

3B DISTRICT COURT

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

**Judges: Jeffrey C. Middleton
William D. Welty**

Ct Administrator/Magistrate: Tabitha Wedge

3B DISTRICT COURT
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

2011

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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.

2011 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; "24 service years")

Mark Books-Magistrate/Judicial Associate

(Hired January 20, 2009; "2 service year")

Judicial Secretaries/Court Reporters:

Sue Eickhoff

(Hired January 13, 2003; "8 service years")

Lori Rumsey

(Hired January 2, 1991; "20 service years")

Probation Department:

Robert Sabatini-Senior Probation Officer

(Hired November 28, 1984-Retired May 31, 2011

"27 service years")

Cindi Labencki-Clerk

(Hired December 23, 1992; "19 service years")

Gina Wagner-Probation Officer

(Hired September 8, 2009; "2 service years")

Ryan Smith-Probation Officer

(Hired October 6, 2009; "2 service years")

Jon Marcus-Probation Officer

(Hired September 16, 2011; "3 months service")

Criminal Department:

Patricia Ellis-Clerk

(Hired October 6, 1997; "14 service years")

Sally Hippen-Clerk

(Hired December 17, 2001; "10 service years")

Cynthia Custard-Clerk

(Hired January 18, 2005; "6 service years")

Accounting & Traffic Department:

Karla Milliman-Clerk

(Hired September 2, 1997-Resigned September 16, 2011; "14 service years")

Dorine Channey-Clerk

(Hired May 9, 2005; "6 service years")

Ashley Brewer-Clerk

(Hired September 27, 2011; "3 months service")

Civil Department:

Linda Jones-Clerk

(Hired August 15, 1978; "33 service years")

Sally Wickum-Clerk

(Hire October 28, 1993; "18 service years")

Vilma Taylor-Clerk

(Hired January 2, 2002; "9 service years")



3B DISTRICT COURT 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

The Unexpected:

The court lost valuable institutional knowledge and history with the retirement of a long servicing probation officer and resignation of a deputy clerk.

Appointment Part-time Magistrate	Ryan Smith is appointed as a part-time Magistrate/Probation officer effective April 11, 2011.
Senior Probation Officer Retirement	Robert Sabatini announces his retirement after 27 years with the court effective, May 31, 2011.
Court Administrator-Magistrate FMLA	Tabitha Wedge is placed on FMLA effective June 15, 2011.
Civil Clerk-FMLA	Vilma Taylor is placed on FMLA effective July 18, 2011.
Civil Clerk-FMLA	Linda Jones is placed on FMLA effective August 24, 2011.
New Probation Officer	Jon Marcus is hired as a new probation officer effective September 16, 2011.
Traffic Clerk Resignation	Karla Milliman announces her resignation after 14 years with the court effective, September 16, 2011.
Traffic/Account Clerk	Ashley Brewer is hired as a new deputy clerk effective September 27, 2011.

New Programs:

The court began steps to establish a Sobriety Court. Several individuals participate to form the Sobriety Court Panel. Attendance at trainings with the State and many preliminary meetings were required to establish the program guidelines and to prepare for the reporting requirements. Full implementation is scheduled for January 2012.

The Panel consists of:

Jeffrey C. Middleton-District Judge
 Erin Harrington-Assistant Prosecutor
 Mark Lillywhite-Undersheriff
 Tony Calloway-Day Reporting
 Spencer Price-Community Mental Health
 Nancy Pick-Community Corrections Representative
 Jon Marcus-District Court Probation Officer
 Gina Wagner-District Court Probation Officer
 Ryan Smith-District Court Probation Officer
 Robert Pattison-Defense Attorney Representation

Meetings & Trainings:

The District Court Judges, Court Management and District Court Staff continue to seek additional education and knowledge to be used in their 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.
Judicial Assignments	Both Judge Middleton and Judge Welty's services were assigned to other courts upon disqualification requests through SCAO. Assignments included: Kalamazoo, Branch and Lenawee Counties. The four (4) St. Joseph County Judges are also cross-assigned.
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 President for the Michigan Court Administrators Association Board in May 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. Gina Wagner-Probation Officer is also on the Board, representing the Probation Dept.
Conference Opportunities	Tabitha Wedge-Court Administrator and Mark Books-Magistrate 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 MJJ (Michigan Judicial Institute) training opportunities offered in 2011. The training is beneficial to continued job performances and knowledge in assisting court patrons and remaining updated on legal modifications.
Cross Training	The District Court continues to be an avid supporter of cross-training. It provides for more efficient operations due to unexpected leaves as seen when two (2) of the three (3) civil clerks were placed on FMLA during 2011.

SOS Reporting & Interpreter Services:

Secretary of State Conviction Reporting	The District Court remains between a 93-98% 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 District Court continues to support the concept of streamlining work tasks and procedures in a continued effort to reduce the work load experienced by all; striving to maintain the efficient operations we are accustomed to in providing services.

Electronic Search Warrants	The court began processing search warrants using laptop technology in addition to the current fax method in April. It has proven to be more beneficial to the officers and the Magistrates. Officers are able to receive their search warrants without having to leave the premises being monitored. It has reduced processing time for all.
E-citations	The court continues to accept electronic citations as an upload from the various police agencies. In September we faced an unfortunate server failure which caused the court and officers to manually process citations. It reminded everyone of the progress we've made.
Officer laptops	Each police agency received new laptops in 2011. The laptops in the car are used to process various court needed forms along with hosting the e-citation APS program.

2011	3B DISTRICT COURT	REVENUE
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ACCT #	NAME OF ACCT		AMOUNT TO COUNTY TREASURER
544.100	Case flow Assistance-OUIL		\$17,417.67
545.000	Case flow Assistance-Drug		\$1,976.49
570.040	Victim Rights Program-DC	*	\$5,213.70
602.000	P51796 Court Costs		\$343,877.06
604.000	Reimbursed Ct Appt Atty		\$49,265.13
609.000	Civil Fees (Various)		\$105,375.00
609.010	Civil Fees (Filing)	*	\$65,464.40
610.020	Contempt Charges		\$1,815.20
696.00	NSF Fees		\$25.00
610.030	Oversight Fees		\$94,550.01
610.040	Screening Fees		\$13,488.00
656.000	Bond Forfeitures		\$5,197.40
657.000	Ordinance Fines	*	\$146,254.61
665.000	Interest CD & Investments		\$360.84
695.000	Cash Short/Over		\$43.60
265.229	District Court Drug Costs		\$11,128.50
264.351	County Booking Fee		\$5,100.00
701.351	State Booking Fee		\$1,022.00
608.020	DC Jury Fees		\$40.00
	YRLY TOTAL TO COUNTY TREASURER		\$867,614.61

* 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 2011		\$1,680,618.57
BOND RECEIVED		\$382,390.85
WITNESS/JURY RECEIVED		\$1,909.34
2011 Total Fees handled through Court		\$2,064,918.76

2011	COUNTY BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
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DESCRIPTION	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
Total Personnel Services	\$855,856.77	\$25,838.23
Total Supplies-Uniforms	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Operating Expenditures	\$24,583.40	\$10,059.60
Total Capital Expenditures	\$5,634.09	\$258.41
YEARLY TOTALS	\$886,074.26	\$36,156.24

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. In 2011 we saw 32 less total transactions than 2010 however an increase of approximately \$2671.00 in collections.

2011		Payments
January		\$24,894.40
February		\$27,825.50
March		\$30,248.80
April		\$23,998.85
May		\$24,324.20
June		\$30,658.40
July		\$26,478.70
August		\$23,319.45
September		\$24,935.00
October		\$29,269.28
November		\$23,849.96
December		\$23,938.73
TOTAL		\$313,741.27
Total Transactions		3001

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

YEARLY COMPARISON:		
2011 v 2010	increase	\$2,671.09
2010 v 2009	increase	\$72,830.37



Probation Statistics

Probation Department:

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

Probation Officer:	Gina Wagner
Probation Officer:	Ryan Smith
Probation Officer:	Jon Marcus
Deputy Clerk:	Cindi Labencki

-Number of Probationers

Average: 483 Per Officer: 161

-Oversight Fees

Yearly Total: \$94,550.01

-Screening Fees

Yearly Total: \$13,488.00

-Pre-sentence Investigation

Yearly Total: 125

Number of 3B District Court Probationers End of Month

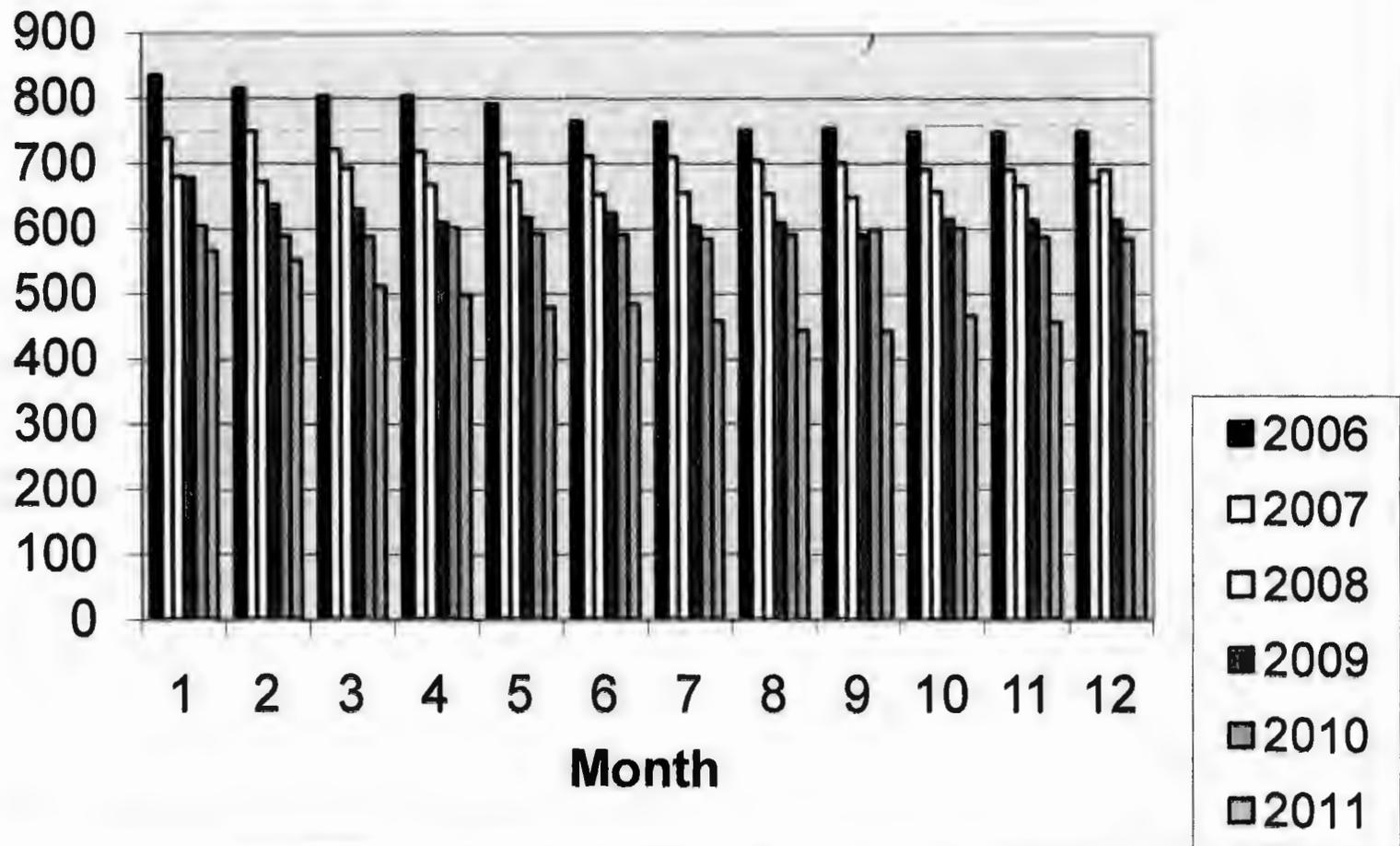
2011

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	Per P.O.
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
2011	565	551	511	498	479	484	459	444	442	466	456	441	483	161

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 also 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.

Next page probationers chart reference.

Number of Probationers (end of Month)



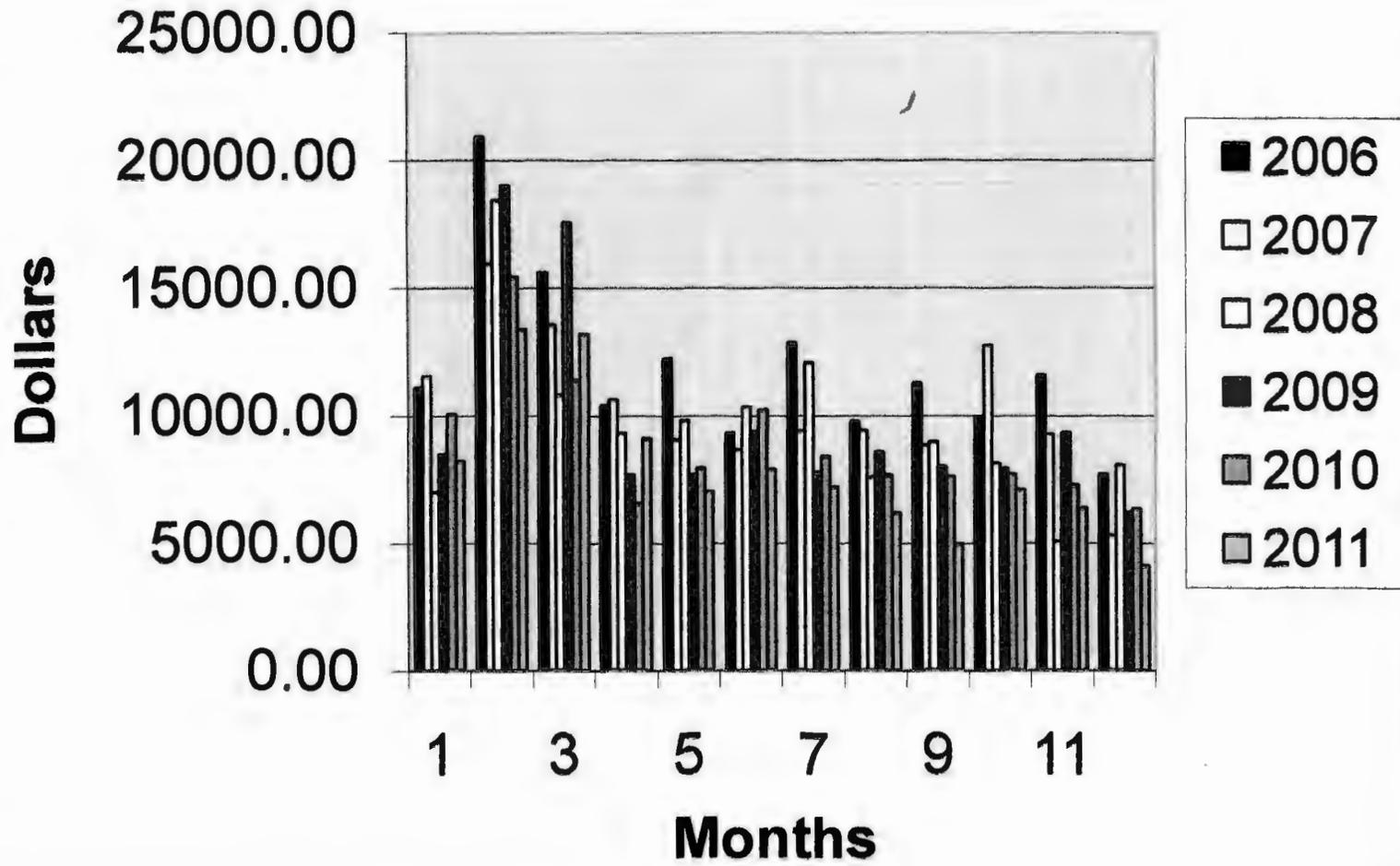
DISTRICT COURT:**Oversight Fees Collected****2011**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Total w/ Screening fees	Total/ # of Probationers
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
2011	8189.75	13375.26	13184.50	9089.00	7013.00	7858.62	7196.87	6180.00	4945.00	7074.00	6352.00	4092.01	\$94,550.01	\$108,038.01	\$195.76

Oversight fees are the fees charged for the Probation Department 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 with their sentencing guidelines in a reduced amount of time.

Next page oversight fee reference chart

Oversight Fees



3B District Court:

Screening Fees Collected

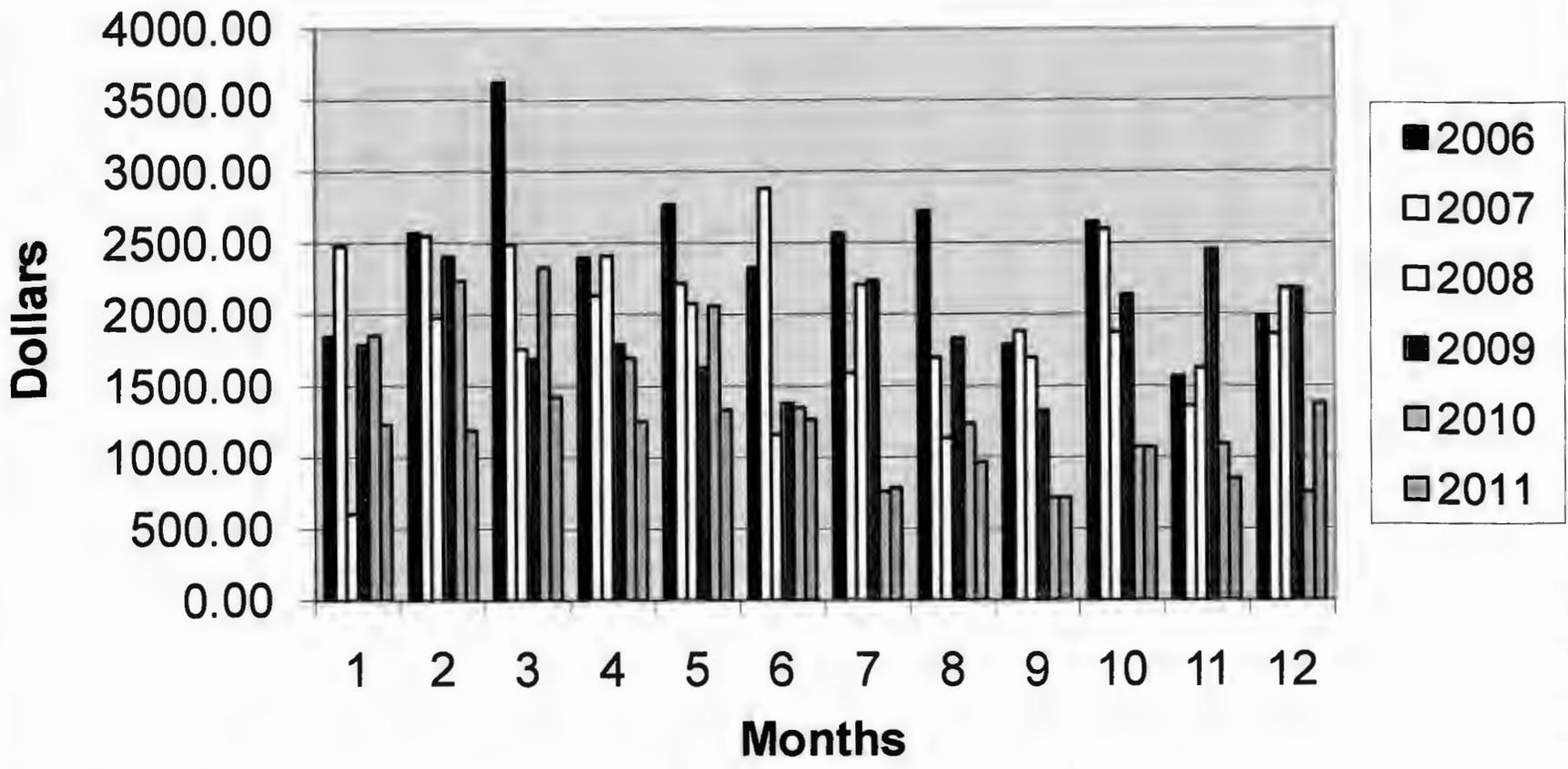
2011

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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
2011	1229.00	1191.00	1431.00	1254.00	1335.00	1267.00	786.00	966.00	720.00	1073.00	854.00	1382.00	\$13,488.00

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

Next page screening fee reference chart

Screening Fees



Number of 3B District Court Presentence Investigations Ordered

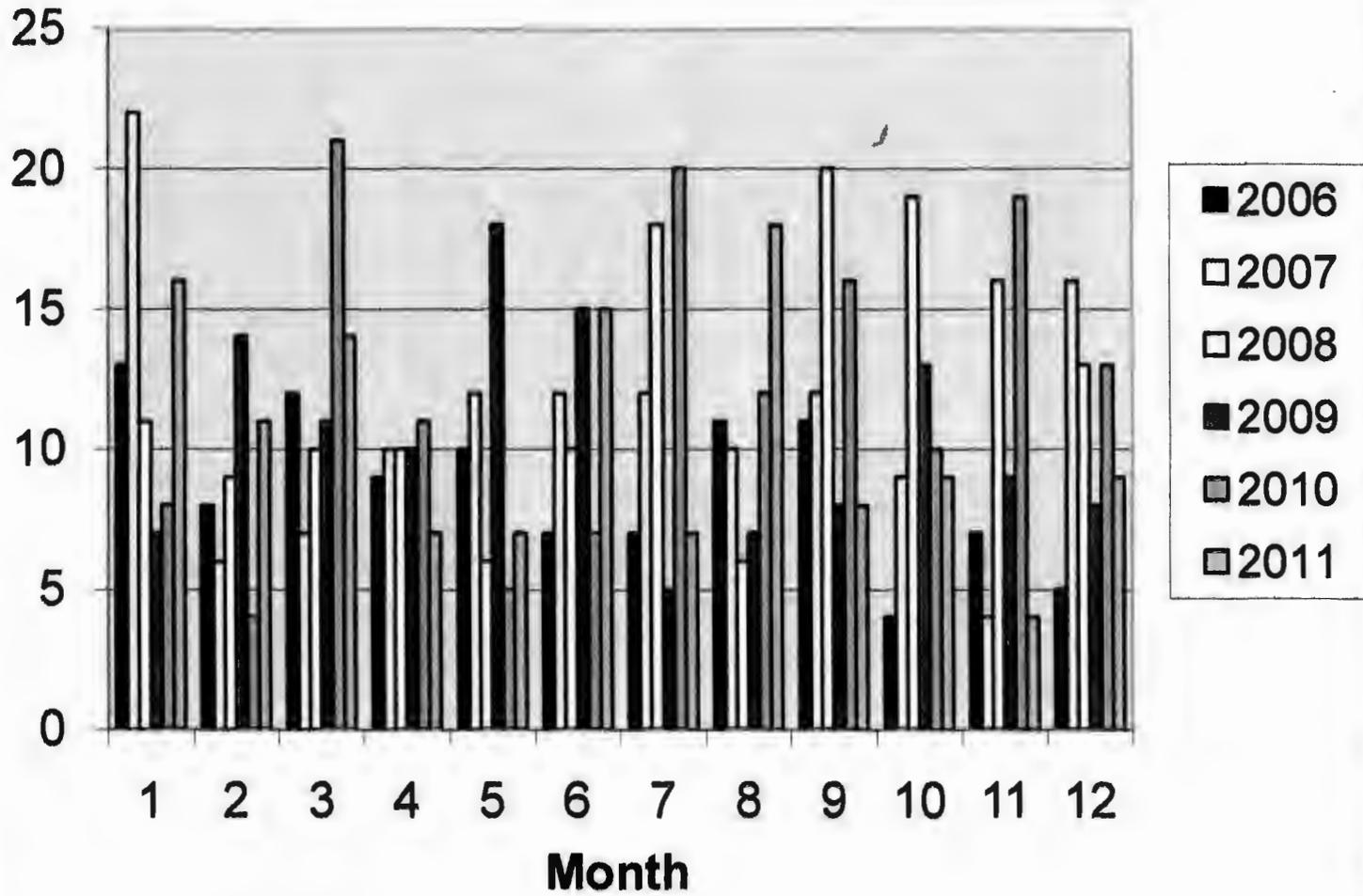
2011

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average	YTD Total
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
2011	16	11	14	7	7	15	7	18	8	9	4	9	10.4	125

A Presentence Investigation is conducted within our Probation Department by a Probation Officer. It is a meeting where the defendant provides information concerning the case at hand. The Prosecutor, victim and officers are given the opportunity to also provide information in writing. The Probation Officer must review all the facts provided, the violation against the defendant and make a honest recommendation to the Judge in areas concerning the sentencing outcome.

Next page presentence investigation reference chart

Presentence Investigations Ordered





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 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.

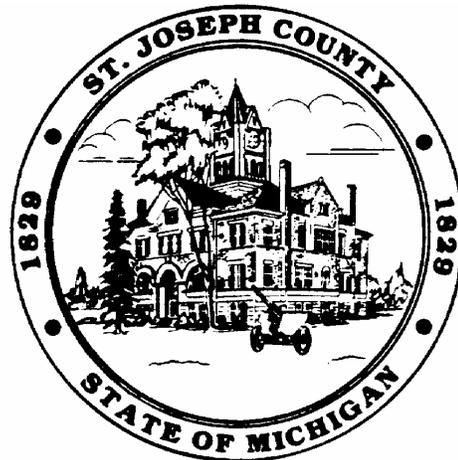
YEAR	TOTAL WEDDINGS PERFORMED
2011	119
2010	141
2009	126
2008	153
2007	144



3B DISTRICT COURT

CASE ACTIVITY

YEAR: 2011



DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

NEW CASES FILED:

CRIMINAL	2011	2010	2009
Felony	754	853	848
Misdemeanors	1,300	1,334	1,366
Civil Infractions	1,356	1,265	1,286
TOTAL	3,410	3,452	3,500

TRAFFIC	2011	2010	2009
Misdemeanor & Civil	10,415	11,806	11,181
Parking	67	23	21
Operate While Intox	200	241	264
TOTAL	10,682	12,070	11,466

CIVIL	2011	2010	2009
Civil	1,831	1,998	2,163
Small Claims	205	229	343
Summary	704	672	646
TOTAL	2,740	2,899	3,152

YEARLY NEW FILING	2011	2010	2009
TOTALS	16,832	18,421	18,118

DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

CASE DISPOSITIONS:

CRIMINAL	2011	2010	2009
Felony	1,160	1,279	1,286
Misdemeanors	1,630	1,614	1,842
Civil Infractions	1,389	1,241	1,254
TOTAL	4,179	4,134	4,382

TRAFFIC	2011	2010	2009
Misdemeanor & Civil	10,658	12,064	11,582
Parking	61	26	20
Operate While Intox	225	266	291
TOTAL	10,944	12,356	11,893

CIVIL	2011	2010	2009
Civil	1,903	2,014	2,437
Small Claims	193	246	348
Summary	733	655	642
TOTAL	2,829	2,915	3,427

YEARLY DISPOSITION	2011	2010	2009
TOTALS	17,952	19,405	19,702

DISTRICT COURT CASE ACTIVITY

CASES PENDING: DECEMBER 31, 2011

CRIMINAL	2011	2010	2009
Felony	39	47	45
Misdemeanors	93	111	70
Civil Infractions	68	102	77
TOTAL	200	260	192

TRAFFIC	2011	2010	2009
Misdemeanor & Civil	600	521	391
Parking	6	0	2
Operate While Intox	24	20	23
TOTAL	630	541	416

CIVIL	2011	2010	2009
Civil	491	558	557
Small Claims	28	16	33
Summary	93	123	105
TOTAL	612	697	695

YEARLY PENDING	2011	2010	2009
TOTALS	1,442	1,498	1,303

	Non-Traffic			Traffic		Civil			Parking	Total
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Civil Infractions	Misdemeanor and Civil	OWI/OWVI	Civil	Small Claims	Summary		
Beginning Pending	45	108	100	518	20	555	16	122	0	1,484
New Filings	754	1,300	1,356	10,415	200	1,831	205	704	67	16,832
Reopened	400	315	1	325	29	8	0	0	0	1,078
Total Caseload	1,199	1,723	1,457	11,258	249	2,394	221	826	67	19,394
Jury Verdict	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bench Verdict	0	7	37	300	0	8	41	194	1	588
Guilty Plea/Admis/Waiver	249	956	446	7,551	179	0	0	0	11	9,392
Uncontested/Dflt/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	1,388	100	369	0	1,857
Bindover/Transfer	474	0	0	0	15	23	3	3	0	518
Dismissed by Party	98	274	13	819	12	209	36	111	0	1,572
Dismissed by Court	8	93	36	430	1	209	9	54	4	844
Default	0	0	855	1,298	0	0	0	0	45	2,198
Inactive Status	331	299	2	260	17	57	2	1	0	969
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	11
Case Type Change	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total Dispositions	1,160	1,630	1,389	10,658	225	1,903	193	733	61	17,952
Ending Pending	39	93	68	600	24	491	28	93	6	1,442

NOTE: This is a Caseload Summary Report which lists the 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	4	41	16	92	0	0	8	149	44	12	250	75	0	19	0	81	552	3	120	16	2	1,484
New Filings	33	721	217	1,083	33	0	44	3,949	608	123	4,936	922	67	165	0	1,191	1,824	7	687	205	17	16,832
Reopened	0	400	27	288	3	0	6	4	110	20	7	204	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	1,078
Total Caseload	37	1,162	260	1,463	36	0	58	4,102	762	155	5,193	1,201	67	184	0	1,273	2,384	10	807	221	19	19,394
	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bench Verdict	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	116	0	0	184	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	188	41	6	550
Verdict at Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	38
Guilty Plea/Admission	0	249	153	803	17	0	44	2,750	487	118	3,652	662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,935
Admission/Waivers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	46	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	457
Uncontested/Dfl/Settled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,387	1	363	100	6	1,857
Bindover/Transfer	20	454	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	3	3	0	518
Dismissed by Party	13	85	38	236	0	0	5	234	91	7	282	212	0	7	0	6	207	2	108	36	3	1,572
Dismissed by Court	2	6	32	61	0	0	1	167	41	0	152	70	4	12	0	24	207	2	54	9	0	844
Default	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	612	0	0	686	0	45	70	0	785	0	0	0	0	0	2,198
Inactive Status	1	330	26	273	2	0	1	0	91	14	1	168	0	0	0	2	57	0	1	2	0	969
Other Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	2	0	11
Case Type Change	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total Dispositions	36	1,124	252	1,378	34	0	51	3,879	710	140	4,957	1,112	61	161	0	1,228	1,895	8	718	193	15	17,952
Ending Pending	1	38	8	85	2	0	7	223	52	15	236	89	6	23	0	45	489	2	89	28	4	1,442

NOTE: This is a Caseload Detail 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
2011	180
2010	241
2009	212

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
2011	686
	Felony Warrants 308
	Misdemeanor Warrants 378
2010	716
	Felony Warrants 332
	Misdemeanor Warrants 384
2009	743
	Felony Warrants 364
	Misdemeanor Warrants 379

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
2011	691
	Outstanding 175
2010	712
	Outstanding 93
2009	773
	Outstanding 77

TOTAL WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 2011: 1,557



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: 2011	YEAR: 2010	YEAR: 2011	
January	2	3	2	
February	6	1	1	
March	1	2	1	
April	1	2	1	
May	0	1	0	
June	0	2	1	
July	1	0	0	
August	0	0	3	
September	2	0	4	
October	4	0	0	
November	1	0	0	
December	1	1	0	
TOTAL YEARLY AMOUNTS:	19	12	13	

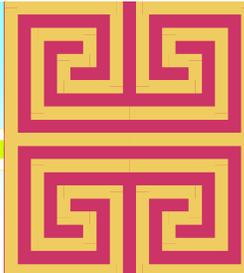
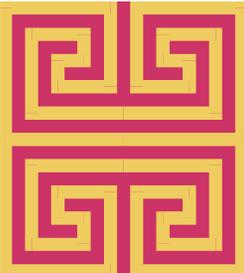
William D. Welty:

PPO'S:		ISSUED		DENIED
MONTH	YEAR: 2011	YEAR: 2010	YEAR: 2011	
January	1	2	0	
February	10	2	0	
March	5	5	0	
April	5	4	1	
May	8	1	1	
June	4	6	1	
July	8	6	0	
August	1	5	0	
September	5	0	2	
October	3	6	1	
November	2	3	0	
December	5	2	1	
TOTAL YEARLY AMOUNTS:	57	42	7	

PPO HEARINGS:

Judge	PPO Hearings/Case Actions Held
Judge Middleton	9
Judge Welty	38

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

Several of the court clerks' continue to work together to contact defendants in a variety of ways and assist them with payment methods available and to remain in 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, have obligations within the other courts, 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 do their parts in assisting defendants with reviewing case data and work toward payment methods that will help the defendants to ensure compliance and minimize both additional consequences along with additional penalties to their cases.

Continued efforts from all participants along with the cooperation efforts among all courts has assisted with the objective to achieve better collection results especially in light of the current economical trends.

