff, the Veterans Administration, and community service partners work together to address the various needs of the VTC participants. Successful program completion may result in the dismissal or reduction of the original charge, a reduced sentence, no jail or prison time, or a combination of the aforementioned.

Veterans Treatment Court	VTC
Participants from previous year	26
New Participants Accepted	18
Discharged Participants	5
2021 Graduated Participants	17
Active Participants 2021	22

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The **Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program** (SSSPP) is an intensive probation compliance program modeled after Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. SSSPP is designed to provide an immediate response to non-compliance. Any proven violation will result in a swift and certain response from the court. SSSPP works closely with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide supervision of all probationers. Probationers are required to undergo frequent, scheduled, and random drug screenings while under supervision. They are also subjected to face-to-face monitoring by the court and MDOC to ensure probation compliance. Although the main goal is to increase compliance, SSSPP also strives to address any other needs of the probationer to help them to be successful and productive citizens once off probation.

Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program	SSSPP
Participants from previous year	13
New Participants Accepted	3
Discharged Participants	12
2021 Graduated Participants	2
Active Participants 2021	2

Pretrial Services

The Office of Pretrial Services monitors defendants released on bond and submits oral and written bond recommendations to the circuit court bench, and to judges and magistrates in the district courts throughout Wayne County. Pretrial Services also calculates Preliminary Sentencing Guideline Reports for the Circuit Court Judges. These reports are used to assist in plea negotiations and management of the dockets. The Court, Wayne County, and the community benefit from the cost savings of decreased pretrial detention by identifying those defendants who can be safely released back to the community pending disposal of felony matters.

Pretrial Services 2021 Statistics

BONDS	
Written Bond Recommendations	1,371
Oral Bond Recommendations	0
Total Bond Recommendations	1,371
SUPERVISION (Yearly Averages)	
Total Defendants Monitored	3,559
Cumulative Total of Defendants Monitored	3,858
Compliance Rate	91%
Failure to Appear Rate	8.4%
SENTENCING GUIDELINES	
Sentencing Guidelines Processed	3,472
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	45%
LEIN QUERIES	17,694

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS



Hon. Melissa A. Cox, Presiding Judge – Family Division – Domestic

The Family Division – Domestic Relations is comprised of 10 Circuit Court Judges and one Probate Judge. Leadership in the Family Division – Domestic Relations changed in 2021 with Presiding Judge Kathleen M. McCarthy’s transfer to the Civil Division and the appointment of the Honorable Melissa A. Cox as Presiding Judge in July of 2021. The Family Domestic Relations Division realized many successes in meeting the growing and diverse needs of families. As anticipated last year, the trends of increased self-representation and out-of-wedlock births greatly impacted the work of the Family Domestic Relations Division in 2021. Cases handled include divorce, paternity, personal protection, emancipation of minors, name changes, parental waivers, and infectious disease matters. Each of these case types may include matters concerning custody, support, parenting time, property, and other issues. In 2021, there were 15,267 new case filings in the Family Division – Domestic Relations Section. Judge Yvonna Abraham joined the bench in July of 2021 upon appointment by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Judges William Hultgren, Laura Mack and Raymond Charron assisted the Family Division – Domestic Relations as Visiting Judges in 2021.

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS JUDGES

Melissa A. Cox, Presiding

Yvonna Abraham
Eric Cholack
Charlene M. Elder

Helal A. Farhat
Alexis A. Glendening
Adel A. Harb
Mary Beth Kelly

Lisa M. Neilson
Lynne A. Pierce
Carla G. Testani

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS REFEREES

Stephanie Witucki, Chief Referee

Diane Biggar
Gwendolyn Davis-Yancey
Daniel Ferency
Craig Feringa

Eric Gloudemans
Rosanne Hostnik
Michael Kwarcinski
Lauren Wright Middleton

Christine Rodriguez
Lynn Ruhlman
Hulen Simpson
Edrick Thompson

Domestic Relations 2021 Statistics

	Divorce w/Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	UIFSA*	Support	Other Domestic**	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	1,140	1,045	5,447	87	4,887	173	12,779
New Filings	1,851	2,376	5,201	68	5,343	428	15,267
Reopened Cases	78	49	18	1	20	20	186
Total Caseload	3,069	3,470	10,666	156	10,250	621	28,232
Dispositions Resulting From:							
Bench Verdicts	67	34	1	0	0	6	108
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	1,517	1,900	1,578	22	2,208	296	7,521
Transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	338	472	627	17	730	124	2,308
Dismissed by Court	150	116	1,410	3	1,343	12	3,034

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Domestic Relations 2021 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Divorce w/Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	UIFSA*	Support	Other Domestic**	Total
Inactive Status	5	1	1	0	0	6	13
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	2,077	2,523	3,617	42	4,281	444	12,984
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	992	947	7,049	114	5,969	177	15,248

*These cases were filed under the Uniform Interstate Support Family Support Act and the Court was asked to establish paternity, or to establish or modify child support in matters where the custodial party and the child lived outside of Michigan.

**These matters are custody actions and other family matters.

Domestic Violence Program



Dennis Donahue

Dennis Donahue is the Legal Director of the Domestic Violence Program and oversees the Personal Protection Order and the Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court.

Personal Protection Order (PPO)

The Family Division – Domestic Relations has a Personal Protection Order (PPO) docket to serve the civil personal protection order needs of domestic abuse, violence, and stalking victims. In 2021, the PPO docket processed 6,769 new cases.

Personal Protection Order (PPO) 2021 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	0	0	0	0
New Filings	4,746	1,990	33	6,769
Reopened Cases	580	355	3	938
Total Caseload	5,326	2,345	36	7,707
Dispositions Resulting From:				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	2,798	587	12	3,397
Orders Issued after Hearing	14	4	0	18
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	1,960	1,411	21	3,392
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	516	315	3	834
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Denial	36	28	0	64
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	5,324	2,345	36	7,705
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	2	0	0	2

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS



Erin Lincoln – Deputy Court Administrator (Friend of the Court)

Friend of the Court

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court (FOC) is the largest FOC in Michigan, with over 275,000 active domestic relations cases. The FOC is an administrative arm of the Court responsible for investigating, reporting, and making recommendations to the Court on matters of custody, parenting time, and support of minor children; and providing mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution.

The FOC’s mission of encouraging positive relations and ensuring financial security for the children and families is accomplished through the collective efforts of the Referee Department, the Case Establishment Department, the Legal Division, Information Services Division, the Court Clerical Services Department, the FOC Scheduling Office, the Family Assessment Services Department, and Administrative Operations.

Friend of the Court referees, attorneys, and their support staff process referrals to establish paternity and family support obligations. The attorneys assist the Family Division-Domestic Relations judges at review hearings to ensure that the “best interests of the children” are served. Once support is established, the departments work in concert to ensure collections. The Friend of the Court uses many means to collect child support. Over \$273,000,000 in support was collected and distributed in 2021.

FOC Fiscal Year 2021 Statistics

Caseload-Open FOC Dockets	276,053
Medical Support Notices Issued	50,562
Custody and Child Support Reports and Recommendations	4,570
Hearings Held by Referees	7,373
Child Support Show Cause Hearings	76
Bench Warrant Issued	7
Bench Warrant Dismissals/Resolution	1,334
Custody and Parenting Time Enforcement Requests Processed	2,410
Amount of Child Support Distributed for the Year	\$273,685,890

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

FOC Child Support Outreach

Community Partners	Number of Participants
Salvation Army William Booth Legal Aid Clinic	1,069
Focus Hope	9
United Auto Workers Vote Center	27
ACCESS	16
La Sed	29
Team Wellness Center	40
Other	484
Total	1,674

The Friend of the Court partners with many organizations to get information about the Friend of the Court processes and procedures out to those who use the Friend of the Court Services. In 2021, one of the oldest partners of the Friend of the Court, the Salvation Army William Booth Legal Aid Clinic, was able to assist 1,069 parties with their Friend of the Court related issues.





FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE



Hon. Edward J. Joseph, Presiding Judge – Family Division-Juvenile

The Family Division – Juvenile is comprised of five Circuit Court Judges and one Probate Judge. Thirteen Referees assist the judges by conducting child protection and delinquency hearings and preparing written recommendations and findings of fact, as well as conducting informal hearings, which include traffic and ordinance violations, school truancy, and consent matters. The Court also services parents with their children that may be incorrigible by filing incorrigibility petitions. There were 2,014 new case filings in the Family Division – Juvenile in 2021. The judges and referees of the Juvenile Division continue their efforts to meet and exceed stringent time guidelines set by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) in Permanency Indicator Reporting (PIR). However, because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, compliance with SCAO PIR guidelines have been compromised. The Juvenile Section took swift and appropriate action to continue its operations throughout the pandemic by using remote technology and conducting remote hearings.

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE JUDGES

Edward J. Joseph, Presiding

Karen Y. Braxton
Jerome C. Cavanagh

Christopher D. Dingell

Cylenphia LaToye Miller
Frank S. Szymanski

FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE REFEREES

James A. Catchings, Jr., Chief Referee

Kathleen Allen
Wanda Cal
Anthony Crutchfield
Raeigen Evans

Leslie Graves
Nicholas J. Hathaway
Laura D. Kellett
Sean Kerman

Daniel M. McGuire
Brandi Taylor
Charles W. Wilson, III
Mona M. Youssef

Juvenile 2021 Statistics

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	6	824	715	419	1,964
New Filings	13	1,260	133	608	2,014
Reopened Cases	1	149	45	0	195
Total Caseload	20	2,233	893	1,027	4,173
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	0	0	0	1	1
Bench Verdicts	1	21	0	354	376
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	1	341	1	162	505
Prosecutor Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed Incompetent	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	0	63	0	0	63
Dismissed by Court	3	370	6	0	379
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	33	33
Consent Calendar	0	0	0	0	0

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Juvenile 2021 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Transferred	0	68	0	15	83
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	140	0	13	153
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	1	49	0	0	50
Not Charged	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Denial	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	6	1,052	7	578	1,643
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	14	1,181	886	449	2,530

*These are criminal matters in which the juvenile has been designated as an adult.



ToieLynn Smith – Deputy Court Administrator (Juvenile Division)

The Deputy Court Administration Office of the Juvenile Division oversees various departments and operations to help ensure the best interest and well-being of children are served in protective cases and deterrent and rehabilitative measures are available in delinquency cases.

Adoptions

The Adoptions Unit is responsible for processing all adoptions for Wayne County residents. The Unit handled a total of 321 new filings in 2021. The Unit helps ensure permanently bonded families through the timely termination of parental rights, formal placement of children into approved homes, adoption finalization, and the delivery of efficient post-adoption services. In addition to the adoption petitions that were filed, zero voluntary releases of Parental Rights and 96 requests for release of post-adoption information were processed.

Adoptions 2021 Statistics

2021 Filings	321
Voluntary Release of Parental Rights	0
Requests for Release of Post-Adoption Information	96
Pending Adoption Petitions as of January 1, 2021	122
New Filings	321
Reopened Cases	3
Total Caseload	446
Adoptions Finalized	341
Adoption Petitions Withdrawn	3
Adoption Petitions Dismissed	17

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Adoptions 2021 Statistics (Cont'd)

Rescissions Granted	0
Adoption Petitions Transferred	0
Total Dispositions	361
Pending Adoption Petitions as of December 31, 2021	85

Assigned Counsel Services

The Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) Unit is responsible for processing attorney assignments and scheduling attorneys as Emergency House Counsel and House Counsel to represent indigent parties. The Unit also addresses attorney assignment and payment inquiries and ensures that attorneys are available and dispatched to the courtrooms when needed.

Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) 2021 Statistics

Attorney Assignments Scheduled	2,585
Orders of Appointment/Updated Petitions	317
Request for Emergency House Counsel Assignments	1,059
Notice of Removal of Assigned Counsel	269
Appearances	92
Attorney Payment/Assignment Inquiries	143

Court Appointed Special Advocates Program

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) plays a valuable role in child protective proceedings and services children in out-of-home placements. Volunteers are trained to serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Juvenile jurists when making a decision regarding placement. By reviewing records, observing parenting time visits, attending family team meetings, etc., CASA volunteers can make fact-based recommendations to the jurists. CASA volunteers make recommendations regarding what is best for the children. In 2021, most of the meetings and home visits took place via Zoom or Face Time for the safety and well-being of the CASA volunteers and people we served.

In 2021, CASA Volunteer Training was completed in March and October/November resulting in 11 new volunteers who were trained and sworn in. This brought our total number of volunteers for the year of 2021 to 51. CASA was also able to close seven (7) cases for the year 2021. The total number of children served by CASA volunteers was 112. CASA outreach activities included providing book bags donated by Quicken Loans filled with supplies to 54 CASA children. Through CASA community sponsors families receiving services from CASA received Christmas gifts.

CASA staff participated in knowledge-based enrichment by attending the CASA Directors' Meeting in October and the Michigan Virtual Conference in November; both offered a substantial learning experience for staff.

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Juvenile Status Unit

The Juvenile Status Unit provides services for certain youth on Probation, as well as diverted youth whose petitions have not been made official. The Status Unit also provides services to families seeking help for youth exhibiting incorrigible behavior.

The Unit interviews, screens, and processes all youth admitted to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) 24 hours daily. The 24-Hour Desk located inside JDF assists Police Agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Public during and after Court business hours.

Additionally, this Desk coordinates the transportation of youth through Transfer of Jurisdiction (within counties) and interstate transportation through Interstate Compact (DHHS).

On October 1, 2021, the Raise The Age (RTA) legislation was implemented to include Juveniles who are 17 years of age. The Status Unit now services 17-year-olds and accepts 17-year-olds with new charges into the JDF.

The Unit provides Pre-sentence and Re-sentencing reports to the Court for Designated cases.

The Status Unit performed most monitoring services of youth during 2021 via Zoom and telephone. In-person monitoring occurred while following strict COVID-19 protocols.

Status Unit 2021 Statistics

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	909
Family Interviews	262
Informal Probation (Consent, Diversion, Incorrigible)	152
Designated Cases	28
Out County/Plea Under Advisement/Truancy	1
Petitions Filed	25
Raise The Age (17-year-olds)	69

Juvenile Drug Court – S.T.A.N.D.

The Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotic Dependency (STAND) Program is a Juvenile Drug Court program that was designed to eliminate a juvenile's substance use and abuse and delinquent behavior. The program utilizes a non-adversarial approach, therapeutic jurisprudence, and case management to develop, coordinate, and monitor the juvenile's treatment. It forges partnerships with other public agencies and community-based organizations to enhance the program's effectiveness. The STAND Program is supervised by Judge Karen Braxton.

Participants in the STAND Program are provided access to a continuum of alcohol and drug-related treatment services. The program also provides many other services such as family therapy, a parent group, tutoring, and mental health services. While the program uses various sanctions for failure to comply with the terms of a juvenile's treatment plan, the Court focuses on incentives as rewards for the progress that a juvenile has made. Additionally, the program promotes participation in the pro-social activity.

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Juvenile Drug Court – S.T.A.N.D. (cont'd)

The program lasts approximately nine months, but the actual length of the program depends upon the juvenile's progress. In some circumstances, if the juvenile successfully completes the program, the original charge will be dismissed, allowing the juvenile to maintain a clean juvenile record. After successful completion of the program, the youth participate in a graduation ceremony sharing their successes with family, friends, and other participants still enrolled in the program.

The STAND Program is a very intense program. However, the benefits to the participants and their families are extraordinary. Not only are the youth substance free after completion of the program, but they are well prepared for a productive life without any further court involvement.

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the STAND Program was successful in providing tele-health therapeutic services to the participants. Substance abuse, mental health, anger management and trauma-informed care groups were offered virtually. The majority of services were conducted remotely with independent contracted service providers. The Program was also able to return to some in-person therapy sessions for families. Educational Advocates were able to work with schools to provide parents and participants assistance obtaining assignments, textbooks, and equipment for remote learning.

The 2021 highlights for the STAND Program included the following activities. Four (4) individuals successfully completed all phases of the program were honored during case conference hearings via Zoom. The Program provided gender-specific mentoring groups; the group took part in a special project which focused on having each participant create a vision board and sharing their goals for the future. At the start of the school year all participants were provided with backpacks filled with school supplies and other items from the National Association of Negro Business Women's Inc. – Detroit Club.

S.T.A.N.D 2021 Program Participants

Returning Participants	15
New Admissions	8
Total Participants in Program for the Year	23

2021 Outcomes

Total Participants	23
Removed Participants	12
Graduated	4
Active Participants at the end of 2021	7

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

TIP – Truancy Intervention Project

The Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) was launched to address the rise of chronic absenteeism problems throughout the schools in Wayne County, Michigan. TIP has expanded as a community outreach model for school districts providing support services to address and reduce school truancy problems. Students receive services from TIP to avoid formal court involvement. The Juvenile Court Referee conducts informal hearings with students referred by their school attendance officers with parents and, if needed, law enforcement, social service agencies, and mental health providers in attendance. The representatives attending these hearings will assist with the development of viable intervention plans for each student. While each case is unique, TIP always seeks to improve student attendance, promote academic achievement, facilitate greater parental involvement, and build strong partnerships with local service providers.

During the 2020-2021 school year, there were no schools that received TIP services. The TIP program continues to stay in contact with Detroit Public School Community District, Harper Woods, Redford, and Ecorse School Districts, as well as Annapolis High and O.W. Best Middle Schools (located in Dearborn Heights) regarding attendance needs within their districts.

Juvenile Mental Health Court

The Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC) is a problem-solving court that combines judicial supervision with community mental health and other ancillary services in an effort to reduce court contact and improve the quality of life for program participants.

JMHC strives to identify youth with mental health concerns and divert them from the formal court docket. The youth and families are connected to appropriate services in the community, with the goal of reducing the number of youth with mental health issues who reoffend, and to increase adherence to appropriate services for mental health issues by using a multi-disciplinary team approach to develop and monitor service plans and compliance.

The supervising Judge of the JMHC is Judge Edward Joseph. Youth and families have bi-weekly status review hearings and the jurists closely monitor these cases. The judge rewards progress through the program with various incentives, and handles non-compliance with graduated sanctions.

Clinical Assessments, Home-Based Therapy, Medication Reviews, and other Clinical Groups are provided by the Clinic for Child Study, Guidance Center, Lincoln Behavioral Services, Black Family Development, Southwest Counseling Solutions, Development Center, Northeast Guidance Center, Children's Center, Community Network Services, and Starfish Family Services. These agency partnerships developed in 2018, and have added the ability for JMHC to serve youth who do not receive Medicaid through the use of the Severe Emotional Disturbance Waiver. Home-Based Therapy provides a therapist in the home for 2-20 hours per week, as needed by the participant. Parent Support Partners work with parents once per week, and Wraparound Services meet with the family several times per week. Psychiatric services are provided by each agency. Drug testing, assessment, and treatment referrals are handled through the Court's Case Management Team.

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

In March 2020, JMHC suspended referrals due to COVID-19. JMHC began accepting referrals again in June of 2021. Due to COVID-19, in-person visits were suspended and probation officer monitoring and case conferences took place via Zoom. In October of 2021, home visits started again, while case conferences and hearings continue to be conducted on Zoom.

Four youth have successfully completed the program in 2021.

JMHC’s Education Advocacy service is changing, and in 2021, all participants with a need for education advocacy were assigned an attorney advocate from one of the five practicing attorney groups at the Juvenile Section.

In 2021, JMHC was again highlighted in the Wayne County System of Care’s Annual report to the Community, as a part of their spectrum of effective community-based services for children and youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances. Judge Joseph received an Honors Award in August of 2021 for his work in the area of Mental Health, through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The awards were given at the H Hotel in Midland, Michigan.

Juvenile Mental Health 2021 Statistics

Returning Participants	7
New Admissions	8
Graduates	4
Total Participants	15

FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Family 2021 Statistics

	Other Family*	Ancillary**	Total
Pending Cases as of Jan. 1st	102	0	102
New Filings	626	0	626
Reopened Cases	0	0	0
Total Caseload	728	0	728
Dispositions Resulting From:			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	92	0	92
Orders Issued after Hearing	438	0	438
Petition Granted	0	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	19	0	19
Petition Denied	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	54	0	54
Petition Withdrawn/Dismissed	0	0	0
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	603	0	603
Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st	125	0	125

*Other Family includes name change, safe delivery, personal protection filed, emancipation of minors, infectious disease, parental waiver actions, and Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care.

**Ancillary Proceedings includes guardianship and conservatorships, mental illness, as well as judicial admissions matters.

HISTORY OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT COURT

The Third Judicial Circuit Court is the largest trial court in the state. It has been an important court in the state because of the cases litigated, decisions issued, and the public service careers of its judges on this bench and elsewhere. The Historical Society Committee was created to do further research and develop the history, so that it may be preserved and shared.



Third Circuit Court's Historical Society Committee

Judge Lila Neuenfelt (1902-1981) was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on October 26, 2021 during a virtual induction ceremony. Judge Neuenfelt was the first woman circuit court judge in Michigan and at the time of her swearing in, was the youngest woman in the U.S. to become an attorney. She is known for fighting for married women's rights to use their birthname in professional capacities and for mentoring other women lawyers and judges as they rose in their careers, including Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, Judge Cornelia Kennedy. Back in 2017, Third Circuit Court held a Portrait Unveiling Ceremony hosted by Hon. Muriel D. Hughes. Judge Neuenfelt's portrait hangs in Courtroom 1401, which was where Judge Neuenfelt presided from when the courthouse was built in 1953 until her retirement.



Third Circuit Court Bench



Campaign Literature



Third Circuit Court Bench



The Women Judges of the Third Circuit Court - 2017

HISTORY OF THE BENCH – CHIEF JUDGES



(Left to Right: Hon. James Rashid, Hon. Michael Sapala, Hon. Mary Beth Kelly, Hon. Timothy Kenny, Hon. William Giovan, Hon. Virgil Smith, Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.)
(Not Pictured: Hon. Richard Kaufman)



1/16/67 – 1/14/75 - Hon. Joseph A. Sullivan



1/15/75 – 12/31/77 - Hon. James N. Canham



1/1/78 – 12/31/85 - Hon. Richard Dunn



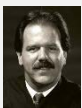
1/1/86 – 3/16/86 - Hon. Joseph B. Sullivan



3/17/86 – 3/24/86 - Hon. W. Leo Cahalan



3/25/86 – 12/31/93 - Hon. Richard Kaufman



1/1/94 – 9/30/97 - Hon. James Rashid



10/1/97 – 12/31/01 - Hon. Michael Sapala



1/1/02 – 12/31/03 - Hon. Timothy M. Kenny

(Co-Chief Judge)



1/1/02 – 12/31/07 - Hon. Mary Beth Kelly



1/1/08 – 12/31/08 - Hon. William Giovan



1/1/09 – 12/31/13 - Hon. Virgil C. Smith



1/1/14 – 12/31/18 - Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.



1/1/19 – Present - Hon. Timothy M. Kenny

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Strategic Plan Teams 2021

The work continues. Nothing can stop the progress of Third Circuit Court. One of the Court's Strategic Projects was the implementation of a robust remote work program. Many factors were involved including implementation of technology and workflow and the move to an automated and paperless environment.

Some highlights of the project include:

- Zoom Implementation of court proceedings: The court implemented Zoom sessions for all jurists, allowing court proceedings to continue during the Covid-19 pandemic. An increase in servers, storage capacity and other network requirements will be required for maintaining the Zoom court proceedings.
- Provide the hardware and software needed to supply the remote work staff the necessary tools to work remotely.
- FOC process automation: Implementation of workflow in the FOC Case Establishment Department. This workflow will allow the paperless processing and automation of this department, improving efficiencies and time standards.

Concurrent with the work done on the technological side, on the staffing side a Strategic Project team worked to create a Remote Work Policy to guide practices during and post-pandemic.

Some highlights of the project include:

- Creation of a value statement to remind of the Court's priorities: The Court's foremost priorities are serving the public with excellence and ensuring access to justice. The Court accomplishes these objectives, whether at the courthouse or remote locations, through the use of technology and innovative best practices.
- By way of a survey, the input of Court staff was acquired to assist with refinement and finalization of the policy. The survey results were then disseminated court-wide.
- The team finalized the policy and its supporting documents and rolled it out to Court staff with an effective date of October 1, 2021.

In 2021, the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Strategic Project Team lists among its accomplishments continued publication of the monthly holiday calendar, sharing continued conference opportunities for court staff and leaders, and continuing the education of team members. The team has created three committees – judges, leadership (supervisors), and staff; and in the upcoming year, the subcommittees will focus their work on the 10 key areas of D&I:

1. Accountability and Leadership
2. Data Analysis
3. Education/Learning
4. Attract, Hire, and Develop Talent
5. Mentoring and Sponsorship
6. Executive Diversity Council
7. Employee Resource Groups
8. Community, Government, Relations and Social
9. Supplier Diversity
10. Workplace Environment

The 2021 strategic project addressed immediate needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the workforce.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021



Members of the Court joined with Amanda Fresard's Love One Another group of donors and assemblers to bring 532 Easter baskets to many children across the Metro Detroit area. Baskets were distributed to children through many entities, including Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan, Rev. Ellison of Church of the New Covenant-Baptist of Detroit, Gleaners (Mercado Food Hub), La Sed, Stanford House, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Detroit Rescue Mission, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Turning Point, and Stanford House of Dearborn.



Chief Judge Timothy M. Kenny, his wife June, Executive Court Administrator Zenell Brown, retired Magistrate Jane Colombo, and retired Chief Judge Robert J. Colombo attending the DBA annual meeting.



On September 30, 2021 Canada acknowledged its inaugural "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation." The day is intended to honor the survivors of Canada's Indigenous Community against whom a cultural genocide was committed through Canada's use of its Residential Schooling programs. Citizens are encouraged to wear an Orange Shirt to honor the victims and survivors of the Residential Schooling Program on this date. Various judges and court personnel participated in Orange Shirt Day in wearing orange shirts or ties to work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Grants Awarded in 2021

FY 2021 Michigan Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program Grant Award - \$50,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2021 Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program Award - \$90,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2021 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Mental Health Court - \$257,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2021 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Adult Mental Health Court - \$337,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2021 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Drug Court - \$64,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2021 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Hybrid DWI/Drug Court - \$219,000
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY2021 Child and Parent Legal Representation (CPLR) – \$1,001,725
Awarded by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Our Community Partners Include:

Arab Community Ctr. for Economics & Social Services (ACCESS)

Black Child Development Institute

Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Children and Family Services (C.A.F.S.)

Circle of Parents (NHMBC)

Detroit Bar Association

Detroit Parent Network

Detroit Public Library

Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

Disability Network

80 Strong Community Outreach

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Detroit)

Fifth Third Bank

Friends of CASA

Focus Hope

Jewish Vocational Services

Judge Nance on radio 910AM

Looking For My Sister

Mariner's Inn Shelter & Treatment

Michigan State University

Michigan Veterans Foundation

National Association of Negro Business and

Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC)

National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

Stakeholder Partnerships, Education &

Communications (SPEC)

The Children's Center

The Guidance Center – Southgate

The Salvation Army's William Booth Legal Aid Clinic

U of D Mercy School of Law

U.S. Probation Officer Workforce

Wayne County Family Law Bar Association

Wayne County Head Start

Wayne County Probate Court

Wayne Mediation Center

Wayne State University Law School

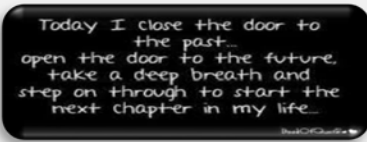
Wayne County Community College District

WMU-Cooley Law School

Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

Young Fathers Standing United

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS



Ann Brown, 33 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic



Wanda Jones, 23 years – Clinical Case Manager, Family Juvenile



Wilda Motley-Penn, 17 years – Forensic Family Clinician, Administration



Gilbert Roland, 34 years – Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal

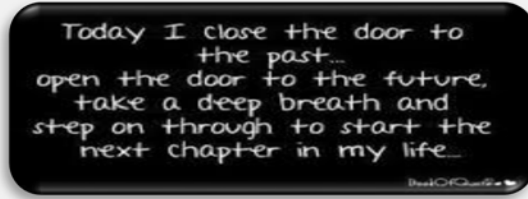


Betty Sanders, 30 years – Official Court Reporter, Administration



Kathleen Sanfilippo, 31 years – Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Court Administrator, Family Juvenile

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS



Richard Smart, 24 years – Deputy Court Administrator – Juvenile Division



Andrea Smith, 30 years – Clerk IV, Criminal



Lynn Thomas, 22 years – Information Specialist I, Family Domestic



Deborah Wadley, 28 years – Clerk III, Family Domestic



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Many of the great Achievements of the world were accomplished by Tired and Discouraged people who kept on Working!

Hon. David J. Allen – Judge Allen received the 2021 Judicial Excellence Award at the 76th Annual Banquet - Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ). This award is given in appreciation for the recipient's commitment to the law and serving the public.

Hon. Mariam Bazzi – Judge Bazzi received the 2021 Women Lawyers Association of Michigan – Wayne the Honorable Kirsten Frank Kelly Award. This award is presented to a Wayne County attorney who not only contributes to the WLAM-Wayne, but has exemplified dedication to leadership and actively champions justice in the Wayne County legal community.

Hon. Karen Braxton – Judge Braxton was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan's Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform. The work of the Task Force is to focus on analyzing our juvenile justice system, while recommending proven practices and strategies for reform grounded in data, research, and fundamental constitutional principles.

Zenell Brown – Zenell Brown was presented the Sojourner Truth Award from the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. This award is the highest award presented by their organization to a woman exhibiting outstanding community services far beyond the call of duty; and whose life closely parallels that of the immortal Sojourner Truth – a champion for women's and civil rights; conscientious toward raising the standards of life for Blacks, women, and other minorities.

Zenell was appointed in June to the newly created Michigan Judicial Council. The Council is tasked with planning strategically for the Michigan judicial branch, enhancing the work of courts, and making recommendations regarding the administration of justice.

Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr. – Judge Edwards was appointed to the Jail Reform Advisory Council by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in April. He is recognized for his experiences, skills, and leadership.

Hon. Helal A. Farhat – Judge Farhat was appointed to the newly created Michigan Judicial Council. Judge Farhat was selected from many judicial applicants around the State. He brings not only an excellent judicial perspective to the Council, but also the extensive experience of a trial litigator.

Alex Fuller – Alex graduated from Wayne State University Law School.

Mike Gruich – Mike graduated from the Institute for Court Management's Certified Court Managers program. The program is composed of leaders from companies around the U.S.

Hon. Edward Joseph – Judge Joseph received the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Michigan Special Honoree Award for the work of the Juvenile Mental Health Court in Wayne County.

Tammi Palmer – Tammi graduated from the Institute for Court Management's Certified Court Managers program. The program is composed of leaders from companies around the U.S.

Alisa Shannon – Alisa graduated from the Institute for Court Management's Certified Court Managers program. The program is composed of leaders from companies around the U.S.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

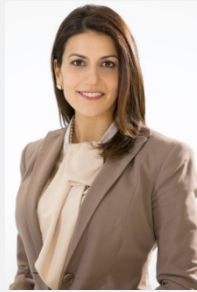
Many of the great Achievements of the world were accomplished by Tired and Discouraged people who kept on Working!

Hon. Brian R. Sullivan – Judge Sullivan was elected as Secretary to the Judicial Tenure Commission.

Fran Yturri – Fran was the recipient of the Detroit Bar Association’s Pro Bono Service Award. *“To work for the common good is the noblest creed. To do so with excellence is the highest accomplishment.”*



Judge Allen



Judge Bazzi



Judge Braxton



Zenell Brown



Judge Edwards



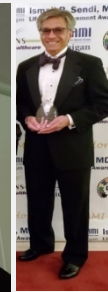
Judge Farhat



Alex Fuller



Mike Gruich



Judge Joseph



Tammi Palmer



Alisa Shannon



Judge Sullivan



Fran Yturri

COVER CONTEST WINNERS

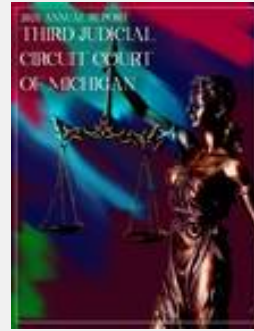


Adrianna Robinson – 1st Place (Front Cover)

Adrianna Robinson is 17-year-old. She was in her 2nd year of William D. Ford Tech Center. She is going to Grand Valley State University for a BA in Supply Chain Management. She received a full scholarship at GV and she's attending in the fall. Later in the future she plans to move out of Michigan. She would travel a little but wants to settle down in a different state. She likes digital art but more of something to do on the side, art has been more of a hobby than a career choice for her.



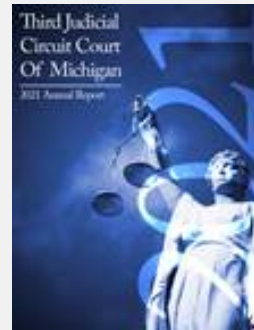
Alyssa Bell– 2nd Place



Alyssa Bell was a 2nd year Digital Art student at William D. Ford Technical Center in Westland where she earned her State Approved Design certificate. Her goal is to create beautiful designs that she's proud of. She always wants to improve her skills. In her spare time she enjoys watching documentaries because of how informational they are. After high school she is taking a year off to figure out her future. She hopes that one day she will be able to travel wherever she wants in the world.



Ivonte Dior Williams – 3rd Place



Ivonte' Dior Williams was a senior in high school. In his free time he likes to play video games, watch TV, play basketball, draw, and make milkshakes. He has 3 siblings, 2 brothers and a sister. He currently is employed at Firehouse Subs and he has a dream of going to college for Psychology.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



Hon. Isidore B. Torres, Retired Judge. December 13, 1947 – January 12, 2021. Judge Torres was appointed to the Detroit Recorder’s Court in 1989 by Governor John Engler. He joined the Third Circuit Court when Detroit Recorder’s Court and Third Circuit Court merged in 1997. Judge Torres served for 20+ years until he retired from the bench in 2010. As the first Hispanic Judge to serve in the Wayne County court system, Judge Torres’ appointment expanded the community’s view of what a judge looks like. Judge Torres was remembered by judicial colleagues as a fearless fighter for civil rights especially for the Latino community. Judge Torres graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, and received a Juris Doctorate degree from Wayne State University Law School.



Rebecca Mendoza, Retired – Court Services Administrative Assistant, Administration. Passed away March 23, 2021



Bernadine Cleary, Retired – Domestic Relations Supervisor, Family Domestic Division. Passed away March 26, 2021.



Catherine Johnson, Retired – Payments Clerk I, Family Domestic Division. Passed away April 8, 2021.



Dawn Lewis, Former Employee – Clerk III, Family Domestic Division. April 20, 1967 – April 3, 2021.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



Marcello (Marcel) Rossi, Retired – Official Court Reporter, Administration. Passed away May 11, 2021.



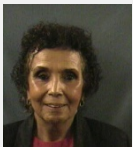
Lisa Robinson, Retired – Document Management Supervisor, Family Domestic Division. Passed away May 25, 2021.



Hon. Karen M. Fort Hood, Retired Judge. Passed away August 15, 2021. Judge Hood was the first Black woman elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2002. She served as a Judge for Third Circuit Court from 1992 – 2002.



Tillie Austin, Retired – Official Court Reporter, Administration. Passed away September 1, 2021.



Helen Estes, Retired – Senior Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic Division. Passed away September 29, 2021.



Ruby Cato, Retired – Account Clerk II, Family Domestic Division. Passed away November 4, 2021.

COURT LEADERSHIP

Hon. Timothy M. Kenny **CHIEF JUDGE**

Hon. Patricia Perez Fresard
CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEM
PRESIDING – CIVIL DIVISION

Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr.
PRESIDING – CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Melissa A. Cox
PRESIDING – FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Hon. Edward J. Joseph
PRESIDING – FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

Zenell B. Brown **EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

Lyn Roberts
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Richard Lynch
GENERAL COUNSEL

Toby Horner
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Toielynn Smith, Deputy Court Administrator
FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Violet Leonard
PROJECT CONSULTANT

Alisa Shannon, Deputy Court Administrator
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Benita Cheatom
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Tamela Aikens
DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL COURT SERVICES

Yvonne Owen
SENIOR MANAGER – HUMAN RESOURCES

Erin Lincoln, Deputy Court Administrator
FRIEND OF THE COURT
FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Lisa Timmons, Executive Director
MEDIATION TRIBUNAL ASSOCIATION

Jillian Fitzgerald
ASSISTANT FRIEND OF THE COURT

Yvette Blackmon
DIRECTOR OF JURY SERVICES

Eric Weems
DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING AND FACILITIES

Michael Gruich
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Jan Hiller
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING AND FACILITIES

Sam Girgenti
DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Tammi Palmer
DIRECTOR OF CASE PROCESSING

Michelle Milligan Chiaravalli
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY ASSESSMENT SERVICES/CLINIC

This report is available on the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan's website, www.3rdcc.org.