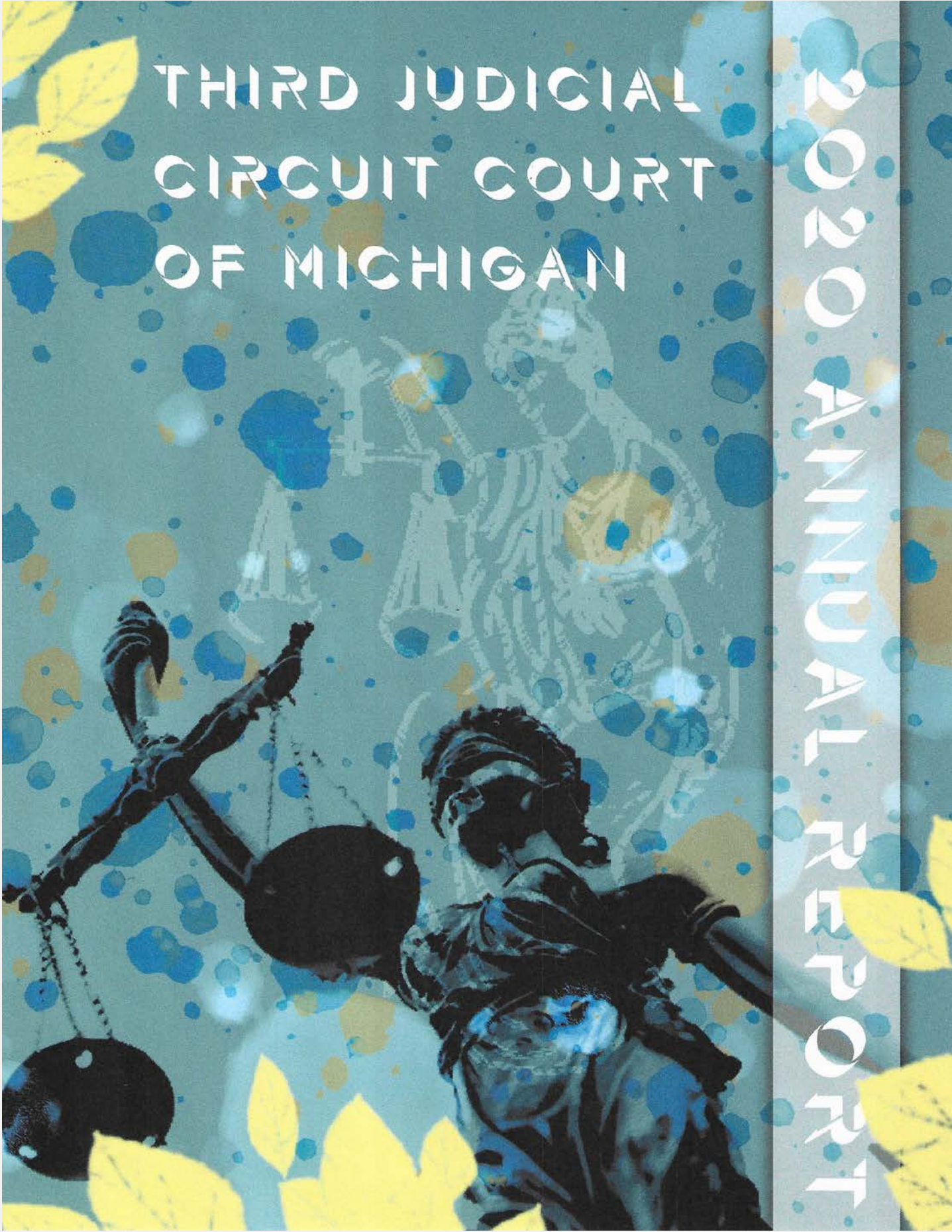


THIRD JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT COURT  
OF MICHIGAN

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

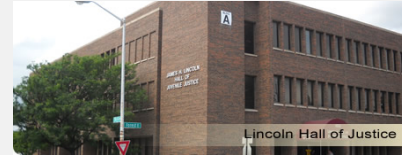




Coleman A. Young Municipal Center



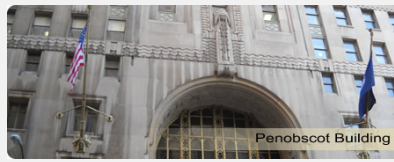
Frank Murphy Hall of Justice



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:

2020: It started out as any typical year and then transformed into a year of unprecedented events. It was the year of Coronavirus pandemic and social justice unrest. However, our Court met the challenges and threats and ensured the services of justice were delivered.

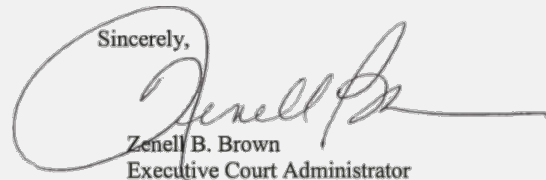
First, we were able to quickly pivot from our strategic project of launching Zoom proceedings in one courtroom to launching Zoom Courtwide. We sought the expertise advice of Wayne County Department of Health and City of Detroit Health Departments and created a contact tracing procedure, safety protocol, and deep cleaning protocol. We shelved our telecommuting policy and rolled out a remote working policy. We created electronic filing processes in divisions where we did not yet have eFiling and we determined ways to host drive-through and virtual specialty court graduations. Even projects in their infancy such as the new Juvenile Justice program which incorporated pre-adjudication assessment and behavioral health services for family still progressed.

We experienced setbacks and losses. We honor the memory and send our condolences to all the Third Circuit Court families and friends who lost a loved one this year.

Third Circuit Court made it through the darkest night and the uncertainty because of the judges, managers, staff, stakeholders, and partners. I am grateful for every individual and every individual contribution that made the delivery of judicial services possible in 2020, and I hope this annual report captures and highlights the indomitable spirit and commitment.

It is my honor to present to you, and our judges, staff, partners, and public the Third Circuit Court's 2020 Annual Report.

Justice prevailed.

Sincerely,  
  
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:

2020 was a year – to quote Charles Dickens – “It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” It was the best of times due to our judges and court staff responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They continued to serve the public and became technologically skilled, and dealt with the health and safety challenges presented during the year. The worst of times was reflected in the Pandemic. It caused court operations to shift to remote work in order to protect judges, staff, and the public from the onslaught of the Pandemic.

During 2020, judges and court staff adapted to Zoom technology in order to serve the public. Judges and court staff pivoted quickly to handle cases remotely, permitted the public to view hearings through YouTube or Zoom, and conducted business in a way that was protective of health and safety.

Special recognition goes to the Court’s IT and Facilities Department who were required to make swift and extensive efforts to accommodate the needs of the Court during this Pandemic year. The IT Department provided the Zoom and YouTube accessibility, use instructions, and continued technological support. The Facilities Department worked diligently to ensure that personal protection equipment (PPE), as well as Plexiglas and other safety measures were provided in all courtrooms and jury assembly rooms throughout the Court’s locations in order to protect all courthouse users.

Court Administration leadership was on-site and provided the resources, assistance, and encouragement to meet the many challenges faced by the Third Circuit Court in 2020.

In 2020 the Court saw the appointment of one and the November election of two new judges to the Bench. Judge Darnella Williams-Claybourne was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer and is serving in the Criminal Division. Judges Chandra Baker and Mary Beth Kelly were elected to the Bench in the November, 2020 General Election. Judge Baker joined the Criminal Division, Judge Mary Beth Kelly joined the Family Division of our Court. The three judges are experts in the divisions in which they are serving and also reflect the diversity of our Wayne County Community.

2020 saw the retirement of three judges who had served the Third Circuit Court with distinction for decades. Judges Craig Strong, Ulysses Boykin, and Cynthia Gray Hathaway served the Judiciary in Wayne County for more than 75 years combined. Their contributions to the Court and to Wayne County will be sorely missed.

In 2021 the Court continues to deal with challenges of the Pandemic and the needs of the citizens of Wayne County as we look forward to a “new normal” in the near future.

My thanks to all who helped serve to make our Court the excellent institution it is. We continue in our efforts to deliver justice and excellent service to all.

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

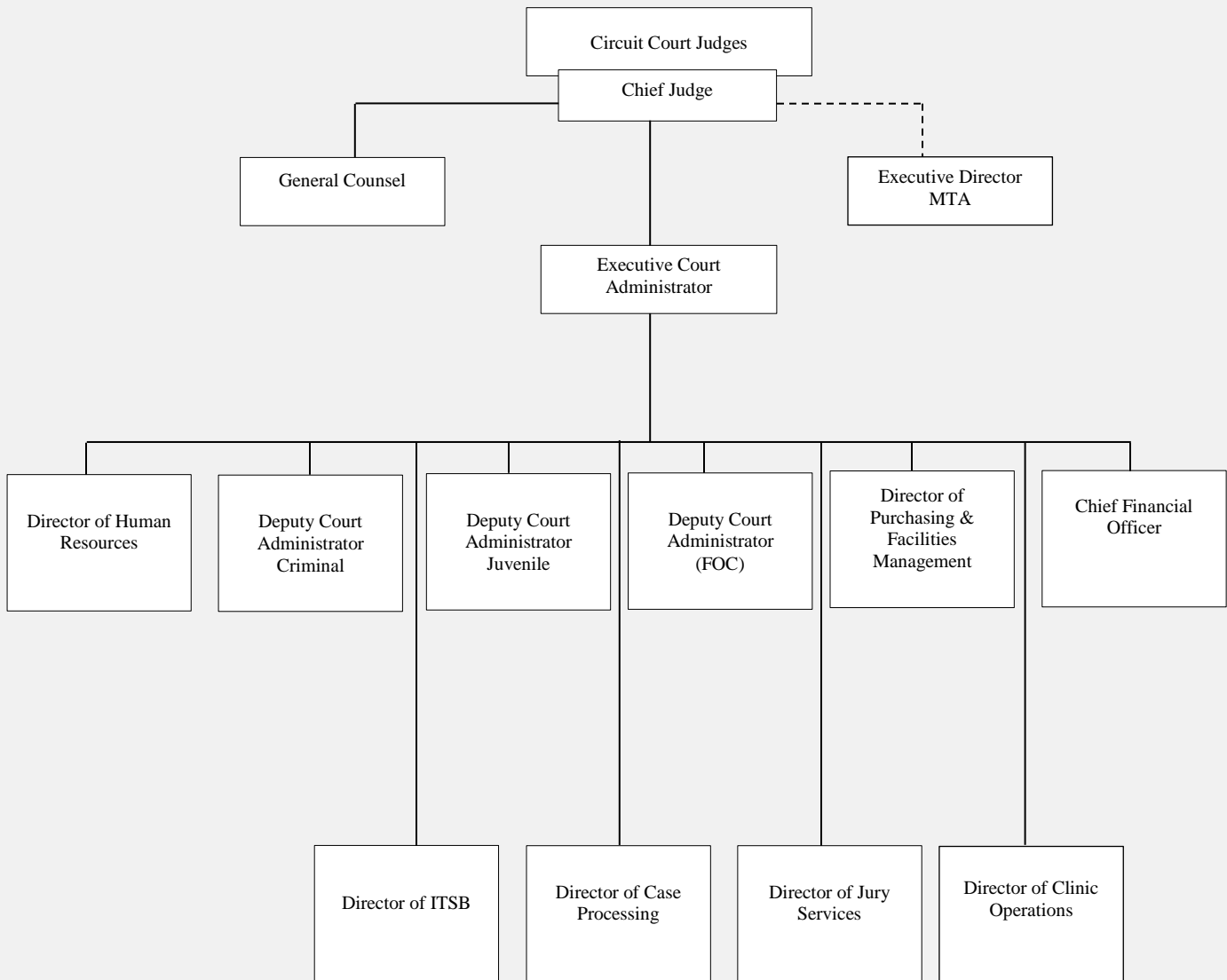


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# THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

## 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 Milligan, 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  
Kevin J. Cox  
Edward Ewell, Jr.  
Sheila Ann Gibson

John H. Gillis, Jr.  
David A. Groner  
Dana Margaret Hathaway  
Susan L. Hubbard  
Muriel D. Hughes  
John A. Murphy

Lita M. Popke  
Leslie Kim Smith  
Martha M. Snow  
Craig S. Strong  
Brian R. Sullivan

### **CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Prentis Edwards, Jr., Presiding

Mariam Bazzi  
Gregory Dean Bill  
Ulysses W. Boykin  
James R. Chylinski  
Paul J. Cusick  
Wanda A. Evans  
Tracy E. Green  
Bridget Mary Hathaway

Thomas M. J. Hathaway  
Catherine L. Heise  
Noah Hood  
Donald Knapp, Jr.  
Qiana Denise Lillard  
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**

Kathleen M. McCarthy, Presiding

Eric Cholack  
Melissa A. Cox  
Charlene M. Elder

Helal A. Farhat  
Alexis A. Glendening  
Adel A. Harb  
Charles S. Hegarty

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

Cylenthia LaToye Miller  
Frank S. Szymanski



# **THIRD CIRCUIT COURT REFEREES**

## **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Stephanie Witucki, Chief Referee

Diane Biggar  
Gwendolyn Davis-Yancey  
Craig Feringa  
Eric Gloudemans  
Shannon Haneline

Rosanne Hostnik  
Viola King  
Michael Kwarcinski  
Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy  
Lauren Wright Middleton  
Christine Rodriguez

Lynn Ruhlman  
Rebekah Sellers  
Hulen Simpson  
Edrick Thompson  
Jessica Walker

## **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE**

James A. Catchings, Jr., Chief Referee

Kathleen Allen  
Wanda Cal  
Anthony Crutchfield  
Thomas D. Doetsch, Sr.

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

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

## JUDGES JOINING THE BENCH IN 2020

*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.*

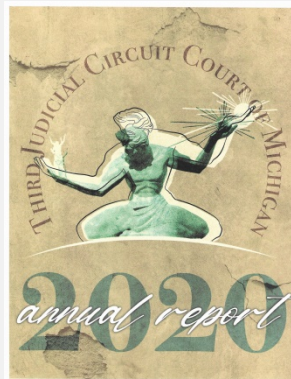
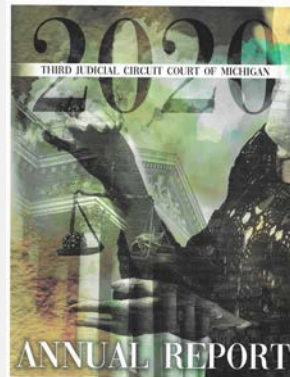
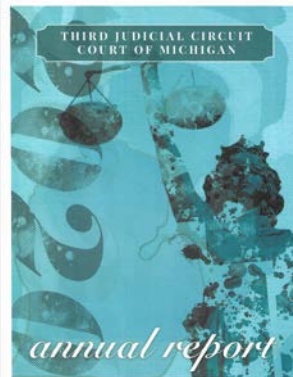


**Hon. Darnella D. Williams-Claybourne**

Judge Darnella D. Williams-Claybourne was appointed to the Wayne County Third Circuit Court in March 2020 and is assigned to the Criminal Division. Judge Williams-Claybourne previously served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Wayne County Executive's Office. In this role, she reviewed, approved, and executed contracts on behalf of the County Executive, worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel, and acted as the Freedom of Information Appellate Officer for the County. Additionally, she worked as a civil litigation attorney, served as General Counsel to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, and was an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Currently, she is a professor at Wayne County Community College District. While earning her law degree, she also served as a police officer with the Detroit Police Department. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University and her Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.



2020 Annual Report artistic renderings from various high school students



## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION TEAM JOINING THE COURT IN 2020



### **Yvonne Owen – Senior Human Resources Manager**

Yvonne S. Owen comes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit Court with a broad base of experience in labor relations and employment law from both the private and public sectors. She has over 20 years of experience that has been built from all levels of these organizations; her most recent experience was that of manager of the Human Resources Department of Wayne County Probate Court.

Yvonne has a strong belief in the value of lifelong learning and education. Putting this belief into practice has resulted in her being awarded many certifications that have been augmented through more formal education. During her career she returned to school and earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Information Systems, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration majoring in Human Resources Management, and a Master's Degree in Human Resources and Labor Relations.

In her leisure time, Yvonne is an avid roller coaster fanatic (Cedar Point is a favorite summertime destination), loves spending time with her family (a blended group of 5 children and 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 23), likes to travel, spends time at the cottage, and enjoys outdoor activities including: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, and swimming. Not only is she certified in human resources related areas, Yvonne has been certified as a balloon handler by the Detroit Parade Company and has been in several Thanksgiving Day Parades. During this pandemic, she tries to focus on what activities can still safely be done, rather than lamenting those activities that will (for now) have to wait.

With over 20 years of experience in Human Resources and Labor Relations, Yvonne is truly excited to be a part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Human Resources team and sees this as an opportunity to utilize her education, experience, and training and to further enhance them.

## **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, per diem court reporting services, transcripts, and court officers. Implementing the automated payment system for these high volume requests will continue to be a significant technological improvement, especially since there has been an increase in remote work due to the pandemic during fiscal year 2019-2020. 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 2019-2020, 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 2020, \$2,923,079 was collected in court costs, attorney fees, and late fees in the Criminal Division. In addition, the unit mailed out 21,069 delinquency notices and established 884 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 2020, the Grants Unit met the financial responsibilities related to the funding of the Friend of the Court (FOC), the Juvenile Clinic 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 \$36.4 million, with approximately \$29.8 million for the FOC and \$6.6 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 for fiscal year 2019-2020 amounted to approximately \$1.3 million.

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 2020, FSU processed 9,847 transactions totaling approximately \$3.5 million compared to 24,440 transactions and approximately \$7.7 million in 2019. 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. In addition, Case Processing 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 remote tools such as Zoom. The use of Zoom required changes in the manner in which cases are scheduled and noticed. Judicial schedules and Zoom links were added to the Court's website. With the inability to appear personally in the courthouse, new processes also had to be created to handle domestic filings such as divorces, name changes, FOC motions and personal protection orders. Processes also had to be established for the court to receive civil "judges' copies" and exhibits and other documents exchanged between the parties during hearings or trials.

Remote processes had to be developed quickly to handle the anticipated increase of infectious disease cases.

The need arose to process criminal matters remotely. Emergency dockets were created in the Criminal Division so that emergency motions and arraignments could be addressed timely.

## **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

Modifications had to be made for the assignment and appearance of domestic house counsel so they could provide the best legal representation to litigants. New processes were developed to provide these attorneys with the paperwork they needed and access to their clients.

### **Court Reporting Services**

The Court Reporting Services Department is responsible for coordinating court reporting coverage for all divisions of the Court, assigns appellate counsel and submits transcripts to the Court of Appeals, and acts 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. In 2020, video court reporting technology by Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) was added to one courtroom. There are now 60 JAVS units available for use. The JAVS technology reduces costs and produces a video that is accessible to the public. Newly developed checks and balances have increased the number of transcripts timely filed in the Court of Appeals.

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 continue to accommodate public viewing of hearings. Links to these channels were added to the Court's website.

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

The Court also had to modify the manner in which people viewed the recordings of their hearings. Where the people 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 also had to be instituted to accommodate the electronic filing of vouchers by court reporters in the Criminal Division.

## COURT ADMINISTRATION



**Benita Cheatom – Director of Human Resources**

### Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for more than 500 of the Court's full-time positions, including judges. These activities include recruitment, timekeeping, payroll, benefits, interpretation of workplace laws and regulations, training and development, support for management staff, and negotiating and administering labor agreements. The Court filled vacancies through recruitment and promotional processes, conducted desk audits, and updated job descriptions. An agreement to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for one (1) year was reached with the Government Administrators Association (GAA). Negotiations with the Judicial Attorneys Association (JAA) are in progress.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, its impact and new laws generated. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), 107 COVID-19 leaves were approved and 267 staff and visitors were issued notification letters and placed on self-quarantine.

In partnership with the Information Technology Services Bureau (ITSB), HR completed the upgrade to the Kronos Workforce Central Timekeeping system. The new Workforce Ready module, an addition to the current system, is scheduled to be rolled out to the Court's workforce in April 2021. Addition of the Workforce Ready module includes recruitment functions from application through onboarding, along with routine maintenance of employee records.

This office is also engaged with the Strategic Plan Remote Work team to identify remote work protocols to address COVID-19 pandemic needs and post pandemic needs. Other upcoming activities include negotiations for new collective bargaining agreements with the Government Administrators Association (GAA), the Judicial Attorneys Association (JAA) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, HR has had to pivot and find new ways to provide services while adhering to social distancing protocols. Written examinations, which had previously been administered onsite on Court premises, are now proctored remotely via Zoom. ID badging is now done with almost no contact with the assistance of a remote camera installation which enables us to photograph employees and create the ID badges while keeping social distance. HR staff are now working onsite and remotely, staggering those assignments in order to maintain the social distancing requirements of COVID-19 safety protocols.

The state of emergency generated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic also forced HR staff to become proficient in new laws such as the CARES Act and FFCRA, create new documents and protocols, learn the skill of contact tracing and take on the new tasks of making quarantine and isolation notifications to Court staff and visitors and scheduling COVID-19 testing for staff.

## 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:

- **Zoom Implementation for court proceedings** – Due to the pandemic ITSB staff had to work quickly to provide remote access to court proceedings. Zoom accounts were implemented; website modifications were made to allow public access to court proceedings.
- **VOIP phone implementation** – Started a project to implement a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system. Implementation is due to be completed in March 2021.
- **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](http://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](mailto: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 2020, The Civil and Criminal Divisions held jury trials until March. Jury trials were paused until September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In late September of 2020, the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice held two successful jury trials. The following safety precautions were taken to ensure that the jury process was safe for jurors, employees, and the public:

- Staggered the reporting times for jurors allowed adequate social distancing while entering the courthouse and proceeding through security.
- 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.

When COVID-19 cases continued to increase, jury trials were paused for the remainder of 2020. Jury trials will resume when it is safe to do.

### **Jury Services 2020 Statistics**

Total Jurors Called to Appear for Service	12,404
Total Number of Jurors Who Appeared for Service	7,116
Total Number of Jurors Who Failed to Appear for Service	5,288

*Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty.  
~ John Adams (1774) ~*

## 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 big and small throughout four court locations.

In March of 2020, the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic required action from all of us. Purchasing and Facilities was tasked with a new set of responsibilities which was to protect staff and stakeholders from the pandemic while ensuring court operations could continue in a safe environment. Facility planning for the COVID-19 pandemic was critical for ensuring a safe and healthy work environment to our employees, stakeholders, and the public. Court administration, along with staff in the Facilities and Purchasing Department, have worked together to have operations ready for day-to-day use, but also to establish new workspace layouts and practices to provide a safe environment. CDC guidelines were the primary tool in developing the overall plans for the Court's workplace preparedness. Emergency funding was made available to address various facility needs through a partnership with Wayne County.

Plexiglas barriers were installed in all courtrooms, hearing rooms, and public access areas. We obtained personal protection equipment (PPE) such as face masks and shields, gloves, sanitizing stations, as well as temperature kiosks. Medical staff administered the health care screening at the entrances of the court buildings. Vendors performed touch point cleaning and sanitized offices and buildings either after a reported positive COVID-19 case or for preemptive measures to keep staff and the stakeholders safe.



FMHJ Courtroom G-2



Tents outside of employee and public entrances



# COURT ADMINISTRATION

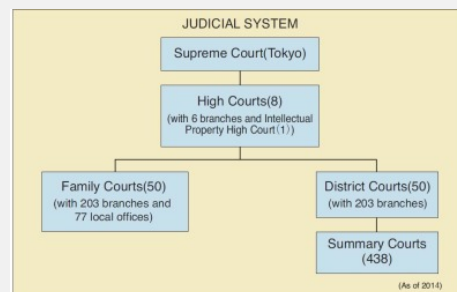
## Judge from Japan Program



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 this year, 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. This year, we were able to reach out to some of the judges who recently participated in the program to see how they were doing.



Judge Fujii in his garden next to his house

## **Judge Toshihiko Fujii – Visiting Judge 2016 – 2017**

Judge Fujii is working 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 such as introducing eFiling and a paperless court. The digitalization of their judicial system is a priority and Judge Fujii emphasized the time and dedication needed for this endeavor.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

## Judge from Japan Program



Miyazaki District & Family Court Building



Hot springs in Southern Japan

## **Judge Keisuke Koizumi – Visiting Judge 2017 – 2018**

Judge Koizumi, known as “Judge K”, currently sits in the Miyazaki District and Family courts. Miyazaki is in the southern part of Japan and is famous for its beautiful beaches. He just started surfing as a new hobby. As you can see from his pictures, he is doing great and looking forward to coming back to Michigan and meeting his friends here in the Third Circuit Court.



Judge Mashimoto with his new car

## **Judge Tatsunori Mashimoto – Visiting Judge 2018 – 2019**

Since Judge Mashimoto went back to Japan in 2019, he worked at Tokyo Family Court and heard juvenile cases from June 2019 to February 2020. He then worked at Family Affairs Bureau, General Secretariat, Supreme Court in March 2020. In April 2020, he started working at METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) as a Deputy Director of Industrial Finance Division, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau. He is temporarily away from the position of judge but will be back as a judge next April.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

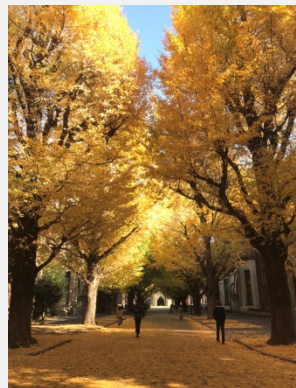
## Judge from Japan Program



Judge Dogauchi in front of Tokyo Supreme Court



Yasuda Auditorium



University of Tokyo



Red Gate

## **Judge Masahiro Dogauchi – Visiting Judge 2019 – 2020**

Judge Dogauchi was transferred temporarily to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this April. Judges in Japan sometimes work for administrative authority as a legal profession. He is currently working on negotiations for treaties facilitating cooperation with criminal justice agencies of other countries and operations of such treaties already concluded by Japan. For example, Japan concluded a treaty on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters with the United States in 2006. His task is research and the examination of legal issues related to treaties. Judge Dogauchi is finding it really interesting to be involved in the process of making treaties and statutory laws. The experience at the Third Circuit Court helped him to understand different legal systems.

Before he started to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he had worked for the Home Affairs Bureau of the Supreme Court of Japan this March. He assembled information about Juvenile and Family cases and delivered them to judges everywhere in Japan for conducting trials expeditiously under fair, appropriate, and adequate proceedings.

He is currently living in Tokyo. He has included pictures of the building of the Supreme Court, the Red Gate, and Yasuda Auditorium, which are located at The University of Tokyo where he graduated from. The Red Gate was built in 1827 for the wedding of Tokugawa Shogun's daughter. Yasuda Auditorium was built in 1925 and it was occupied by students who joined the student movement in 1968. He included the pictures of the Red Gate and Yasuda Auditorium because they are beautiful and they make him feel the history.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

## Judge from Japan Program

### 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 Iimura	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 Takaiishi
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, Family Division, and Criminal 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 2020, there were 18,619 cases set for case evaluation. Those case types included general civil, employment, medical malpractice, commercial, and business court. Dispositions for 2020 are as follows:

## **Third Circuit Court Case Evaluation 2020 Caseload**

Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	18,619
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	948
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	2
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	1,157
Cases Adjourned by the Court	3,891
<b>Total Cases Evaluated</b>	<b>12,621</b>

## **Third Circuit Court Case Evaluation 2020 Dispositions**

Total Awards	12,171
Awards Accepted (13.71% of total)	1,669
<b>Total Awards Rejected and Continuing to Disposition</b>	<b>10,502</b>

## 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 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. 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. Ms. Reeves also provides services with the assistance of Lisa Stroud and Jalona Colvard.



## 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 expose 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 fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic and the operational modifications required to ensure court operations continued to the extent practicable under the Michigan Supreme Court, State, and local public health orders. The Court hopes that conditions permit the return of the Summer Law Clerk program in 2021.



## 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 2020, there were 716 Business Court cases filed and 16,872 overall new civil case filings.

The Civil Bench stepped up in 2020 to provide communication, access, and service to litigants and attorneys despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. Judges presided over Zoom virtual courtrooms, recording hearings using Zoom, and live streaming hearings via YouTube. Civil Division judges presented at virtual bench-bar conferences, providing regular updates to the bar. As in previous years, Hon. Patricia Perez Fresard, Presiding Judge of the Civil Division and Chief Judge Pro Tem, worked with the Detroit Bar Association to obtain a grant from the Wayne County Mediation Tribunal in order to fund the Discovery Mediation Program, which now provides free virtual mediation every Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Other in-person proceedings such as settlement conferences and evidentiary hearings have also resumed, at judges' individual discretion, but Zoom hearings will likely replace the traditional "Friday motion call" going forward. Fortuitously, the Civil Division's 2020 Strategic Project was implementing Zoom as a hearing platform. Needless to say, the timeline for completing the project was moved up significantly as a result of COVID, and every civil judge has become accustomed to Zoom hearings.

2020 demanded an unprecedented level of cooperation, hard work, and resourcefulness from Civil Division judges and their staff, but the Civil Division truly rose to the occasion to provide uninterrupted service to Wayne County residents during difficult times.

### **CIVIL DIVISION JUDGES**

Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge

Patricia Perez Fresard, Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding

David J. Allen  
Annette J. Berry  
Kevin J. Cox  
Edward Ewell, Jr.  
Sheila Ann Gibson

John H. Gillis, Jr.  
David A. Groner  
Dana Margaret Hathaway  
Susan L. Hubbard  
Muriel D. Hughes  
John A. Murphy

Lita M. Popke  
Leslie Kim Smith  
Martha M. Snow  
Craig S. Strong  
Brian R. Sullivan

# CIVIL DIVISION

## Civil and Tort Case 2020 Statistics

	General Civil*	Auto Negligence and No Fault	Other Civil Damage**	Other Civil***	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2,399	9,153	1,733	106	40	56	84	13,571
New Filings	4,797	10,052	1,315	349	165	141	53	16,872
Reopened Cases	172	447	81	18	3	9	1	731
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>19,652</b>	<b>3,129</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>31,174</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>								
Jury Verdicts	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	10
Bench Verdicts	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Orders Entered	0	0	0	0	39	68	54	161
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	3,037	3,285	438	115	0	0	0	6,875
Transferred	103	125	84	0	14	18	0	344
Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	1,269	3,673	579	213	0	0	0	5,734
Dismissed by Court	386	547	55	36	86	66	51	1,227
Inactive Status	47	93	23	2	2	3	0	170
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>4,848</b>	<b>7,732</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>14,528</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>11,920</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16,646</b>

\*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 2020, the pandemic created a challenge for addressing criminal case processing. Utilizing technology, the division had to creatively redefine caseload for the 5,246 new case filings in the Criminal Division.

### CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES

Prentis Edwards, Jr., Presiding

Mariam Bazzi  
 Gregory Dean Bill  
 Ulysses W. Boykin  
 James R. Chylinski  
 Paul J. Cusick  
 Wanda A. Evans  
 Tracy E. Green  
 Bridget Mary Hathaway

Thomas M. J. Hathaway  
 Catherine L. Heise  
 Noah Hood  
 Donald Knapp, Jr.  
 Qiana Denise Lillard  
 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 2020 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	404	1,938	8	34	2,384
New Filings	474	4,719	14	39	5,246
Reopened Cases	72	622	5	1	700
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>7,279</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8,330</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>					
Jury Verdicts	38	45	0	0	83
Bench Verdicts	9	50	0	0	59
Orders Entered	0	0	0	40	40
Guilty Pleas	206	2,903	5	0	3,114
Transferred	3	150	0	0	153
Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	2	8	0	0	10
Dismissed by Court	57	520	2	8	587
Inactive Status	62	518	4	0	584

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

### Criminal 2020 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
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4,630</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>573</b>	<b>3,085</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3,700</b>



**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).

Throughout the year, the Office of Specialty Court Services partners with various organizations and events: Veterans Treatment Court outreach with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's Veterans Network in July and Adult Specialty Court Services, in partnership with the Detroit-Wayne Integrated Health Network, hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Relapse Prevention Forum in December. Other activities; such as the Community Health Fair were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic; 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.

<b>Adult Drug Treatment Court</b>	<b>ADTC</b>
Participants from previous year	43
New Participants Accepted	6
Discharged Participants	24
2020 Graduated Participants	<b>19</b>
<b>Active Participants 2020</b>	<b>25</b>

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.

<b>Mental Health Court</b>	<b>MHC</b>
Participants from previous year	33
New Participants Accepted	8
Discharged Participants	20
2020 Graduated Participants	14
<b>Active Participants 2020</b>	<b>21</b>

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.

<b>Veterans Treatment Court</b>	<b>VTC</b>
Participants from previous year	33
New Participants Accepted	4
Discharged Participants	11
2020 Graduated Participants	<b>7</b>
<b>Active Participants 2020</b>	<b>26</b>

## 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.

<b>Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program</b>	<b>SSSPP</b>
Participants from previous year	18
New Participants Accepted	3
Discharged Participants	8
2020 Graduated Participants	3
<b>Active Participants 2020</b>	<b>13</b>

### 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 2020 Statistics

<b>BONDS</b>	
Written Bond Recommendations	942
Oral Bond Recommendations	300
<b>Total Bond Recommendations</b>	<b>1,242</b>
<b>SUPERVISION (Yearly Averages)</b>	
Total Defendants Monitored	2,033
Cumulative Total of Defendants Monitored	2,272
Compliance Rate	89.2%
Failure to Appear Rate	8.2%
<b>SENTENCING GUIDELINES</b>	
Sentencing Guidelines Processed	3,082
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	55%
<b>LEIN QUERIES</b>	<b>18,520</b>

## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS



**Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy, Presiding Judge – Family Division – Domestic**

The Family Division – Domestic Relations is comprised of 10 Circuit Court Judges and one Probate Judge. 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 2020. 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 2020, there were 15,787 new case filings in the Family Division – Domestic Relations Section. Judge Mary Beth Kelly assisted the Family Division – Domestic Relations as a Visiting Judge in 2020.

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS JUDGES

Kathleen M. McCarthy, Presiding

Eric Cholack  
Melissa A. Cox  
Charlene M. Elder

Helal A. Farhat  
Alexis A. Glendening  
Adel A. Harb  
Charles S. Hegarty

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

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS REFEREES

Stephanie Witucki, Chief Referee

Diane Biggar  
Gwendolyn Davis-Yancey  
Craig Feringa  
Eric Gloudemans  
Shannon Haneline

Rosanne Hostnik  
Viola King  
Michael Kwarcinski  
Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy  
Lauren Wright Middleton  
Christine Rodriguez

Lynn Ruhlman  
Rebekah Sellers  
Hulen Simpson  
Edrick Thompson  
Jessica Walker

### Domestic Relations 2020 Statistics

	Divorce w/Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	UIFSA*	Support	Other Domestic**	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	1,332	1,135	3,282	102	3,152	225	9,228
New Filings	2,016	2,491	5,379	49	5,433	419	15,787
Reopened Cases	47	35	17	0	18	17	134
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>3,661</b>	<b>8,678</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>8,603</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>25,149</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>							
Bench Verdicts	62	32	1	0	0	4	99
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	1,479	1,895	776	18	899	283	5,350
Transferred	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Dismissed by Party	504	543	345	46	475	166	2,079
Dismissed by Court	199	135	2,090	0	2,335	24	4,783



## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### Domestic Relations 2020 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Divorce w/Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	UIFSA*	Support	Other Domestic**	Total
Inactive Status	3	1	0	0	0	9	13
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>3,212</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3,709</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>12,325</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>4,894</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>12,824</b>

\*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 2020, the PPO docket processed 5,672 new cases.

### Personal Protection Order (PPO) 2020 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	12	7	0	19
New Filings	4,103	1,547	22	5,672
Reopened Cases	220	163	2	385
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>4,335</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6,076</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	2,642	379	4	3,025
Orders Issued after Hearing	12	1	0	13
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	1,463	1,173	18	2,654
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	197	145	2	344
Dismissed by Party	5	1	0	6
Orders Issued after Denial	16	18	0	34
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>4,335</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6,076</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 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, Mediation, and Education 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. Over 5,304 hearings were scheduled to ensure child support compliance.

### FOC Fiscal Year 2020 Statistics

Caseload-Open FOC Dockets	275,853
Medical Support Notices Issued	54,231
Custody and Child Support Reports and Recommendations	8,012
Hearing Held by Referees	14,887
Child Support Show Cause Hearings	5,304
Bench Warrant Issued	1,246
Bench Warrant Arrests	2,334
Custody and Parenting Time Enforcement Requests Processed	1,481
Amount of Child Support Distributed for the Year	\$332,115,593

## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### FOC Child Support Outreach

<b>Community Partners</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Salvation Army William Booth Legal Aid Clinic	234
Focus Hope	18
United Auto Workers Vote Center	58
ACCESS	27
Starfish Family Services	13
La Sed	41
Team Wellness Center	10
Lawton Parole Center (Returning Citizens)	8
Detroit Legal Services Clinic	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>

### The Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Unit

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.

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 for assessments were down by almost 54% in 2020 likely because of the use of virtual assessments. In 2019 there were 71 no shows and in 2020 there were only 33 no shows. In 2020 there were 374 referrals for Custody evaluations and 109 referrals for parenting time assessments.

On the Parenting Time Docket, 174 cases were mediated resulting in 94 agreements placed on the record. The In-Court Mediation Project (ICMP) received 90 referrals, 81 matters were mediated and 57 of the mediations reached agreements. In addition, FAME clinicians provided mediation on 7 cases with agreements reached on all cases.

FAME offers parent education for divorcing and never married parents who live apart from each other. The program, Kids First, continues to benefit the children in our community with 49 parents served in 2020. Kids Talk was not available to families from mid-March-December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, FAME has approved two online four hour parent education programs: Children in Between and Online Parenting Programs.com. The two online parent education programs served 262 parents in 2020. The Co-Parenting, Communication, and Coaching (3C) Program is a more intensive eight hour live parent education program. In 2020, 290 parents completed the 3C program. Participant satisfaction surveys consistently indicate very high satisfaction and parents wish they would have “had this information sooner.”

## **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

FAME also coordinates supervised visitation. Through the State Court Administrative Office – Access and Visitation Grant, the Court has contracted with Growth Works, Inc. to conduct supervised parenting time. In 2020, Growth Works, Inc. served 191 families.

FAME continues to foster an active internship program by offering master level social work students from area universities hands-on training in family evaluation, psychological testing, mediation, and a host of other valuable assessment and mental health tools. Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University, and other universities utilize FAME as a field placement for their students.

### **The impact of COVID-19 on the Family Division – Domestic Relations**

Like all aspects of life in 2020, the Family Division – Domestic Relations underwent many changes due to COVID-19. Those changes include:

- All Judges and Referees began using Zoom for hearings, so that parties and attorneys could appear in virtual courtrooms instead of having to appear in person for hearings.
- Electronic filing options for all court filings, including Personal Protection Orders, were implemented.
- The Friend of the Court implemented various ways to conduct customer service virtually, including adding a customer service voicemail line, dedicated customer service email box, and encouraging parties to utilize the two-way communication feature in the MiChildSupport account access tool.
- Friend of the Court outreach changed to a virtual setting, where parties can walk into the Friend of the Court partner locations and contact a Friend of the Court representative by phone.

The Friend of the Court continues to experience backlogs in various departments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Friend of the Court continues to examine processes to make them more efficient and timely; and staff continue to work hard to ensure that the backlogs are effectively managed.





## 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. Fourteen Referees assist the judges by conducting 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 1,880 new case filings in the Family Division – Juvenile in 2020. 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

Cylenthia LaToye Miller  
Frank S. Szymanski

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE REFEREES

James A. Catchings, Jr., Chief Referee

Kathleen Allen  
Wanda Cal  
Anthony Crutchfield  
Thomas D. Doetsch, Sr.

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 2020 Statistics

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	7	960	600	275	1,842
New Filings	6	1,115	115	644	1,880
Reopened Cases	2	363	25	0	390
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>4,112</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>					
Jury Verdicts	0	0	0	1	1
Bench Verdicts	0	34	0	248	282
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	7	402	2	167	578
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	57	0	0	57
Dismissed by Court	0	747	9	0	756
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	23	23
Consent Calendar	0	0	0	0	0

## FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

### Juvenile 2020 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Transferred	0	40	0	13	53
Diversion/Not Authorized	1	154	0	29	184
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	1	49	7	0	57
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
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>1,991</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>2,121</b>

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



**Richard Smart – Deputy Court Administrator (Juvenile Division)**

The 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 318 new filings in 2020. 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, 0 voluntary releases of Parental Rights and 104 requests for release of post-adoption information were processed.

### Adoptions 2020 Statistics

2020 Filings	318
Voluntary Release of Parental Rights	0
Requests for Release of Post-Adoption Information	104
Pending Adoption Petitions as of January 1, 2020	155
New Filings	318
Reopened Cases	3
Total Caseload	476
Adoptions Finalized	335
Adoption Petitions Withdrawn	2
Adoption Petitions Dismissed	16



## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

### **Adoptions 2020 Statistics (Cont'd)**

Rescissions Granted	3
Adoption Petitions Transferred	0
Total Dispositions	356
Pending Adoption Petitions as of December 31, 2020	120

### **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. Due to COVID-19, the attorneys were unable to submit any paperwork to the ACS office in person. All paperwork submissions were transitioned to being submitted via email or fax. Attorneys were informed electronically and by telephone regarding reporting to hearings virtually using Zoom technology.

### **Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) 2020 Statistics**

Attorney Assignment Scheduled	2,594
Orders of Appointment/Updated Petitions	426
Request for Emergency House Counsel Assignments	1,040
Notice of Removal of Assigned Counsel	316
Appearances	94
Attorney Payment/Assignment Inquiries	189

### **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. In 2020, most of the meetings and home visits took place via Zoom or FaceTime for the safety and well-being of the CASA volunteers and people we served.

CASA volunteers make recommendations regarding what is best for the children. In 2020, 11 new volunteer staff were trained and sworn in. This brought our total number of volunteers for the year of 2020 to 48. We were also able to close 11 cases for the year 2020. The total number of children served by CASA volunteers was 174. In addition, the CASA program maintains a donation-driven clothing closet. Donations are made through the “Wayne County Friends of CASA” and are tax deductible. Approximately 25 families and children combined have been served by the Clothes Closet. The program also provided book bags for children returning to school in-person and virtually along with various hygiene items. One hundred and fifty book bags were given to CASA children for the start of the school year via Quicken Loans and Wayne County Friends of CASA.

## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

Due to COVID-19, the number of resources and services were greatly reduced in 2020, including the annual CASA Giving Tree Program. All National CASA seminars and conferences were cancelled for 2020; however, CASA staff were able to attend local trainings and conferences via Zoom.

### **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 Unit also provides services to families in which a parent is seeking help for a youth exhibiting incorrigible behavior. Due to COVID-19, visits to the home and school were suspended. All monitoring was via telecommunication. Additionally, all public in-person incorrigible inquiries were received via phone, due to the public not being allowed in the building for the health and safety of all.

The Status Unit interviews, screens, and processes all youth admitted in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center, 24 hours a day. The Status Unit's 24-Hour Desk located inside of the Juvenile Detention Center assists police agencies, the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), and the public during and outside of regular court business hours. This Unit also provides pre-sentence and re-sentencing reports to the Court for designated cases and oversees fingerprinting for all new Court employees.

Additionally, the Status Unit coordinates transportation for transfer cases within the state and also coordinates with interstate transportation through Interstate Compact.

### **Status Unit 2020 Statistics**

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	790
Family Interviews	202
Informal Probation (Consent, Diversion, Incorrigible)	120
Designated Cases	19
Out County/Plea Under Advisement/Truancy	0
Petitions Filed	18

### **Juvenile Drug Court – S.T.A.N.D.**

The Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotic Dependency (S.T.A.N.D.) 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 S.T.A.N.D. Program is supervised by Judge Karen Braxton.

Participants in the S.T.A.N.D. 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. The Court focuses on incentives as rewards for the progress a program participant makes. Additionally, the program promotes participation in pro-social activities by hosting annual baseball games, basketball games, and bowling tournaments for the participants and their families and friends.

## FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

The program lasts approximately one year, but the actual length of the program depends upon the participant’s progress. In some circumstances, if the juvenile successfully completes the program, the original charge will be dismissed, allowing the participant to maintain a clean juvenile record. After successful completion of the program, the youth participate in a formal graduation ceremony sharing their successes with family, friends, and other participants still enrolled in the program. In 2020, S.T.A.N.D. conducted its first Virtual Graduation. The graduates participated in a drive-through ceremony with staff, friends, family, and community partners offering well-wishes via Zoom.

The S.T.A.N.D. 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.

The 2020 highlights for the S.T.A.N.D. Program included increasing community partnerships. The Program Judge and Coordinator established professional relationships with two new community partners, “Project Boss Up” which provides group and individual mentoring services to male participants and “She Strong International” which provides group and individual mentoring services to female participants.

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the S.T.A.N.D. Program was successful in securing approval from funders to provide telehealth therapeutic services to the participants. Substance abuse, mental health, anger management, and trauma-informed care groups were offered virtually. All services were conducted remotely with independent contracted service providers. The Program was also able to continue monitoring youth via Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype. Participants attended case conferences via Zoom. Educational Advocates were able to work with schools to provide parents and participants assistance obtaining assignments, textbooks, and equipment for remote learning.

### S.T.A.N.D 2020 Program Participants

Returning Participants	24
New Admissions	16
<b>Total Participants in Program for the Year</b>	<b>40</b>

### 2020 Outcomes

Total Participants	40
Removed Participants	7
Graduated	14
<b>Active Participants at the end of 2020</b>	<b>19</b>

## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

### **TIP – Truancy Intervention Project**

The Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) was launched during the 2013-2014 school year to address the rise of chronic absenteeism problems throughout the schools in Wayne County, Michigan. Since the 2014-15 school year, 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 2019-2020 school year, the following schools received TIP services, 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). Additionally, we have provided attendance information to assist schools throughout Wayne County. As of March 2020, school referrals to the program were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The schools participating in TIP in March 2020 began to provide instruction virtually/online throughout the remainder of the school year. TIP will continue to assist schools with truancy/attendance information while school districts assess, and work through their internal processes of tracking and addressing truancy issues while keeping the health and safety of all involved as a priority. TIP looks forward to eliminating school truancy and providing support services to schools throughout Wayne County.

#### **Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) Statistics School Year 2019-20**

Number of Students Referred by Schools	100
Number of Cases Processed in Program	97
Number of Initial Hearings Scheduled	102
Number of Schools Participating in Program	5

## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

### **The Clinic for Child Study**

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.

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

The Clinic embarked on a transformation in 2020 to primarily provide assessment only services. In July 2020, the Clinic discontinued all ongoing services excluding the Sexual Awareness Information and Treatment (SAIT) program. All active cases were transitioned to a Community Management Organization (CMO) and/or a Community Mental Health Provider.

The Clinic provides the following services to the Juvenile Section:

#### **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 assessments will provide 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 will be provided to assigned defense counsel so they can advocate on behalf of their client for diversion from the official docket. Clinic staff will 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.

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

Option 1: Defense shares Original YASI report + GAINSS (completed post-petition) with all parties and is entered into evidence

Option 2: Original YASI + Recommendation + GAINSS provided by Clinic to Jurist, Defense, and Prosecution. ***This option will be used for youth who did not have a YASI and GAINSS prior to the pretrial (if option 4 is not elected)***

## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

Option 3: Updated YASI + Recommendation + GAINSS provided by Clinic to Jurist, Defense, and Prosecution. (This is upon the request of any of the parties on a case-by-case basis.)

Option 4: Original YASI + GAINSS + Full Pre-dispositional Assessment + Recommendation provided by Clinic to Jurist, Defense, and Prosecution. (This is upon the request of the Jurist.) ***This option can also be used for youth who did not have a YASI and GAINSS prior to the pretrial.***

Second YASI prior to termination (Care Management Organizations (CMOs) will notify the Clinic they are planning to recommend termination). Clinic will provide the completed YASI to all parties for the Probation Review Hearing. This second YASI will be looking to see if the Risk for Recidivism has been reduced.

### **Family Assessments**

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

### **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.

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.

# FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

## 2020 Referrals/Consumers Served

Family Assessments for Protective Hearings Referrals	108
Custody Assessments Referrals	0
Adolescent Assessments for Delinquency Disposition /Probation Planning Referrals (includes JSAU and CAAU)	69
Adolescent Competency Assessments Referrals	48
Adolescent Criminal Responsibility Assessments Referrals	42
Adolescent Designated Assessment Referrals	1
Adolescent Assessments for S.T.A.N.D. Referrals	13
Adoption Assessments	16
YASI Assessments	168
Social History Only (subset of Dispositional, JMHC, STAND)	15
JMHC	7
Case Management Served (Intensive Probation and Diversion)*	116
Clinic Treatment Unit Served*	72
Home-Based Unit Served*	20
Ongoing Psychiatric Services Served*	18

\*Services were discontinued in June/July 2020

## 2020 Outcomes

Intensive Probation/Case Management Successful Closures	108/129 or 83.7%
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### Intensive Probation Recidivism – Felony Convictions

#### Per Criminal and Juvenile Odyssey Lookups

Closure Year	Date Reviewed	Total Successfully Closed	No Felony Convictions	Felony Convictions	Recidivism %
2019	March 2021 (1 year post closure)	167	161	6	4%
2017	March 2021 (3 years post closure)	167	150	17	10%

### 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 %
2019	March 2021 (1 year post closure)	45	43	2	0	Felony: 4.4% CSC: 0%
2017	March 2021 (3 years post closure)	31	29	4	2	Felony: 7.75% CSC: 15.5%

### Improvement on Child/Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale

Scale Area	Improved	Not Improved	Total	Percent Improved
Meaningful and Reliable Improvement	225	105	330	67.6%

## **FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE**

### **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 weekly status review hearings and the judge closely monitors 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, 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.

In March 2020, JMHC suspended referrals due to COVID-19. A probation officer was added to the team, and is able to conduct home and school visits. He also monitors the tethers and ensures that the participants are adhering to the conditions in their court order. Due to COVID-19, in-person visits were suspended and probation officer monitoring and case conferences took place via Zoom.

Ten youth have successfully completed the program.

JMHC's Education Advocacy service is changing, and in 2020, 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 2020, 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 2020 for his work in the area of Mental Health, through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The awards dinner was canceled due to COVID-19.

Judge Joseph also appeared on the MI Healthy Mind television show in July with one of our graduates. The topic of the program was Juvenile Mental Health Court.



## FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

### Juvenile Mental Health Court 2020 Statistics

Returning Participants	20
New Admissions	4
Graduates	10
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>9</b>

### Miscellaneous

### Miscellaneous Family 2020 Statistics

	Other Family*	Ancillary**	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	141	0	141
New Filings	577	0	577
Reopened Cases	0	0	0
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>718</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	57	0	57
Orders Issued after Hearing	437	0	437
Petition Granted	0	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	33	0	33
Petition Denied	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	87	0	87
Petition Withdrawn/Dismissed	0	0	0
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>104</b>

\*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

Third Circuit Court Administration hosted the Michigan Women Forward's (MWF) Diversity Exhibit in February. The MWF motto is "History is history. It's time for HERstory." The Diversity exhibit is comprised of portraits and biographies of women of color who have impacted Michigan's History.

Among the collection of the health care professionals, social workers, social activists, lawyers, grass root leaders, and elected leaders is our own Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford.

Judge Ford began her judgeship in Recorder's Court in 1966. Before she won her judgeship, she was the first black woman to attain the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and the first black woman to serve as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit.

As a judge, she was considered fair and just. Our Chief Judge Timothy M. Kenny served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in her courtroom during the early days in his career and shared his memories. "Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford embodied the characteristic of an iconic judge – devoted to the law, gracious, and professional to all who appeared before her, and committed to the professional development of promising new attorneys. It was my privilege to have served as her courtroom prosecutor for an extended period of time. Judge Ford was an invaluable mentor and later in my career a valued friend. I am richly blessed to have known her."

Judge Ford was also a major force in local affirmative actions in the law school setting, especially University of Michigan. The Women Lawyers of Michigan Association has an award named in her honor. In 2019, our Executive Court Administrator Zenell Brown received that award.

Judge Ford served 33 years on the bench before her retirement. She left a legacy of her love for the law; her daughter, Hon. Deborah G. Bledsoe Ford serves on the 36th District Court in Detroit.

Third Circuit Court promotes diversity and inclusion and acknowledges the contributions Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford and the contributions of women and African Americans made to justice and our Court.



## 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



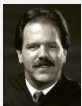
1/1/86 – 3/16/86 - Hon. Joseph B. Sullivan



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 2020

## Strategic Plan Teams Pivot

The Covid-19 pandemic halted the Strategic Planning efforts in March 2020. By mid-spring, early summer, however, four major projects jumped to the forefront: Remote Working, Remote Services, Safety, and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Strategic Project teams pivoted. Teams restructured and reconsidered what laid ahead for the future.

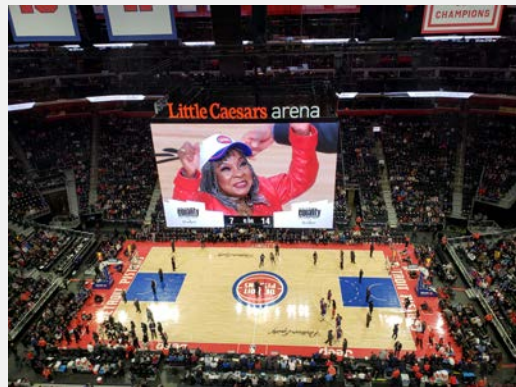
The Court acknowledges the pivot has not been easy and underscores the continuing commitment of the judges, staff, and justice partners and stakeholders during trying times.

*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. ~Henry Ford*



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT DETROIT PISTONS' OUTING Detroit Pistons vs Milwaukee Bucks



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



February 7<sup>th</sup> was American Heart Association (AHA) **GO RED** for Women. Connie Molinaro, Benita Cheatom, Shawn Perry, Judge Cylenthia LaToye Miller, and Leslie Murphy all wore **red** to work to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and empower women and men to reduce their risk.



The Juvenile Mental Health Court graduation program was held February 12. The ceremony honored eight graduates who successfully completed the program. Kevin Fischer, Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, gave the keynote address. In addition, Justice Megan K. Cavanagh of the Michigan Supreme Court spoke to the graduates. The ceremony celebrated months of hard work by our young participants. The graduates received certificates and gift baskets, and participated in a dinner after the ceremony with their families, and the entire court staff who support the Juvenile Mental Health Court program.



On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) honored four program participants who successfully completed their two years of intensive probation. Judge Ulysses W. Boykin and Judge Deborah A. Thomas presided over their cases.

Specialty Court Coordinator, John Marra, also a United States Army—Combat Veteran, compared their probationary period, during the current pandemic, to when they were in the military; and how you have to always be prepared for the unknown and stay on task.

And that is just what these graduates did; they stayed the course, despite the challenges this year has thrown their way.

The VTC team also acknowledged the retirement of Supervising Judge, Ulysses W. Boykin, who was a United States Army, Commissioned Officer. Judge Boykin joined the VTC team in January of 2017, following the retirement of VTC Supervising Judge, Judge James Callahan, who was a United States Navy veteran.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, 4<sup>th</sup> District Honor Guard presented Judge Boykin with a plaque acknowledging his outstanding service to the program and to Michigan veterans.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



Reception



The Michigan Supreme Court – Statewide Admissions Ceremony

The Third Circuit Court was able to use technology to participate in the first ever statewide swearing in ceremony and reception. Chief Judge Kenny presided over the reception and delivered a keynote to the new attorneys. The Presiding Judges dispensed encouragement and advice for the attorneys who may be appearing in the Third Circuit Court. Joanne Geha Swanson, President of the Detroit Bar Association and Detroit Bar’s Barrister Katherine Brink Harrison welcomed the candidates to the Detroit legal community and extended a one year complimentary Detroit Bar membership. Like the old movie saying goes, “The show must go on,” and it certainly did as the judges, dignitaries, friends, and families had the opportunity to welcome the spring 2020 State Bar Passers to the Bar!



On August 28, the Supervised Treatment for Alcohol & Narcotic Dependency (S.T.A.N.D.) Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program held its 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Drive-Through Graduation Ceremony.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



On August 31, the Wayne County CASA Program was gifted 65 backpacks for our CASA children in foster care. The backpacks were donated by Quicken Loan employees. This is the fifth year they have adopted CASA as one of the recipients of their benevolence.



On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Wayne County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program was highlighted on the Steve Hood Show, “Detroit Wants to Know.” The Sunday morning host, Steve Hood, gave special attention to Michigan CASA, of which our local Wayne County CASA, Executive Director Roland Smith was featured in an upfront down-to-earth interview.

The interview stressed the need for Child Advocacy and volunteers to help with our children in the foster care system. Roland explained the process of what it takes to become a CASA volunteer and the work that is involved. Currently Wayne County CASA is serving 102 children with 55 volunteers. There are over 3,000 children in Wayne County Foster Care homes.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

## Employee Appreciation Day



**ITSB**



**CAYMC Jury**



**Criminal Division**



**FOC**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Employee Appreciation Day, the Court recognized their employees for their continued dedication and service.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

## National Law Enforcement Day



The Wayne County Sheriffs protect the safety of the judges, staff, court users, and the public in the Third Circuit Court locations. They are the first responders in the event of emergencies in the courthouse. Court security is vital to the integrity of the judicial process. Therefore, the Circuit Court recognizes National Law Enforcement Day and thanks the many sheriffs who protect and serve in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions each day. We “Back the Blue.”

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Third Circuit Court chose to highlight those who served in the military. Those who have served have protected the freedoms of this nation. First, the Court recognizes all of those who graduated and are currently enrolled in our Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). The VTC promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the traditional partners found in problem-solving courts, with the addition of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, and veterans and veterans' family support organizations.

The Court also salutes its judges and employees who have served in the various branches of the military. Our national flag waves proudly because of your courage and selfless service.



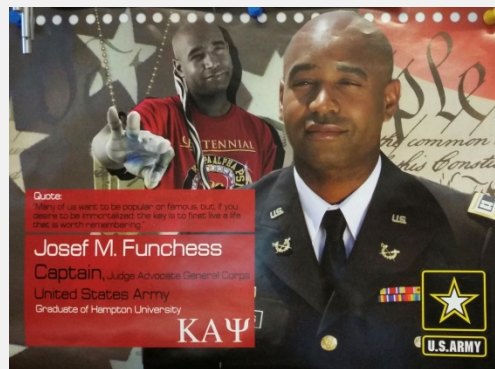
**Judge Ulysses W. Boykin**

U.S. Army 1 LT

Adjutant General's Corps

Commanding Officer

305<sup>th</sup> Army Postal Unit and Installation Postal Officer of 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps Headquarters  
Active duty service March 1971 – September 1972



**Josef M. Funchess**

U.S. Army

O-3 – Captain

2004 – 2014

U.S. Navy

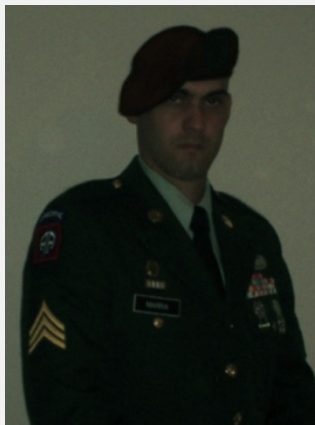
E-5 – Petty Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

2000 – 2004

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

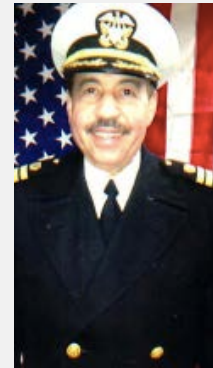


**Harold Henzel**  
U.S. Army  
E5 – SGT  
2004 – 2012



**John Marra, Jr.**  
U.S. Army  
Staff Sergeant  
2004 – 2012

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



### **Judge Craig S. Strong**

Pvt. Strong – U.S. Army Reserve – 1971  
Military Law Judge – 1988  
Commander, Judge Advocate General Corps  
U.S. Naval Reserve, RET – 2004

### **What Is A Veteran?**

A “Veteran” – whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserved – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount of up to, and including his life.” That is honor. ~Unknown



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

### CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL INTERN



#### **Court Insights from GenZ with Jordan Taylor**

Assignment: Observe and Record Your Impressions of Court Hearings

“Last week I learned a lot of information about how court cases work which was really helpful considering that I have never seen a live hearing before. The very first thing I learned from watching a hearing involving theft is that you can lie but it will get you absolutely nowhere. When the case is going on the prosecution is bringing all of the evidence and receipts that could possibly be found for the situation. If you say something that is not adding up with the evidence that has been found, you can find yourself in more trouble than what you were in before.

The second thing I learned is that you should have proper etiquette in a Zoom courtroom or an in-person hearing. For the in-person hearings, you should stand up when the judge enters or leaves the courtroom and when you are asked to address the judge. Also you should be polite to everyone, and you should not interrupt others when they are speaking. Another thing that shows proper courtroom etiquette is shutting off your phone well in advance before you enter the courtroom so it isn't a distraction.

The third thing I found out is that you should value your freedom. Everyone makes mistakes but, every mistake has a consequence; and you should try to live your life as free of consequences as possible.”

Jordan is a 2020 Cristo Rey Graduate Candidate and completing a virtual internship with Court Administration. As Jordan has not planned on pursuing a career in law, his internship is based on examining the justice system with the goals of being an informed citizen. Throughout his internship, Jordan's assignments were shared in “Court Insights from GenZ with Jordan Taylor” and posted on the Court's various social media platforms and shared with his teachers and fellow students.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020**

### **Grants Awarded in 2020**

FY 2020 Michigan Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program Grant Award - \$60,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2020 Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program Award - \$90,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2020 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Mental Health Court - \$265,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2020 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Adult Mental Health Court - \$349,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2020 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Drug Court - \$71,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2020 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Hybrid DWI/Drug Court - \$231,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY2020 Child and Parent Legal Representation (CPLR) – \$542,364  
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

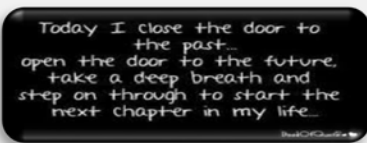
#### **Wayne County Community College District**

WMU-Cooley Law School

#### **Women Lawyers Association of Michigan**

Young Fathers Standing United

## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS



**Miriam Barilovich, 5 years – Judicial Law Clerk, Family Domestic**



**Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin, 22 years, Judge, Criminal**



**Lee Brown, 36 years – Sr. Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal**



**Janice Cato, 22 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic**



**Tosi Cleveland, 27 years, Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal**



**Rhonda Fowler, 32 years, Individual Docket Clerk III, Administration**



**Gerald Gay, 30 years, Information Specialist I, Family Domestic**



**Yvette Green, 31 years, Information Specialist II, Family Domestic**



**Hon. Cynthia Hathaway, 26 years, Judge, Criminal**



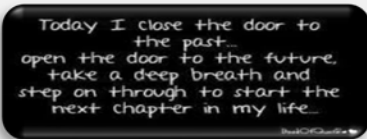
**Cleveland Marshall, 52 years, Clerical Services Supervisor II, Family Domestic**



**Edward McAree, 32 years, Sr. Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic**



## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS



**Audrey Mitchell, 32 years, Data Entry Operator II, Administration**



**Nicole Paron, 35 years, Sr. Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic**



**Marsha Philpot, 28 years, Administrative Assistant, Family Juvenile**



**Idella Reid, 25 years, Information Specialist II, Family Domestic**



**Maria Sales, 45 years, Administrative Assistant I, Family Domestic**



**Ellen Sharf, 31 years, Associate General Counsel – Civil, Administration**



**Lola Stringer, 59 years, Information Specialist I, Family Domestic**



**Hon. Craig S. Strong, 42 years, Judge, Civil**



**Cheryl Sutherland, 25 years, Clerk V, Family Juvenile**



**Cheryl Terry, 32 years, Specialty Court Coordinator, Family Juvenile**



**Bridgette Tyus, 30 years, Manager of Case Establishment, Family Domestic**

## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS



**Jessica Walker, 26 years, Family Division Referee, Family Domestic**



**Priscilla Wells, 33 years, Assistant Director of FAME, Family Domestic**



**Claudia Wilson, 30 years, Collections Coordinator, Administration**



**Roberta Wright, 31 years, Domestic Relations Supervisor, Family Domestic**



**Christa Zabawski, 36 years, Sr. Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic**

## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

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

**Hon. Annette J. Berry** – Judge Berry was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Model Civil Jury Instructions Committee; appointed by the State Bar of Michigan to the Access to Justice Policy Committee; and appointed by the State Bar of Michigan to the Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics.

**Clyde Bradley** – Clyde received his Bachelor’s degree in Management from Wayne State University.

**Zenell Brown** – Zenell Brown was awarded the Committee of the Year Award by the Detroit Bar Association for her participation on The Diversity & Inclusion Committee where she sits as a Co-Chair.

**Hon. Patricia Perez Fresard** – Judge Fresard was awarded the President’s Award by the Detroit Bar Association.

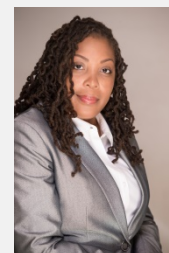
**Hon. Muriel Hughes** – Judge Hughes was honored by Saint Mary’s College with the 2020 Alumna Achievement Award recipient for upholding the standards and ideals of Saint Mary’s College and its mission.

**Hon. Edward Joseph** – Judge Joseph appeared as a featured guest on the MI Health Mind Show to discuss the success of the Third Circuit Court’s Juvenile Mental Health Court Program.

**Alisa Shannon** – On March 25, Alisa was honored at the 2020 Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence Induction Ceremony.

**Hon. Craig Strong** – On Jan. 20, Judge Strong received the Justice of the People award from the Nation Action Network Michigan Chapter. Judge Strong was reelected to the Board of Directors of the Wolverine Bar Association for the 20-21 term, and to the Board of Directors of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. On July 9, Judge Strong swore in the Board of Police Commissioners’ newly elected Chairperson Willie E. Bell and Vice-Chairperson Annie Mae Holt. On Sept. 19, Judge Strong was honored during a drive-through membership by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Judge Strong was awarded the Wiley A. Branton Award at the National Bar Association’s annual Wiley A. Branton Symposium.

**Hon. Regina Thomas** – On March 25, Judge Thomas was honored at the 2020 Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence Induction Ceremony.



## COVER CONTEST WINNERS

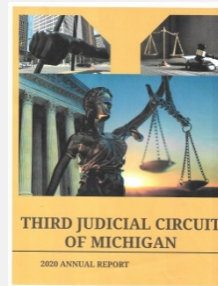


**Jourdan May – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Front Cover)**

Jourdan is a senior at William D. Ford Career Center. He is an only child and has one pet named RV (Rosievelt). Ever since he was a little kid, he has always loved art and drawing. As he got older, his interest in art developed into a passion. He began learning animation and 3-D art; and eventually discovered graphic design. He eventually joined a graphic design class at William D. Ford and from there, his skills have flourished. A big reason for that is his teacher, Mr. B. Mr. B's honesty and knowledge of graphic design helped Jourdan improve and get to the point where he is now. He plans to pursue a career in graphic design. He would like to attend College for Creative Studies or CalArts for Illustration.



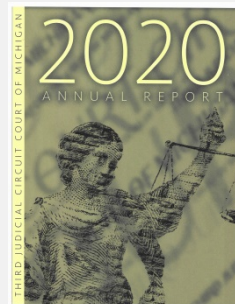
**Rodney Barrow, Jr. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



Rodney Barrow, Jr. is a senior at Romulus High School. He has been an all A and B student since the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He likes to have fun and relax at home with his family. He also enjoys taking care of others. He will be majoring in Electrical Engineering at Michigan State University in the fall.



**A'Marieon Holmes – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



A'Marieon Holmes is a senior at William D. Ford Career Center. He loves making music, acting, and helping people. He will be majoring in modeling, music, and acting. He promises that this will not be the last time you hear about him.

## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



**Clida Ellison**, Forensic Family Clinician, Family Domestic Division. Passed away March 26, 2020. Clida was a child advocate, social worker, and devoted wife and mother. She graduated from Xavier University of New Orleans where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in medical technology. At age 57, she went back to school and earned her master's degree in social work.



**Gloria Smith**, Retired – Certified Electronic Recorder, Administration. Passed away March 26, 2020.



**Sean McBride**, Information Specialist II, Family Domestic Division. Passed away April 1, 2020. Sean had 31 years of service with the Court.



**Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski**, Retired Judge. July 17, 1944 – April 3, 2020. Judge Ziolkowski was recruited by University of Iowa to play football. He became an offensive tackle to be reckoned with. He was selected by the Green Bay Packers in the 7<sup>th</sup> round of the 1967 NFL draft. After a brief time with the Packers, he was traded to the Detroit Lions. He decided to retire from playing pro to pursue a legal career. He graduated from Detroit College of Law in 1970. He was a judge for 30 years representing the bench in the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court, Detroit Recorder's Court, and the Wayne County Circuit Court. He retired in 2014.



**Linda Brooks**, Clinical Case Manager, Administration. Passed away April 4, 2020. Linda had 30 years of service with the Court.



**Bernetta Farr**, Retired – Domestic Relations Specialist, Family – Domestic. February 11, 1957 – May 29, 2020.



**Calvin Jackson**, Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal Division. Passed away June 12, 2020. Calvin had 33 years of service with the Court.

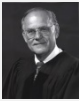
## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



**Hon. Dalton A. Roberson**, Retired Judge. May 11, 1937 – November 11, 2020. Judge Roberson served in the U.S. Air Force as a boom operator. After leaving the service, he attended Michigan State University and Detroit College of Law. He worked as a prosecutor, first in Wayne County and then later at the U.S. Attorney's Office. He later joined private practice before being appointed by Governor William Milliken to the bench of Detroit Recorder's Court. He served on the Detroit Recorder's Court and Third Circuit Court for 28+ years and returned as a Visiting Judge for another five years.



**Mark Kappen**, ITSB Contractor, Administration. February 6, 1958 – December 12, 2020. Mark had over 20 years as an ITSB Contractor for the Court.



**Hon. Roland Lawrence Olzark**, Retired Judge. July 30, 1927 – December 28, 2020. Judge Olzark attended University of Western Ontario where he graduated in 1951 with a BA degree. He received his law degree from University of Detroit Law School Mercy. In 1970 he was appointed by Governor William Milliken to become a Wayne County Circuit Court Judge. He retired from the bench in 1996 but remained active as a visiting judge and conducted settlement conferences.

## 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. Kathleen M. McCarthy  
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

Richard Smart, Deputy Court Administrator  
FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Violet Leonard  
PROJECT CONSULTANT

Toielynn Smith  
CHIEF ASSISTANT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

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  
DIRECTOR OF CLINIC OPERATIONS

This report is available on the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan's website, [www.3rdcc.org](http://www.3rdcc.org).