



3B DISTRICT COURT

2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Judges: Jeffrey C. Middleton
William D. Welty

Ct Administrator/Magistrate: Tabitha Wedge

3B DISTRICT COURT
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

District Court Authority.....	1
District Court Staff.....	2
District Court 2010 Highlights	
The Unexpected and Office Restructures.....	3
Meetings & Trainings.....	4
Fees and SOS Reporting & Interpreter Services.....	5
Technology changes.....	6
2010 Revenue/Expenditures.....	7
Credit Card Revenue.....	8
Probation Statistics.....	9
Probationers.....	10
Oversight Fees.....	11
Screening Fees.....	12
Presentence Investigations.....	13
Weddings.....	14
District Court Case Activity.....	15
New Cases.....	16
Case Dispositions.....	17
Pending.....	18
Caseload Summary Report.....	19
Caseload Detail Report.....	20
District Court Warrants.....	21
Personal Protection Order Information.....	22
Collections.....	23
E-citation Projection Log.....	24

3B DISTRICT COURT

Judges: Jeffrey C. Middleton & William D. Welty

District Court Authority:

- ❖ District Court is a court of limited jurisdiction. We have exclusive jurisdiction of:
 - Misdemeanors where potential punishment does not exceed one year in jail arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, and conducting of preliminary examinations in felony cases.
 - Traffic offenses
 - Civil litigation up to \$25,000
 - Garnishments
 - Eviction proceedings, land contract and mortgage foreclosures
 - Small claims for civil cases up to \$3,000-litigants must waive their right to a jury, representation by a lawyer, rules of evidence, and the right to appeal the judge's decision
 - District Court decisions may be appealed to Circuit Court

- ❖ District Court has four (4) main divisions:
 - Criminal Division: Cases handled in this division include major traffic and misdemeanor offenses, felony offenses, liquor, conservation, watercraft, and animal violations. Municipal civil infractions and township ordinance violations are also included. Most of these violations require a personal appearance before a Judge or Magistrate.
 - Traffic Division: Traffic civil infractions and minor traffic misdemeanor offenses are handled here. Magistrates conduct informal hearings on contested traffic violations or individuals can pay their traffic fines daily.
 - Probation Division: Select criminal violations may result in a sentence where the individual receives a specific period of time they are placed on a supervised probation. They report to an assigned Probation Officer who assists them to complete several programs and testing requirements as part of the probation.
 - Civil Division: Processes civil suits, small claims, landlord tenant disputes and land contract cases. The court handles civil suits up to \$25,000 while Small Claims will provide an inexpensive forum for resolving money disputes up to \$3,000.

- ❖ No deputy clerk is permitted to give legal advice however may assist with policy and procedure directions.

- ❖ Payments are accepted in the form of personal checks, cash, money order and credit cards.

- ❖ Court hours have been set to provide convenient access for court patrons.

2010 3B DISTRICT COURT STAFF

Jeffrey C. Middleton-Chief Judge
(Elected: 2003-2015)
William D. Welty-Judge
(Elected: 1991-2013)
Tabitha Wedge-Ct Administrator/Magistrate
(Hired September 1, 1987; "23 service years")
Mark Books-Magistrate/Judicial Associate
(Hired January 20, 2009; "1 service year")

Judicial Secretaries/Court Reporters:
Sue Eickhoff
(Hired January 13, 2003; "7 service years")
Lori Rumsey
(Hired January 2, 1991; "19 service years")

Probation Department:
Robert Sabatini-Senior Probation Officer
(Hired November 28, 1984; "26 service years")
Cindi Labencki-Clerk
(Hired December 23, 1992; "18 service years")
Gina Wagner-Probation Officer
(Hired September 8, 2009; "1 service year")
Ryan Smith-Probation Officer
(Hired October 6, 2009; "1 service year")

Criminal Department:
Carolyn Price-Blankenship-Clerk
(Hired April 1, 1971-Retired April 28, 2010; "39 service years")
Patricia Ellis-Clerk
(Hired October 6, 1997; "13 service years")
Sally Hippen-Clerk
(Hired December 17, 2001; "9 service years")
Cynthia Custard-Clerk
(Hired January 18, 2005; "5 service years")

Accounting & Traffic Department:
Karen Truckenmiller-Account Clerk
(Hired February 24, 1975-Retired June 18, 2010;
"35 service years")
Karla Milliman-Clerk
(Hired September 2, 1997; "13 service years")
Dorine Channey-Clerk
(Hired May 9, 2005; "5 service years")

Civil Department:
Linda Jones-Clerk
(Hired August 15, 1978; "32 service years")
Sally Wickum-Clerk
(Hired October 28, 1993; "17 service years")
Vilma Taylor-Clerk
(Hired January 2, 2002; "8 service years")



3B DISTRICT COURT 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

The Unexpected:

The court lost valuable institutional knowledge and history with the retirement of two long serving clerical staff members. We commend our 2010 retirees for the years of dedication in serving the courts and our community.

Criminal Clerk Retirement	Carolyn Price-Blankenship announces her retirement after 39 years with the court effective, April 28, 2010
Account Clerk Retirement	Karen Truckenmiller announces her retirement after 35 years with the court effective, June 18, 2010
Deputy Clerk-Probation Dept	Cindi Labencki goes on FMLA effective December 17, 2010.

Office Restructures:

With the retirements began the process of expanding the education of the current staff; and modifying the office area to accommodate more efficient workstations.

Cross-training coverage	Pat Ellis, Karla Milliman, Sally Wickum and Vilma Taylor assist with additional coverage from their regular assigned department responsibilities to include the Probation Department responsibilities.
Cross-training coverage	Dorine Channey assists with the account vacancy along with current collection and traffic department responsibilities.
Deputy Clerk-Probation Dept	Cindi Labencki requests to increase work week hours to 40 per week versus 37.5 effective August 3, 2010
Office Workstation Move	The main office area saw a drastic change to work station placements which allowed for more work space and additional space area for the existing staff.

Meetings & Trainings:

The District Court Judges, Court Management and District Court Staff continue to seek additional education and knowledge to be used in our daily job responsibilities.

Regional Meetings	Judge Middleton, Judge Welty and Tabitha Wedge have regular participation in the Region II meetings. For the Judges this is done on an alternate attendance basis in order to provide continued court coverage. These meetings provide regular updates on upcoming law changes and areas of operations the court needs to be focused on.
Annual Judge Conference	Judge Welty attended the Judge Conference which was held in August.
Judicial Assignments	Both Judge Middleton and Judge Welty's services were assigned to other courts upon disqualification requests through SCAO. Assignments included: Kalamazoo, Berrien and Lenawee Counties.
St. Joseph County Judge Meetings	The four (4) judges regularly continue to meet and discuss various issues and procedures.
MCAA Board	Tabitha Wedge was elected as Vice President for the Michigan Court Administrators Association Board and attends the meetings regularly. These meetings provide regular updates on upcoming law changes, and operations where the court should remain focused.
Community Corrections Advisory Board	Judge Middleton and Judge Welty are active participants with this Board. Robert Sabatini attends as Senior Probation Officer and Gina Wagner was elected as a new Board Member for representation of the Probation Dept.
Conference Opportunities	Tabitha Wedge-Court Administrator, Gina Wagner and Ryan Smith- Probation Officers attended their annual Association conferences to meet with other colleagues. The conferences provide training updates and education on proposed law changes along with other necessary and valuable information.
Training Opportunities	A few District Court employees were able to take advantage of free MJI (Michigan Judicial Institute) training opportunities offered in 2010. The training is beneficial to their job performances and knowledge in assisting court patrons and remaining updated on legal modifications.

Cross Training	With the retirement of two clerical staff members the court continued to remain active with cross-training among the remaining deputy clerks. Several clerks are being trained in areas outside of their “regularly” appointed department. This training brings with it moments of frustration and stress, however the training will prove beneficial to the court by providing more efficient operations when an unexpected leave, vacation or additional assistance is needed in other areas throughout the four (4) court departments.
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Fees:

Each year the District Court compares and revises their fee schedules, if and when necessary, to remain current with State Court Administrator’s Guidelines and the current economical changes seen.

Traffic & Motor Carrier fine & costs	Several traffic and motor carrier related fees were increased.
Attorney Fees	The court increased Court appointed attorney fees. Felony cases were increased from \$190 to \$200. Misdemeanor cases increased from \$100 to \$150 for general services and \$150 to \$200 for bench trials.
Oversight Fees	Court increased oversight fees to \$30 per month and began charging for Pre-sentence investigations handled within the Probation Dept.

SOS Reporting & Interpreter Services:

Secretary of State Conviction Reporting	The District Court remains between a 95-98% compliance with timely reporting of caseload documents.
Interpreter Services	District Court employee, Vilma Taylor, continues to provide regular service as a Spanish interpreter for the court. She offers assistance to a variety of other County offices and proves to be a valuable representative for the court.

Technology changes:

The court reviews and implements modifications to current practice and procedures in a continued effort to reduce the work load experienced by staff; however continuing to strive to maintain the efficiency we are accustomed too in providing services.

Accounting Dept	The accounting department began using JMS Laser checks and Laser receipts mid-summer. While beginning steps were frustrating the advancement provide to be more efficient and time saving for the employees.
Accounting JMS Software Program	The court began implementing the JMS Accounting software program in Aug-September. This program will assist office staff with timelier processing of transmittals, receipt summaries and other accounting areas.
Credit Card Payments	The accounting department advanced to a quicker and more efficient method of credit card payment acceptance. It began on-line electronic ACH deposits in August. This allowed payment to be received quicker therefore allowing the court to process cases in a more timely fashion.
Personal Checks	District court extended the acceptance of personal checks to include all criminal cases with few exceptions.
Fingerprint Filing	The court began accepting Live Scan Fingerprint filings from the LEIN terminals. This allows the court to receive a faster response to whether a defendant was or wasn't fingerprinted at the time of arrest and provides us a manner to remain in compliance with State processing guidelines.
E-citation Project	The project saw final implementation and continues to operate with software updates installed as needed to keep current with existing law changes.

2010	3B DISTRICT COURT	REVENUE
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ACCT #	NAME OF ACCT		AMOUNT TO COUNTY TREASURER
544.100	Case flow Assistance-OUIL		\$16,679.04
545.000	Case flow Assistance-Drug		\$1,498.59
570.040	Victim Rights Program-DC	*	\$3,725.00
602.000	P51796 Court Costs		\$373,448.31
604.000	Reimbursed Ct Appt Atty		\$44,956.01
608.020	DC Jury Fees		\$645.00
609.000	Civil Fees (Various)		\$102,153.70
609.010	Civil Fees (Filing)	*	\$64,278.60
610.020	Contempt Charges		\$2,256.09
696.00	NSF Fees		\$75.00
610.030	Oversight Fees		\$106,387.33
610.040	Screening Fees		\$17,188.00
656.000	Bond Forfeitures		\$8,039.00
657.000	Ordinance Fines	*	\$164,767.98
665.000	Interest CD & Investments		\$566.11
695.000	Cash Short/Over		\$146.00
265.229	District Court Drug Costs		\$14,944.50
264.351	County Booking Fee		\$4,720.00
701.351	State Booking Fee		\$944.00
	YRLY TOTAL TO COUNTY TREASURER		\$927,418.26

* Indicates money collected is different then figure reflected here; as a portion of what is collected is not retained at the county.

TOTAL FEES COLLECTED BY DISTRICT COURT FOR JAN-DEC 2010	\$2,326,591.14
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2010	COUNTY BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
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DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
Total Personnel Services	\$933,926.68	\$39,788.32
Total Supplies-Uniforms	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Operating Expenditures	\$29,566.21	\$7,099.79
Total Capital Expenditures	\$5,565.10	\$534.90
YEARLY TOTALS	\$969,057.99	\$47,423.01

CREDIT CARD REVENUE

The court currently uses Government Payment Services to accept credit card payments. Payments can be made via telephone to an 800 number, on-line or at the court counter. While a service fee is required many of our clients find this to be a more efficient and faster method to handle their court business and are not deterred by the small service fee.

2010		Payments
January		\$24,527.58
February		\$27,539.24
March		\$29,924.13
April		\$25,983.23
May		\$25,948.60
June		\$28,583.96
July		\$29,461.06
August		\$28,619.90
September		\$24,551.41
October		\$24,367.40
November		\$20,088.47
December		\$21,475.20
TOTAL		\$311,070.18
Total Transactions		3033

2009		Payments
January		\$12,082.20
February		\$18,703.01
March		\$19,488.55
April		\$19,022.40
May		\$19,021.43
June		\$20,855.00
July		\$19,223.00
August		\$21,383.06
September		\$24,070.70
October		\$23,605.01
November		\$19,466.65
December		\$21,318.80
TOTAL		\$238,239.81
Total Transactions		2360

2008		Payments
January		\$28,718.00
February		\$19,799.05
March		\$20,345.80
April		\$19,797.70
May		\$23,332.49
June		\$25,506.59
July		\$25,316.83
August		\$20,948.88
September		\$22,669.20
October		\$19,870.84
November		\$15,207.20
December		\$16,921.60
TOTAL		\$258,434.18

YEARLY COMPARISON:		
2010 v 2009	increase	\$72,830.37
2010 v 2008	increase	\$52,636.00



Probation Statistics

Probation Department:

(Located in the Lower Level of the New Court's Building)

Senior Probation Officer: Robert Sabatini

Probation Officer: Gina Wagner

Probation Officer: Ryan Smith

Deputy Clerk: Cindi Labencki

-Number of Probationers

Average: 592 Per Officer: 197

-Oversight Fees

Yearly Total: \$106,387.33

-Screening Fees

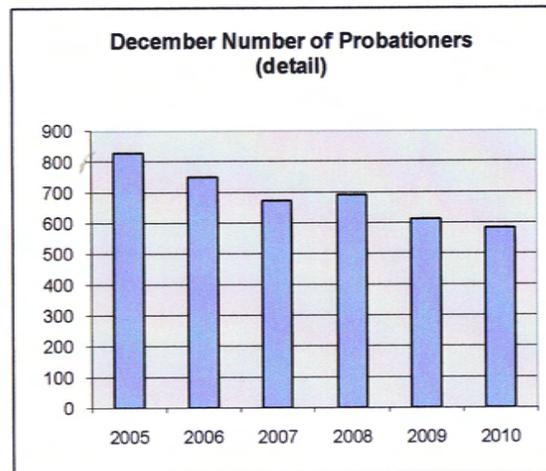
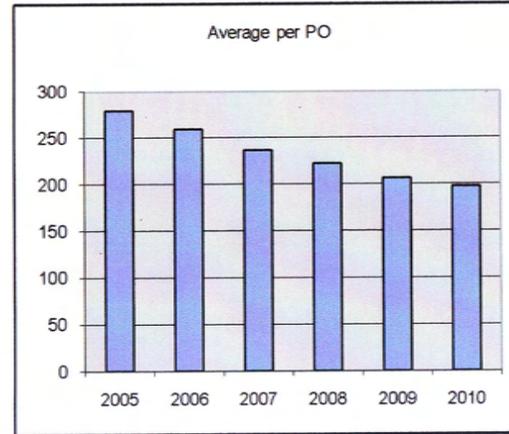
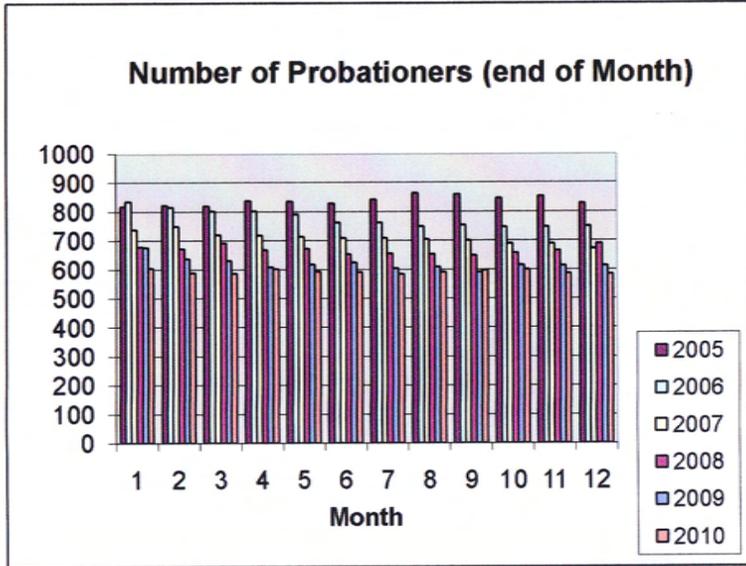
Yearly Total: \$17,188.00

-Pre-sentence Investigation

Yearly Total: 146

Number of Probationers End of Month

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Per P.O.
2005	818	822	820	837	834	828	841	863	859	846	853	828	837	279
2006	835	815	802	802	790	763	762	749	753	747	747	748	776	259
2007	738	748	720	717	714	710	709	704	700	690	690	672	709	236
2008	679	671	692	667	671	652	655	653	648	657	666	690	667	222
2009	677	636	629	609	616	623	603	609	590	614	613	613	619	206
2010	603	588	586	601	592	591	583	591	598	600	585	583	592	197



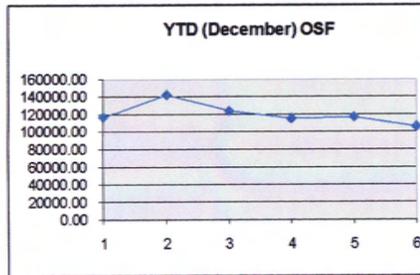
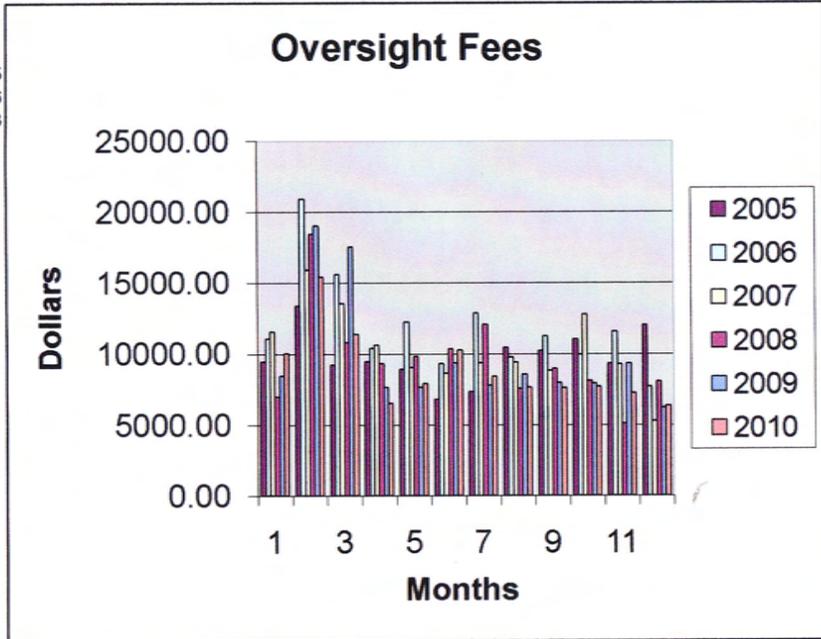
Each of the District Court Probation Officers are assigned individual clients in which they have direct supervision responsibilities. They assist the probationer in meeting their sentencing requirements. They supervise the Alcohol/Drug testing ordered, fees being paid, work history and meet with the probationers on a regular basis until they have advanced and are allowed to report by mail.

Oversight Fees Collected

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Total w/ Screening fees	Total/ # of Probationers
2005	9457.50	13359.00	9237.72	9460.70	8881.20	6806.70	7328.20	10446.64	10222.32	11036.54	9296.25	12006.00	\$117,538.77	\$142,194.53	\$140.36
2006	11078.50	20902.50	15590.11	10388.65	12209.99	9303.00	12840.00	9755.37	11259.50	9951.00	11564.00	7689.00	\$142,531.62	\$171,370.62	\$183.66
2007	11537.50	15939.00	13522.80	10606.53	9052.00	8650.00	9373.00	9383.67	8809.89	12753.44	9244.40	5276.25	\$124,148.48	\$149,919.48	\$175.02
2008	6986.75	18425.75	10794.25	9303.50	9815.85	10349.00	12038.03	7568.55	8942.00	8115.00	5063.75	8059.00	\$115,461.43	\$136,201.43	\$173.17
2009	8464.82	19017.50	17551.15	7660.00	7652.00	9367.00	7774.75	8559.00	7976.13	7901.52	9323.65	6196.90	\$117,444.42	\$140,313.76	\$189.63
2010	10042.90	15420.90	11372.25	6512.35	7927.77	10233.20	8391.00	7655.00	7584.00	7668.93	7252.80	6326.23	\$106,387.33	\$123,575.33	\$179.78
YTD SUBTOTAL =													834556.9		

YTD	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	YTD (August)	YTD (August)						
2005	9457.50	22816.50	32054.22	41514.92	50396.12	57202.82	64531.02	74977.66	85199.98	96236.52	105532.77	117538.77	69921.82	\$84.45
2006	11078.50	31981.00	47571.11	57959.76	70169.75	79472.75	92312.75	102068.12	113327.62	123278.62	134842.62	142531.62	92191.75	\$120.83
2007	11537.50	27476.50	40999.30	51605.83	60657.83	69307.83	78680.83	88064.50	96874.39	109627.83	118872.23	124148.48	82026.83	\$115.53
2008	6986.75	25412.50	36206.75	45510.25	55326.10	65675.10	77713.13	85281.68	94223.68	102338.68	107402.43	115461.43	78394.10	\$120.24
2009	8464.82	27482.32	45033.47	52693.47	60345.47	69712.47	77487.22	86046.22	94022.35	101923.87	111247.52	117444.42	82431.47	\$132.31
2010	10042.90	25463.80	36836.05	43348.40	51276.17	61509.37	69900.37	77555.37	85139.37	92808.30	100061.10	106387.33	74228.37	\$127.32

O16
B16



Oversight Fees are the fee for the Probation Dept to monitor a defendant placed on Probation. This fee is not subject to a State Breakdown and is 100% payable to the County Funding Unit. The fee is collected on a monthly basis and some defendants have the advantage of a lesser fee if they are discharged from probation by complying to their sentencing guidelines in a reduced amount of time.

Screening Fees Collected

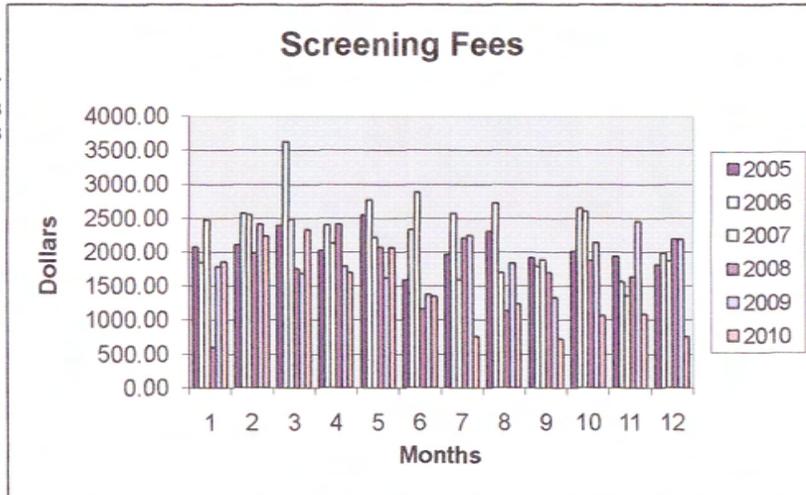
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2005	2071.00	2107.00	2396.00	2015.00	2545.00	1585.00	1966.00	2300.50	1914.50	2008.76	1932.00	1815.00	\$24,655.76
2006	1849.00	2575.00	3625.00	2401.00	2770.00	2325.00	2571.00	2726.00	1790.00	2648.00	1567.00	1992.00	\$28,839.00
2007	2481.00	2556.00	2490.00	2130.00	2219.00	2885.00	1593.00	1699.00	1884.00	2599.00	1365.00	1870.00	\$25,771.00
2008	605.00	1978.00	1757.00	2413.00	2078.00	1160.00	2210.00	1137.50	1702.50	1880.00	1630.00	2189.00	\$20,740.00
2009	1785.00	2408.80	1688.00	1791.00	1629.00	1380.34	2241.20	1836.00	1329.00	2142.00	2455.00	2184.00	\$22,869.34
2010	1857.05	2237.00	2332.95	1698.00	2064.00	1354.00	765.00	1240.00	720.00	1072.00	1091.00	757.00	\$17,188.00

YTD SUBTOTAL = 11543

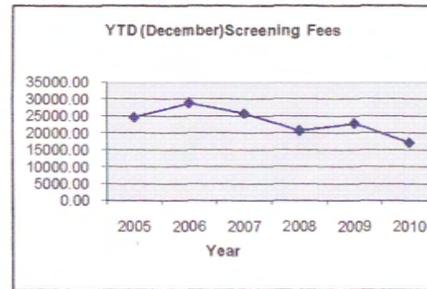
YTD

2005	2071.00	4178.00	6574.00	8589.00	11134.00	12719.00	14685.00	16985.50	18900.00	20908.76	22840.76	24655.76
2006	1849.00	4424.00	8049.00	10450.00	13220.00	15545.00	18116.00	20842.00	22632.00	25280.00	26847.00	28839.00
2007	2481.00	5037.00	7527.00	9657.00	11876.00	14761.00	16354.00	18053.00	19937.00	22536.00	23901.00	25771.00
2008	605.00	2583.00	4340.00	6753.00	8831.00	9991.00	12201.00	13338.50	15041.00	16921.00	18551.00	20740.00
2009	1785.00	4193.80	5881.80	7672.80	9301.80	10682.14	12923.34	14759.34	16088.34	18230.34	20685.34	22869.34
2010	1857.05	4094.05	6427.00	8125.00	10189.00	11543.00	12308.00	13548.00	14268.00	15340.00	16431.00	17188.00

G8
B8

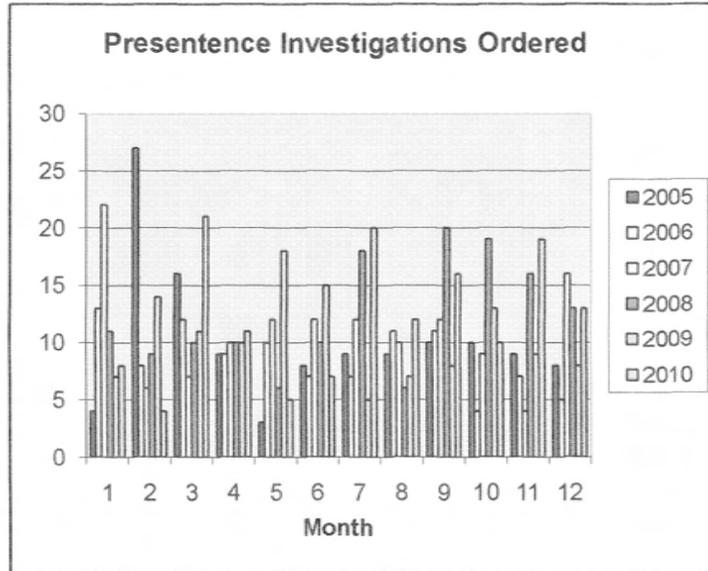


The Screening is a requirement for various Alcohol and Drug convictions. This is an assessment handled by a Probation officer and is used to assist the Judge in determining the sentencing outcome.



Number of Presentence Investigations Ordered

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	YTD Total	
2005		4	27	16	9	3	8	9	9	10	10	9	8	10.2	122
2006		13	8	12	9	10	7	7	11	11	4	7	5	8.7	104
2007		22	6	7	10	12	12	12	10	12	9	4	16	11.0	132
2008		11	9	10	10	6	10	18	6	20	19	16	13	12.3	148
2009		7	14	11	10	18	15	5	7	8	13	9	8	10.4	125
2010		8	4	21	11	5	7	20	12	16	10	19	13	12.2	146
															777



A Presentence investigation is conducted within our Probation Department by a Probation Officer. It is a time where the defendant provides information concerning the case at hand, the Prosecutor, victim and officers are given the opportunity to also provide information. The Probation officer must review all the facts provided, the violation against the defendant and make a recommendation to the Judge for various issues of the sentencing.



3B DISTRICT COURT WEDDING LOG COMPARISON

The District Court Magistrate is authorized to perform marriages within the District the Magistrate serves. At 3B District Court we perform marriages on one afternoon a week during the winter months and two afternoons a week during the summer months. The court will also accommodate a walk-in request if we have the availability.

Language barriers sometimes play a role in our marriage ceremonies. While the parties are provided a hand-out explaining the need to bring an interpreter for their ceremony it is not uncommon for individuals to appear for their appointment with an unreliable interpreter. For 3B District Court we are fortunate to have employed Vilma Taylor, who has been able to interpret for the individuals on a last minute basis. The court created a separate Spanish wedding ceremony to as a more convenient tool in these circumstances.

By statute the Court charges a \$10.00 fee for each marriage performed. This fee is deposited in the county's treasury making it a source of the revenue generated at the District Court Office.

YEAR	TOTAL WEDDINGS PERFORMED
2010	141
2009	126
2008	153
2007	144
2006	164



3B DISTRICT COURT

CASE ACTIVITY

YEAR: 2010



DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

NEW CASES FILED:

CRIMINAL	2010	2009	2008
Felony	853	848	827
Misdemeanors	1,334	1,366	1,720
Civil Infractions	1,265	1,286	1,053
TOTAL	3,452	3,500	3,600

TRAFFIC	2010	2009	2008
Misdemeanor & Civil	11,806	11,181	11,940
Parking	23	21	28
Operate While Intox	241	264	277
TOTAL	12,070	11,466	12,245

CIVIL	2010	2009	2008
Civil	1,998	2,163	2,556
Small Claims	229	343	374
Summary	672	646	705
TOTAL	2,899	3,152	3,635

YEARLY NEW FILING	2010	2009	2008
TOTALS	18,421	18,118	19,480

DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

CASE DISPOSITIONS:

CRIMINAL	2010	2009	2008
Felony	1,279	1,286	1,215
Misdemeanors	1,614	1,842	2,101
Civil Infractions	1,241	1,254	1,076
TOTAL	4,134	4,382	4,392

TRAFFIC	2010	2009	2008
Misdemeanor & Civil	12,064	11,582	12,317
Parking	26	20	28
Operate While Intox	266	291	312
TOTAL	12,356	11,893	12,657

CIVIL	2010	2009	2008
Civil	2,014	2,437	2,608
Small Claims	246	348	371
Summary	655	642	701
TOTAL	2,915	3,427	3,680

YEARLY DISPOSITION	2010	2009	2008
TOTALS	19,405	19,702	20,729

DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

CASES PENDING: DECEMBER 31, 2010

CRIMINAL	2010	2009	2008
Felony	47	45	37
Misdemeanors	111	70	156
Civil Infractions	102	77	45
TOTAL	260	192	238

TRAFFIC	2010	2009	2008
Misdemeanor & Civil	521	391	434
Parking	0	2	1
Operate While Intox	20	23	28
TOTAL	541	416	463

CIVIL	2010	2009	2008
Civil	558	557	815
Small Claims	16	33	38
Summary	123	105	102
TOTAL	697	695	955

YEARLY PENDING	2010	2009	200
TOTALS	1,498	1,303	1,656

	Non-Traffic			Traffic		Civil			Parking	Total
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Civil Infractions	Misdemeanor and Civil	OWI/OWVI	Civil	Small Claims	Summary		
Beginning Pending	43	66	77	389	23	554	33	104	3	1,292
New Filings	853	1,334	1,265	11,806	241	1,998	229	672	23	18,421
Reopened	430	325	1	390	22	20	0	2	0	1,190
Total Caseload	1,326	1,725	1,343	12,585	286	2,572	262	778	26	20,903
Jury Verdict	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
Bench Verdict	0	14	30	308	0	8	61	153	1	575
Guilty Plea/Admis/Waiver	276	948	454	8,714	226	0	0	0	14	10,632
Uncontested/Dflt/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	1,504	126	282	0	1,912
Bindover/Transfer	528	0	0	0	11	8	6	0	0	553
Dismissed by Party	109	303	4	894	6	213	40	144	1	1,714
Dismissed by Court	6	57	17	475	0	187	11	75	3	831
Default	0	0	713	1,383	0	0	0	0	7	2,103
Inactive Status	358	291	21	289	21	81	1	0	0	1,062
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	1	0	15
Case Type Change	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total Dispositions	1,279	1,614	1,241	12,064	266	2,014	246	655	26	19,405
Ending Pending	47	111	102	521	20	558	16	123	0	1,498

NOTE: This is a Caseload Summary Report which lists total cases filed by a variety of case categories.

	Criminal				Traffic (Misdemeanor and Civil)								Non-Traffic Civil				Civil					Total	
	EX	FY	OM	SM	FD	FT	OD	OI	OT	SD	SI	ST	OK	ON	SK	SN	GC	GZ	LT	SC	SP		
Beginning Pending	0	43	7	59	1	0	6	108	31	16	171	79	3	13	0	64	554	0	101	33	3	1,292	
New Filings	56	797	195	1,139	24	0	81	4,329	711	136	5,728	1,038	23	155	0	1,110	1,990	8	652	229	20	18,421	
Reopened	1	429	33	292	5	0	6	4	167	11	7	212	0	0	0	1	20	0	2	0	0	1,190	
Total Caseload	57	1,269	235	1,490	30	0	93	4,441	909	163	5,906	1,329	26	168	0	1,175	2,564	8	755	262	23	20,903	
	EX	FY	OM	SM	FD	FT	OD	OI	OT	SD	SI	ST	OK	ON	SK	SN	GC	GZ	LT	SC	SP	Total	
Jury Verdict	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bench Verdict	0	0	6	8	0	0	0	134	0	0	173	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	150	61	3	544	
Verdict at Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Guilty Plea/Admission	0	276	120	828	17	0	80	3,064	577	129	4,302	771	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,164
Admission/Waivers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	47	0	407	0	0	0	0	0	0	468
Uncontested/Dflt/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,504	0	272	126	10	1,912	
Bindover/Transfer	26	502	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	553
Dismissed by Party	25	84	42	261	0	0	2	207	146	4	292	249	1	2	0	2	212	1	136	40	8	0	1,714
Dismissed by Court	1	5	16	41	0	0	0	203	45	0	185	42	3	15	0	2	186	1	75	11	0	0	831
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	682	0	0	701	0	7	64	0	649	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,103
Inactive Status	0	358	33	258	2	0	3	0	97	16	2	190	0	3	0	18	81	0	0	1	0	0	1,062
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	1	1	0	0	15
Case Type Change	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total Dispositions	52	1,227	217	1,397	30	0	85	4,290	865	151	5,655	1,254	26	147	0	1,094	2,009	5	634	246	21	19,405	
	EX	FY	OM	SM	FD	FT	OD	OI	OT	SD	SI	ST	OK	ON	SK	SN	GC	GZ	LT	SC	SP	Total	
Ending Pending	5	42	18	93	0	0	8	151	44	12	251	75	0	21	0	81	555	3	121	16	2	1,498	

NOTE: This is a Caseload detailed report which reflects the total cases filed by individual case type according to court rule.

DISTRICT COURT WARRANT COMPARISON

SEARCH WARRANTS:

The purpose of a search warrant is to offer the protections mandated by the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution against unreasonable search and seizures. The District Court reviews search warrants for the purpose of property searches and blood samples in the onset of a criminal investigation.

Year	Amount
2010	241
2009	212
2008	233

CRIMINAL WARRANTS:

The purpose of an arrest warrant is to bring the defendant before the court on an accusation charged in a complaint. An arrest warrant is the order by the court to arrest a defendant and bring them before the court to answer the charge alleged in the complaint filed by the Prosecution.

Year	Amount
2010	716
	Felony Warrants 332
	Misdemeanor Warrants 384
2009	743
	Felony Warrants 364
	Misdemeanor Warrants 379
2008	807
	Felony Warrants 347
	Misdemeanor Warrants 460

BENCH WARRANTS:

A bench warrant is issued by the District Court Judge after a defendant has failed to appear, comply with the judgment entered or conditions of bond. The defendant can face contempt penalties based upon the bench warrant arrest in addition to their original case status.

Year	Amount
2010	712
	Outstanding 176
2009	773
	Outstanding 100
2008	866
	Outstanding 102

TOTAL WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 2010: 1,669



DISTRICT COURT JUDGES PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDER INFORMATION

The District Court Judges are cross-assigned with the Circuit Court to assist with various job tasks. This has proven most effective in cases where a conflict may arise causing a disqualification or case re-assignment.

In Michigan, a civil protection order mainly used against domestic abuse is known as a "personal protection order" or "PPO". PPO's are available to restrain domestic and non-domestic abuse and to restrain a broad range of abusive behavior. The PPO's are one of the regular job tasks shared by all four (4) St. Joseph County Judges.

Jeffrey C. Middleton:

PPO'S:		ISSUED		DENIED
MONTH	YEAR: 2010	YEAR: 2009	YEAR: 2010	
January	3	2	0	
February	1	12	0	
March	2	9	1	
April	2	1	1	
May	1	0	0	
June	2	8	0	
July	0	1	0	
August	0	2	0	
September	0	4	0	
October	0	5	2	
November	0	4	0	
December	1	0	1	
TOTAL YEARLY AMOUNTS:	12	48	5	

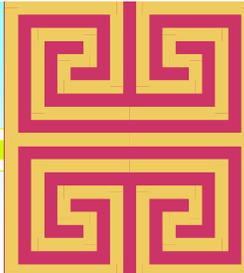
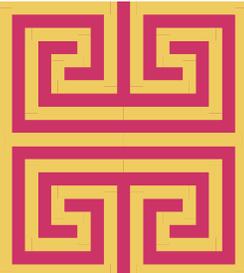
William D. Welty:

PPO'S:		ISSUED		DENIED
MONTH	YEAR: 2010	YEAR: 2009	YEAR: 2010	
January	2	2	0	
February	2	2	0	
March	5	2	0	
April	4	2	0	
May	1	6	1	
June	6	6	2	
July	6	6	2	
August	5	4	3	
September	0	8	0	
October	6	5	1	
November	3	6	0	
December	2	2	0	
TOTAL YEARLY AMOUNTS:	42	51	9	

PPO HEARINGS:

Judge	PPO Hearings Held
Judge Middleton	14
Judge Welty	30

Note: Hearings/Other Case Actions refers to additional case handling by the judge on PPO's after they have been granted. This can include a hearing, request to terminate a PPO, violation, arraignment on a violation, trial, etc. which all involve additional courtroom or handling time from the judge.



COLLECTIONS

In 2007, the District Court began working toward development of collection actions in a variety of court cases. At that time, the District Court had one clerk, Dorine Channey, who mainly concentrated on collections as a part-time status in conjunction with her other daily responsibilities.

As of 2010 and with the retirement of two District Court clerks, the court has expanded some of the collection responsibilities. Several of the court clerks' work together to contact defendants in a variety of ways and assist them with payment methods available and compliance with their outstanding judgments. A few of the methods and services offered include: reminder courtesy payment telephone calls, installment payment plans, wage assignments, delinquent notices, licensing actions and tax garnishments.

Collections can prove to be time consuming, frustrating and not always as productive a goal as projected. Individuals constantly move, do not provide accurate addresses and are not easily accessible. Locator services are necessary to track down the most current contact information and constant case handling is inevitable.

All of the District Court Staff due their parts in assisting defendants with reviewing case data and work toward payment methods that will help them to ensure compliance and minimize both additional consequences along with additional penalties to their cases. With the continued efforts from all participants the court can only strive to achieve better collection results.

E-CITATION PROJECT LOG - 2010

January-February 2010: Mid-month an update is received from APS and provided to a couple agencies to see the results prior to sending to all agencies. It appears to be resolving the outstanding issues so we are back on track and hoping the court will be able to continue with the final phase mid-February 2010 if the update results hold.

March 2010: The final long awaited phase of the e-citation software was implemented and completed effective March 8, 2010! There will continue to be updates made as necessary when law changes occur, new offense codes need to be added or software updates are necessary. Except for unexpected equipment failure or problems; the project is considered a success and all individuals who are involved with the daily operations of the e-citation program feel it is worthwhile and saves considerable time.

The project while frustrating at times has finally proven to be a success. Just to name a few advantages experienced within the 2010 year:

- It has proven on many occasions to be more effective for out of county or out of state individuals who need or wish to satisfy their citations immediately as they can come to the court and the citation can be processed within minutes of being received.
- Legibility issues have been reduced and therefore less time is spent on notices or letters being returned due to insufficient information which can occur when individuals must attempt to decipher another's written.
- Clerical staff have saved time in manually entering each ticket received at the court and therefore have been able to devote time to cross-training issues, accepting additional job responsibilities and tasks.

