

86TH DISTRICT COURT – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSSION STATEMENT: To ensure justice for all those involved in cases that come before the 86th District Court.

Leelanau County
8527 E. Government
Center Dr.
Suttons Bay MI 49682

Grand Traverse County
280 Washington Street
Traverse City MI 49684

Antrim County
205 E. Cayuga
Bellaire MI 49615

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FOREWORD

Michael S. Stepka, Chief District Court Judge

The 86th District Court continues to be a high volume court in 2020. The court serves Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim Counties. Two Judges serve the three counties. The Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor criminal matters, felonies through the preliminary exam, civil infractions, small claims, landlord/tenant cases and general civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less. The Court's website, www.86thdistrictcourt.org provides a variety of additional information about the Court's services.

COVID -19 presented the 86th District Court with many challenges. The Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrator's Office issued many Administrative Orders that were consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders throughout 2020. Like most courts in Michigan, the 86th District Court closed our lobby and administrative and probation offices to in-person public business in late March and it continued throughout the year. Litigants, attorneys, and the general public handled their business with the court by filing pleadings and paying traffic fees and other court costs on-line.

All court hearings were conducted by Zoom meeting technology with the exception of jury trials. Jury trials were not able to be scheduled in 2020 due to COVID-19 in order to protect the public. The majority of Michigan trial courts did not have jury trials in 2020.

The Court began using Zoom technology in May and was able to expeditiously handle all backlogged criminal and civil proceedings that accumulated earlier in the year (with the exception of jury trials), and the court continued to utilize Zoom for the rest of 2020 handling full criminal and civil dockets.

The pandemic did not slow the progress of our sobriety and drug therapeutic treatment courts. The treatment courts continued to successfully treat and monitor on probation those convicted of multiple drunk driving offenses and felony drug offenses. Both courts closely supervise participants' conduct with frequent review hearings in court, frequent counseling sessions and rigorous drug and alcohol testing. These courts have been proven to treat participants' substance use issues, thereby protecting the public and reducing recidivism. The Domestic Violence Court is a specialized docket handling issues of relationship violence between partners, maintains a fast track for the cases by offering programs oriented towards healing relationships and supporting nonviolence rather than emphasizing punishment without dealing with the underlying causes of violent behavior.

We are very fortunate in our communities to have many local agencies, therapists, medical providers, probation agents and community correction agents, and court staff who provide support and assistance to participants in these problem solving courts.

The court's On-Base electronic filing system continued to be upgraded and refined during 2020 allowing the court to continue eliminating paper files, and greatly enhancing efficiency and saving funds in the process. We are also fortunate to have a hardworking, professional, and efficient staff in all divisions and counties that comprise the 86th District Court and I thank them for their commitment and contributions in 2020.

In closing, I want to especially thank and acknowledge our Court Administrator Carol Stocking and Deputy Court Administrator Dawn Wagoner. Carol and Dawn very expertly, professionally, and quickly implemented the frequent State Court Administrative Orders addressing COVID-19 by providing employees whose jobs could be performed remotely with the necessary technology to do so, establishing the protocol that the employees working at the three courthouses were to follow in order to keep everyone safe, and learning and implementing Zoom technology so that the judges could continue with their busy dockets. Carol and Dawn were exemplary in 2020 and worked tirelessly in responding to the frequent, and sometimes confusing, State Court Administrative Orders pertaining to the pandemic. I

want to acknowledge and thank Chief Magistrate Tammi Rodgers, Magistrate Norene Kastys in Leelanau County, and Magistrate Jessica Allmand in Antrim County for handling very full dockets in 2020 by Zoom. Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank Judge Robert Cooney, my bench mate, for his support and wisdom in helping the 86th District Court in 2020.

JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES



Chief Judge Michael S. Stepka

Judge Michael Stepka was elected to the 86th District Court in November 2010 and reelected in November 2016. He grew up in Traverse City and graduated from Traverse City Central High School. After attending Northwestern Michigan College, he went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University where he graduated Cum Laude. He received his law degree from the University Of Detroit School Of Law.

After graduating from law school, Judge Stepka returned to Traverse City to practice law until he was elected to the bench. Judge Stepka served as a Grand Traverse County Commissioner from 2009-2010. For many years he served on the boards of the Women's Resource Center, and Third Level Legal Aid volunteer clinic. Judge Stepka served as the Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim County Bar Association President, and was the Annual Law Day Chair for many years. Judge Stepka currently presides over the 86th District Court Sobriety Court. His interests include road and mountain biking, running and downhill skiing. Judge Stepka has two children, Michael and Betsie.

JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED



Judge Robert A. Cooney

Judge Robert Cooney was elected to the bench in 2018 after serving as the elected Prosecuting Attorney for Grand Traverse County from 2012 to 2018. Judge Cooney is a 1986 graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, and a 1992 graduate of Michigan State University School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate Degree and served as Managing Editor of the Law Review. He earned his law degree as an evening student while employed full time as an Engineer for the United States Army.

After graduating from Law School, Judge Cooney served as a Pre-hearing Attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals. In 1993, he was appointed Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Grand Traverse County where he served for 19 years prior to being elected Prosecuting Attorney. Judge Cooney presides over the Drug Treatment and Domestic Violence Courts. He is currently President of the Grand Traverse Area Chapter of Families against Narcotics, an organization whose mission is to save lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP), whose mission is to provide leadership and education to treatment courts throughout the State, and the Board of Directors of Generations Ahead, an organization that empowers young parents to build positive relationships, strengthen family resilience, and raise healthy children. Judge Cooney lives on Old Mission Peninsula with his wife Karin, their three children, Katie, Jack, and Maggie, and dogs Bondar and Yosemite. The Cooney's are members of Central United Methodist Church of Traverse City.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Carol Stocking District Court Administrator

Carol attended Central Michigan University and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1982 and her Master's degree in General Administration in 1999. She began her career with Grand Traverse County as a clerk in the Human Resources Department. She was ultimately promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Human Resources.

In February 2001, Carol was hired by the 86th District Court to fill the newly created Court Administrator position and has served the citizens of all three counties in this capacity since. She has served on the board of the Michigan Court Administrators Association and has also served on the State Court Administrator's Office Task Force for Collections. Carol is a graduate of Leadership Grand Traverse, class of 1997-98 and was an adjunct professor teaching Human Resources at NMC from 2000-2013.

Dawn Wagoner Deputy District Court Administrator

Dawn is a 1993 graduate of Ferris State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement. She was hired by the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office in 1994 and spent the majority of her career at the Sheriff's Office in the Investigative Services Division where she specialized in child abuse and sexual assault crimes. In 2012, she was hired by the 86th District Court as a Probation Officer. Dawn was promoted to the position of Deputy District Court Administrator in 2017. She received her magistrate appointment in 2017. Dawn is a 2019 graduate of the National Center for State Courts, Institute for Court Management - Certified Court Managers program.

Dawn has served as a board member of the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center and as the chairperson of the Tri-County Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. She was also a member of the Grand Traverse County Child Death Review team and served as the Region 5 representative of the Michigan Association of District Court Probation Officers. She currently serves as a board member of the Michigan Court Administrators Association, is the Chair of the MCAA Awards Committee, is on the MCAA Conference Committee and is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion sub-committee of the MCAA.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The 86th District Court is part of the judicial branch of government as provided for by the Michigan Constitution in 1963 and created by the Michigan Legislature in Public Act 154 of 1968.

The purpose of the District Court is to provide a system of justice for the citizens of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau Counties. The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less and all criminal misdemeanors. The District Court also handles all arraignments and preliminary examinations in felony matters.

Judges hold court in Traverse City five days per week. In Leelanau County, Court is held every Friday. In Antrim County, our District Court Judges hold Court every Wednesday. Judges travel to Antrim and Leelanau on a rotating schedule. In Antrim County, the Probate Judge assists by handling a third of the caseload every week on Thursday mornings. While the Probate Judge in Leelanau graciously assists on an as needed basis.

Our Court has three divisions: criminal/traffic, civil and probation.

NOTES FROM 2020

2020 started out just like any other year, but as we are all aware, it took a turn that no one could have anticipated in their wildest dreams.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, we were not immune and as we all watched what was going on around the world, in March of 2020, it came to us. With the numbers of infected people rising and the death count mounting, our Michigan Supreme Court ordered the courts around the state to close our doors to the public.

But just because there was a pandemic that threatened the health and welfare of our country's citizens, that didn't stop our citizens fundamental rights for due process and access to their judicial system. For a system that is notoriously slow to change, courts all over had to institute large scale technological changes in a very short period of time.

Fortunately, the State Court Administrative Office was already planning to distribute virtual courtrooms to Michigan's seated Judges and Magistrates and so in a relatively short period of time, those virtual courtrooms were distributed so that courts could begin to provide that fundamental access once again.

From a technological standpoint, the 86th District Court was in a better position than most going into a virtually operating court system. Our civil, criminal and probation divisions all operate using electronic data management systems. This allowed us to limit our number of employees in the building by moving all of our probation officers, several of our community corrections officers, our collections specialist, our chief magistrate and our deputy court administrator to a remote work situations seamlessly.

Unfortunately, due to equipment constraints, we were unable to move our clerical staff to remote work. In an effort to limit the number of staff working in any one area, we allowed divisions to work together to create flexible schedules that allowed court needs to be met while helping with staff's personal needs.

What you will notice as you peruse this annual report, is that our numbers all over the court were significantly less than in previous years. We attribute this to the pandemic.

Thank you.

STAFFING PLAN

ADMINISTRATION

Carol Stocking – Court Administrator
Dawn Wagoner – Deputy Court Administrator

ANTRIM COUNTY STAFF –

Jessica Allmand – Magistrate
Shirley Dewitt – Office Coordinator
Jerri White – Traffic Clerk
Cynthia Visnaw – Civil Clerk
Elizabeth Stanichuk – Probation Officer
Jennifer Rashleigh-Houser – Compliance Officer

LEELANAU COUNTY STAFF –

Norene Kastys – Magistrate / Office Coordinator
Cindy Schaub – Criminal / Civil Clerk
Kristy Helmreich – Probation Officer

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY STAFF –

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Tammi Rodgers – Magistrate
Sue Schaub – Office Coordinator
Sara Deschler
Stacy Donaldson-Patton
Sonya Perreault
Katie Schrottenboer*

CIVIL DIVISION

Ella Dreves – General Civil
Susan Womack – Landlord/Tenant
Claudette Tarr – Small Claims
Tammie McLain*

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

Debra Stevens

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Sherise Shively – Community Corrections Manager
Maryanne Bratcher – Drug Court Probation Officer
Margaret Drury – Community Corrections Officer
Lynn Hildebrand – CC/Pre-Trial Services Officer
Courtnei Smus – Compliance Officer

COURT RECORDERS

Tammy Odom
Amanda Webster
Christy Milarch

COLLECTIONS

Dawn Rector

Part-time employee (*)

MAGISTRATES AND ACTIVITY

All Magistrates are appointed by the Chief Judge of the 86th District Court and with approval of the County Board of Commission that they will be assigned to work in. Magistrates are required to reside in the county that they are appointed to work in, serve at the pleasure of the judges of the District Court, take a constitutional oath of office, file a performance bond with the county treasurer and complete a training course in traffic law adjudication and sanctions as well as a New Magistrate Seminar given by the State Court Administrative Office.

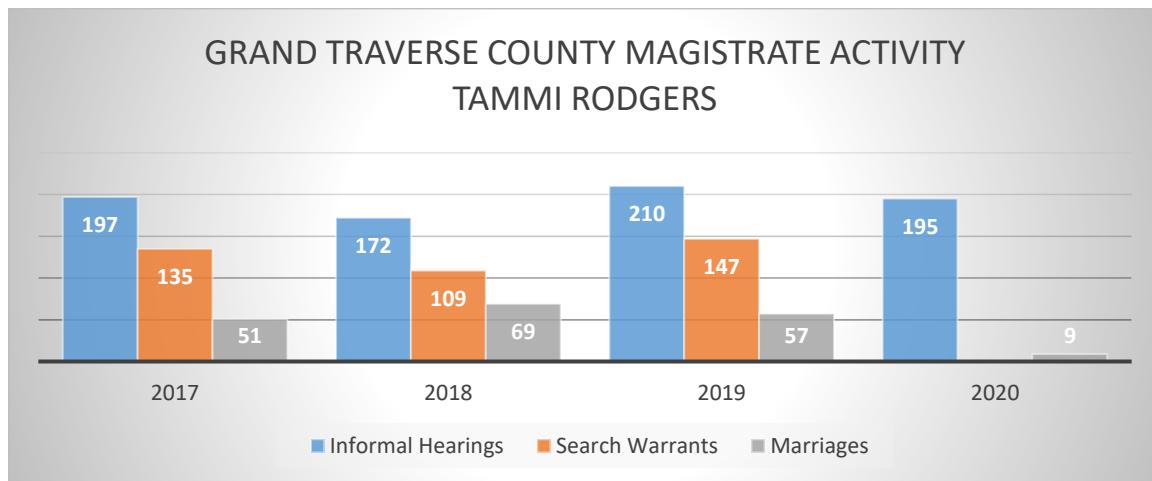
The Chief District Court Judge authorizes the duties that our Magistrates are allowed to perform. These duties are set forth in a Local Administrative Order. Magistrates conduct informal hearings on traffic tickets, perform weddings, issue arrest warrants and sign search warrants, conduct arraignments and probable cause conferences, set bonds and accept pleas for misdemeanors and sentence cases that have a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and approve and grant petitions for appointment of attorney's to represent indigent defendants.

The 86th District Court has 4 magistrates that are appointed by the Chief Judge. Though the magistrates have assigned counties that they work in, all magistrates of the 86th District Court work together to serve the residents of all three of the counties within the 86th District Court jurisdiction.

DAWN WAGONER – MAGISTRATE – GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY – Is the Deputy Court Administrator and serves in a backup capacity only. Dawn was appointed in 2017.

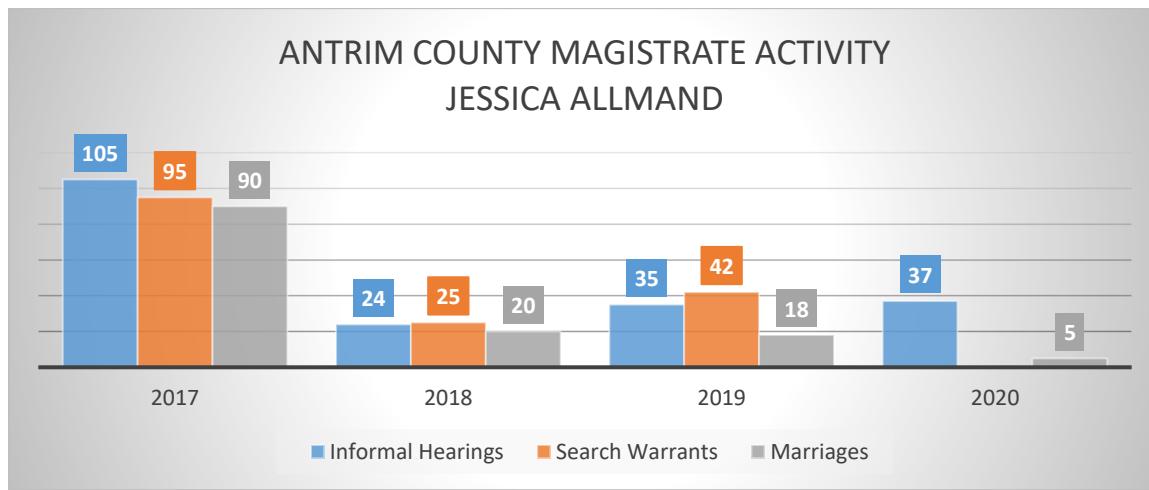
TAMMI RODGERS – CHIEF MAGISTRATE – GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY – 1.0 FTE

Magistrate Rodgers was appointed as a full time magistrate in Grand Traverse County in February of 1992. Magistrate Rodgers is a 1980 graduate of Michigan State University - James Madison College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy. She also attended the National Judicial College and earned her Limited Jurisdiction Certification. Magistrate Rodgers was the chairperson for the Northwest Michigan Traffic Safety Association and is a longtime member of the Michigan District Court Magistrates Association. She is currently a training magistrate, mentoring newly appointed magistrates and has assisted with the editing of the magistrates traffic manual.

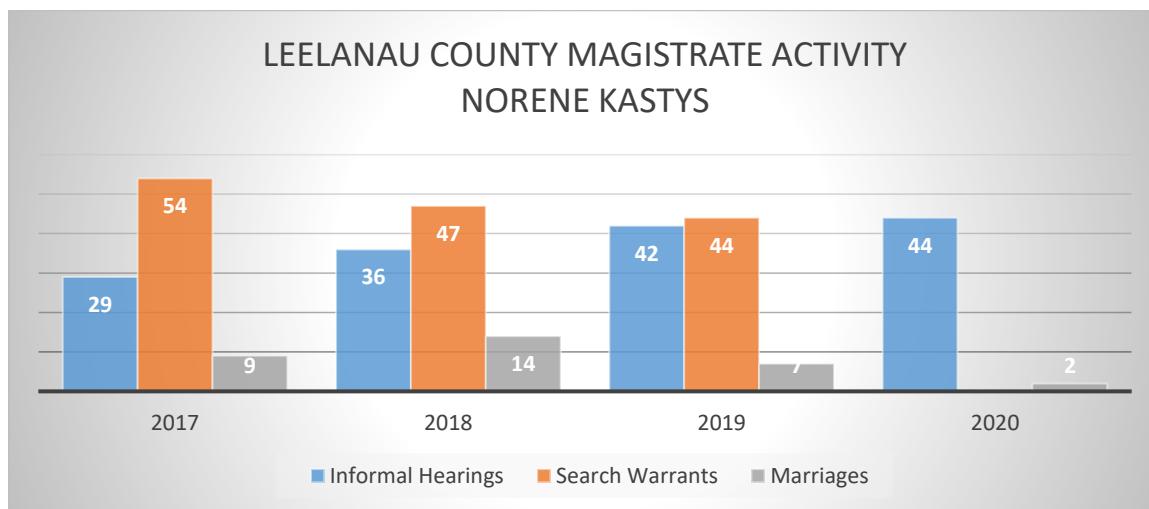


JESSICA ALLMAND – ATTORNEY MAGISTRATE – ANTRIM COUNTY – .6 FTE

Magistrate Allmand was appointed as a Magistrate for the 86th District Court in Antrim County in July 2020. Magistrate Allmand is a resident of Bellaire and comes to the court with over 25 years of experience as an attorney. She's a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in Political Science, while she obtained her juris doctor from the University Of Louisville School Of Law. Most of her career was spent in southern Michigan working in Real Estate and Bankruptcy law.

**NORENE KASTYS – MAGISTRATE – LEELANAU COUNTY – .5 FTE**

Magistrate Kastys was hired by the 86th District Court in October of 1998 and assigned to Leelanau County. She was appointed as a Magistrate for Leelanau County in August of 2000. She attended Michigan State University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Business and Education. She was a past President, Vice President, Secretary and current member of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates. In 2014 she received the MADCM Distinguished Service Award. Magistrate Kastys is a current board member of the Suttons Bay Art Festival, the M-22art2art Tour and a retired 4-H Leader from Barry County.



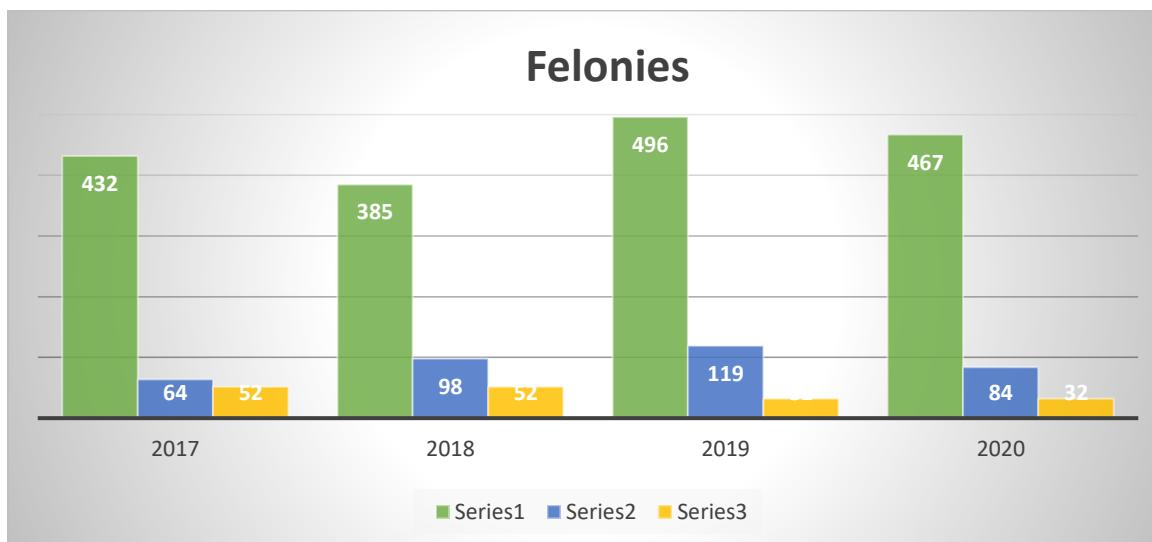
CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Our criminal/traffic division clerks in all three counties are tasked with processing all of the criminal/traffic cases in the district court. Their tasks involve tracking every case filed with the 86th District Court from beginning to end. This job requires a thorough understanding of the court system, knowledge of hundreds of codes, and the ability to perform a large amount of data entry with accuracy and attention to detail. They schedule all matters, open and close cases, communicate with the jails in all three counties regarding inmates that are court involved, and notifying the Department of State Police Records Division of case dispositions. In addition, they are responsible for entering traffic tickets into the computer system, taking payments for both traffic and criminal cases, receiving and disbursing bonds and notifying the Secretary of State of case dispositions. This division also handles weddings that are performed by the Court. Customer service is a big part of these positions as they have constant interaction with defendants, attorneys, law enforcement and the public, both face-to-face and on the telephone. Our court is proud of the fact that we consistently meet the required time guidelines for case disposition.

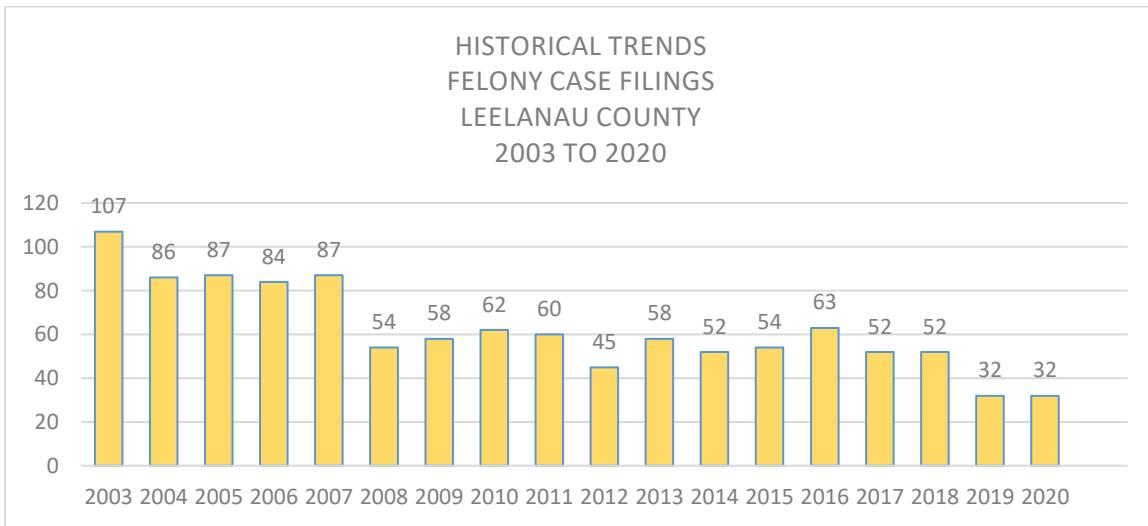
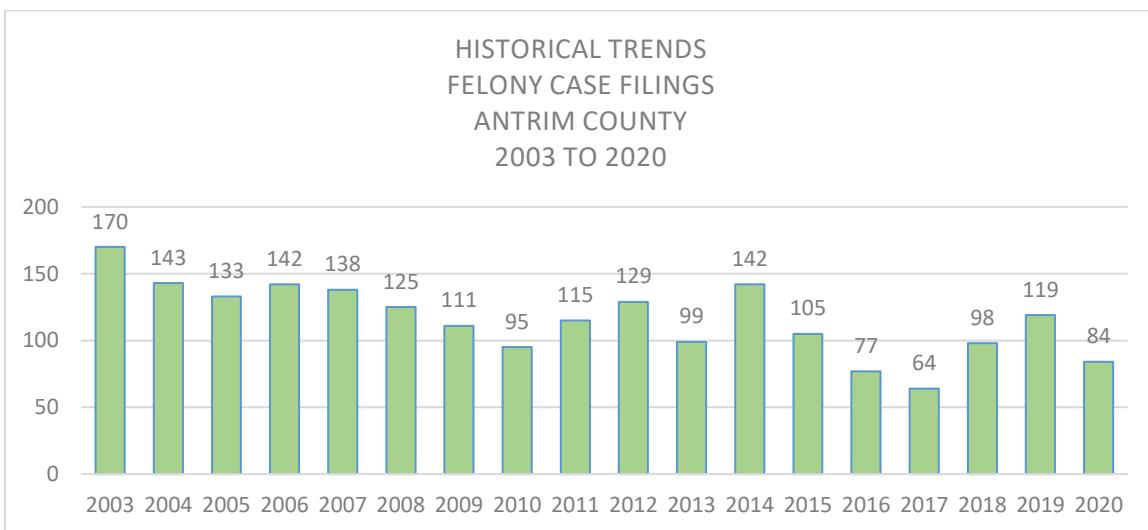
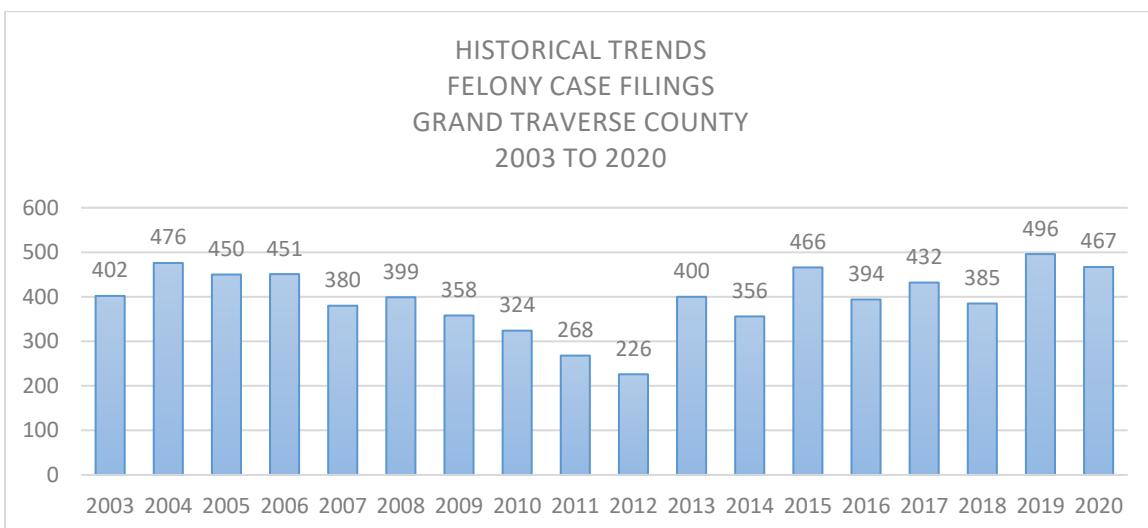
In Grand Traverse County, we have four full time clerks and a full time office coordinator assigned to these tasks. This year we also made some staffing changes which allowed us to create a part time criminal/traffic clerk position to assist with this tremendous workload.

In Antrim County we have one full time clerk and a full time Office Coordinator to process this workload. In Leelanau County we have a part time Office Coordinator and a full time clerk to handle the workload.

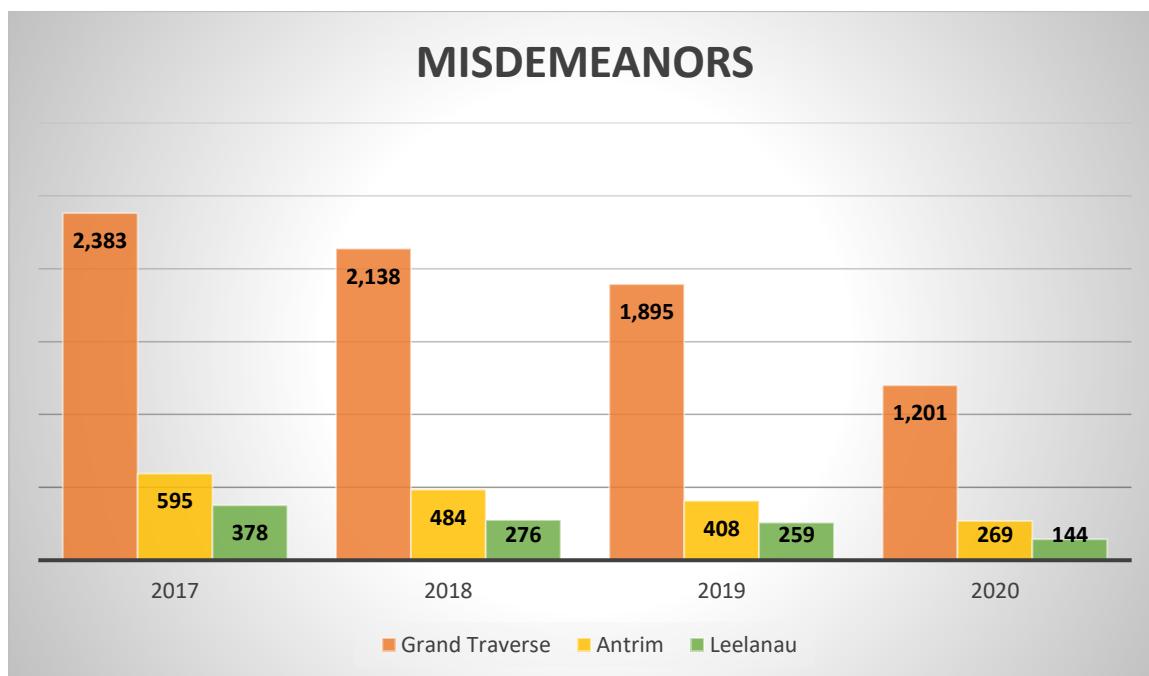
Felonies - The first court appearance for each defendant charged with a felony is the arraignment that is held in the District Court. The preliminary exam that follows must be held within 21 days after the arraignment and is also held in the District Court. If probable cause is established then the defendant is bound over for further proceedings to the Circuit Court.



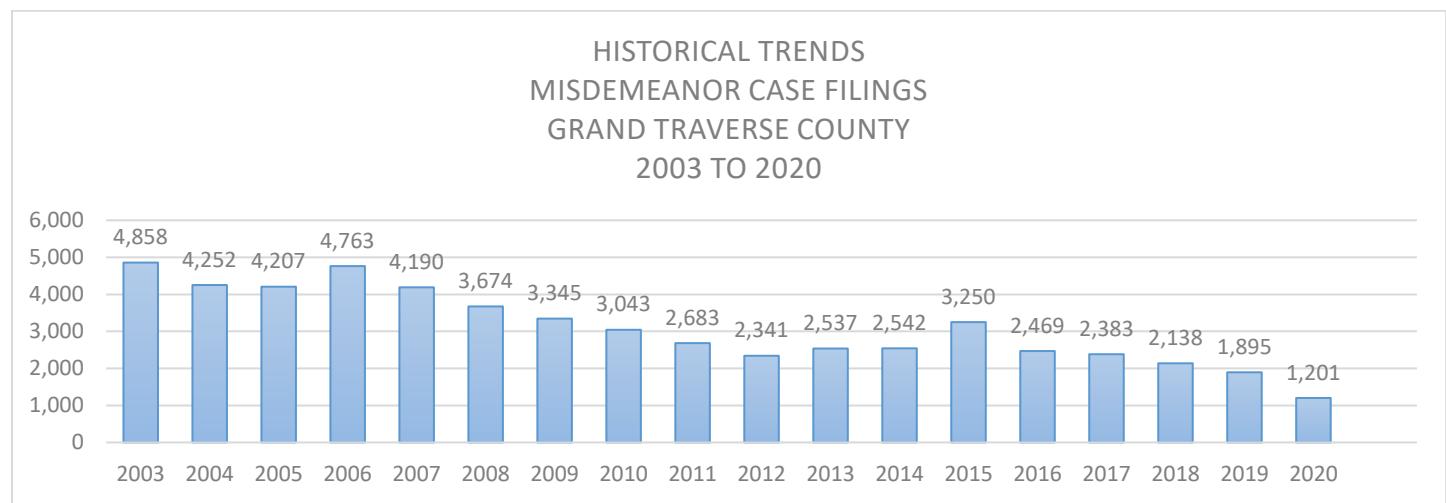
The following graphs allow us to compare an 18 year average of cases filed versus the current years filing.



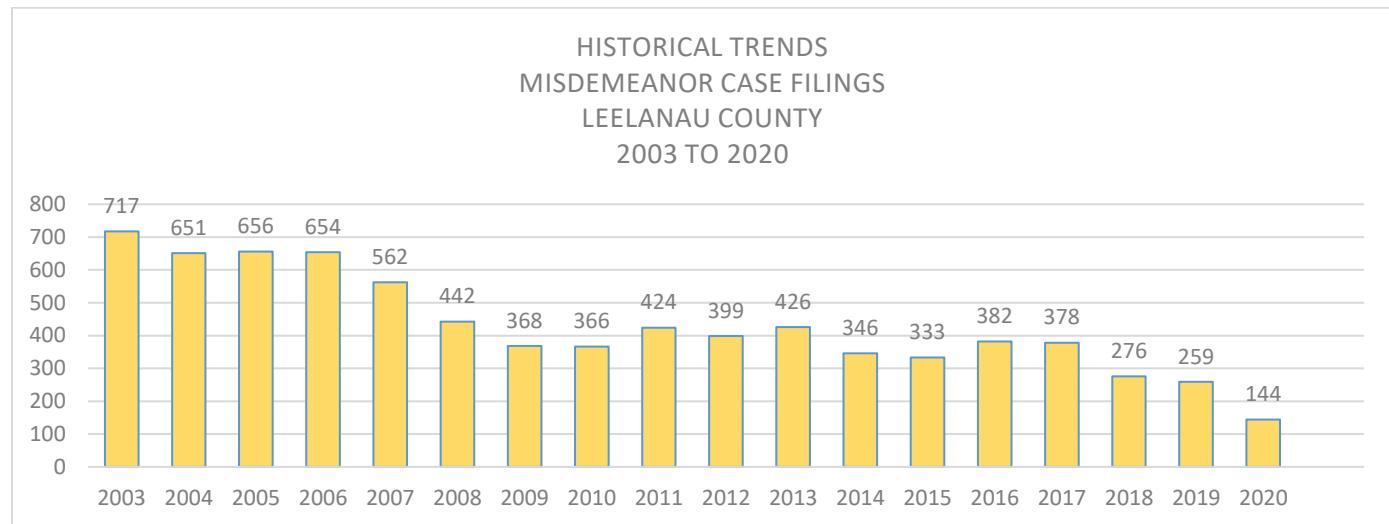
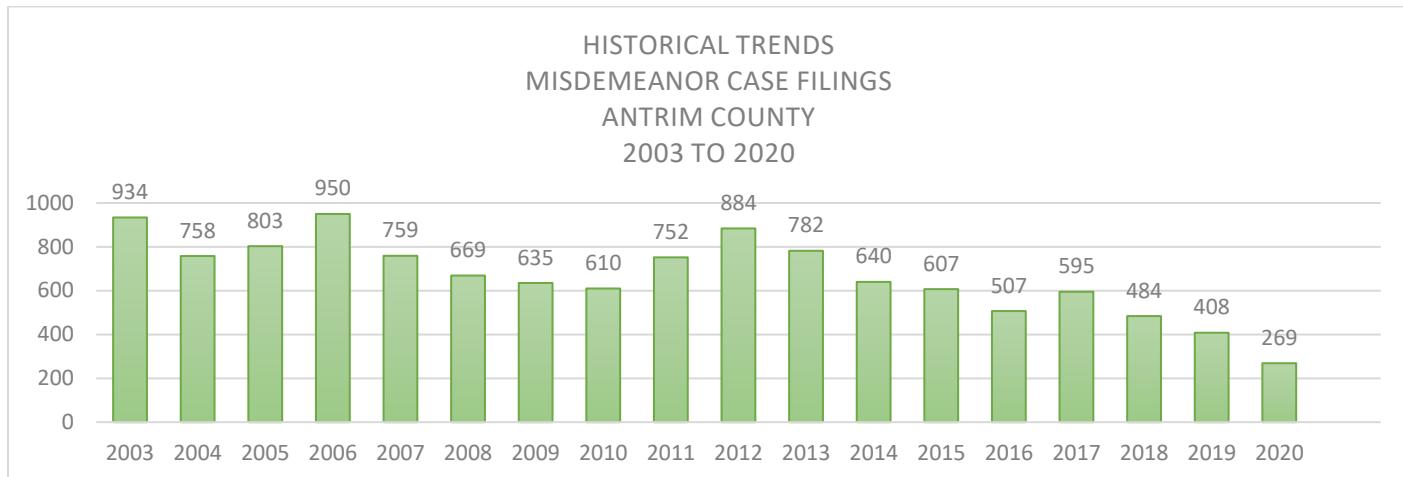
Misdemeanors - The District Court has jurisdiction over all crimes that are punishable by not more than one year in jail. The following statistics include all misdemeanor offenses; traffic and criminal, including Operating While Intoxicated. Indigent defendants are entitled to a court appointed attorney if their crime could result in a jail sentence.



The graphs depicted demonstrate the trends in each county for the last four years as well as an 18 year historical average. Of note are the 18 year average numbers in all three counties. All three counties show a significant decrease in the number of misdemeanor cases filed between the 18 year average and the 2020 numbers.



Historical trends of misdemeanor case filings continued.



Traffic - Civil Infractions - The 86th District Court receives violations of the motor vehicle code, township or city ordinances, and DNR laws by way of tickets issued to citizens, from law enforcement agencies. These tickets come to us either electronically or in handwritten ticket form. Our court clerks then verify and enter the ticket information in order to begin the process.

Most violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code are civil infractions. Probably the most common civil infraction is the speeding ticket.

A person receiving a civil infraction ticket can do one of three things:

1. Admit responsibility
2. Admit responsibility with an explanation
3. Deny responsibility and request an informal hearing in front of a Magistrate.

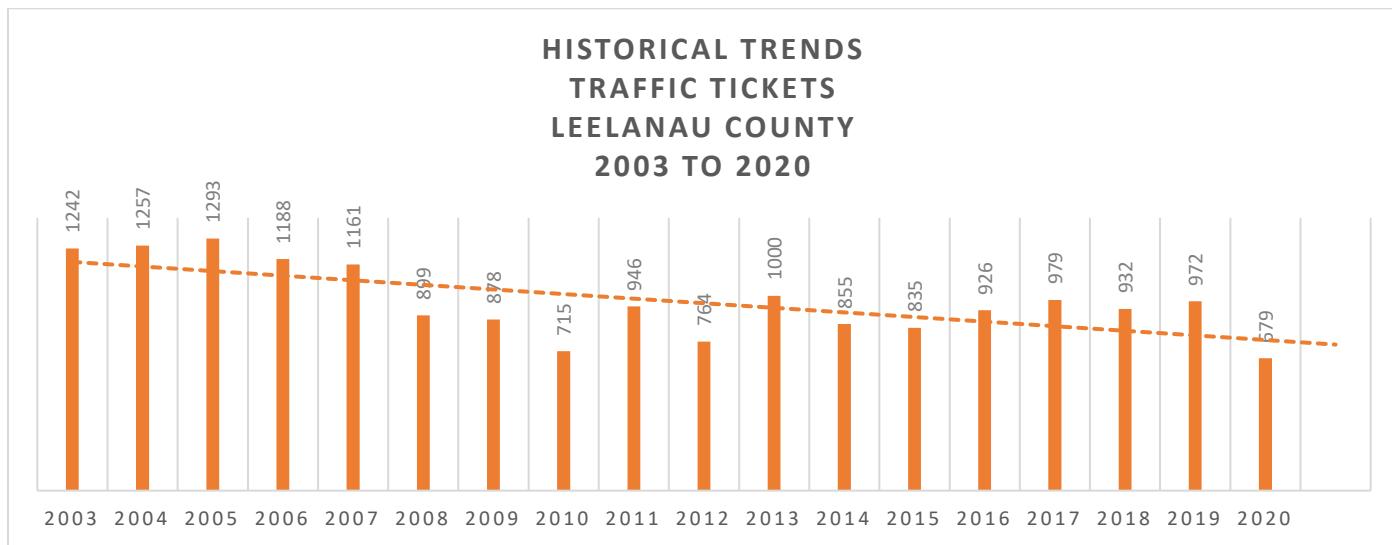
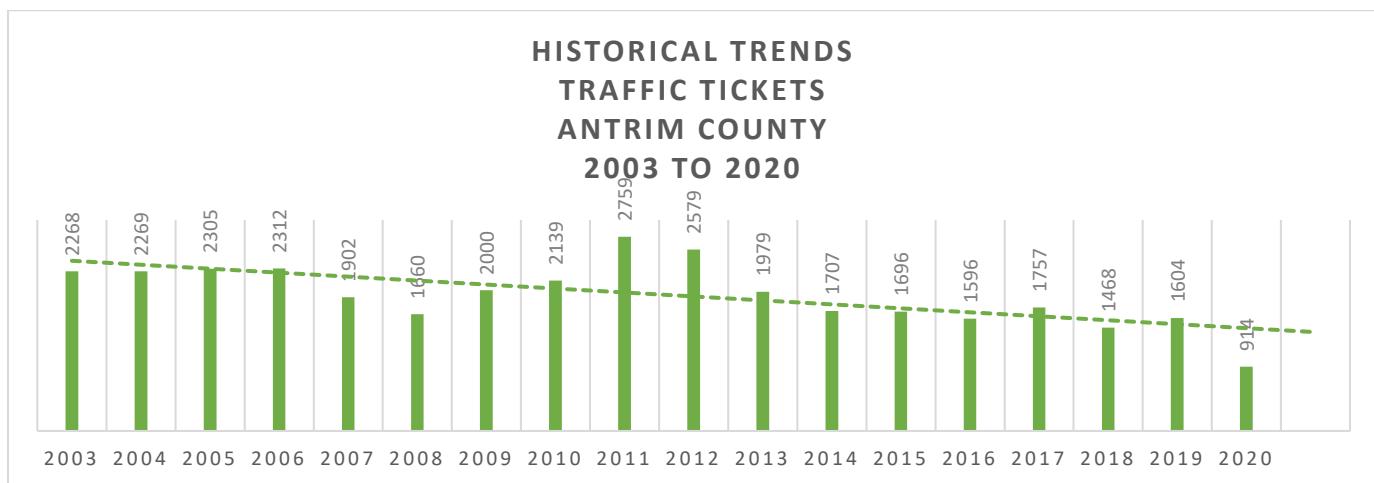
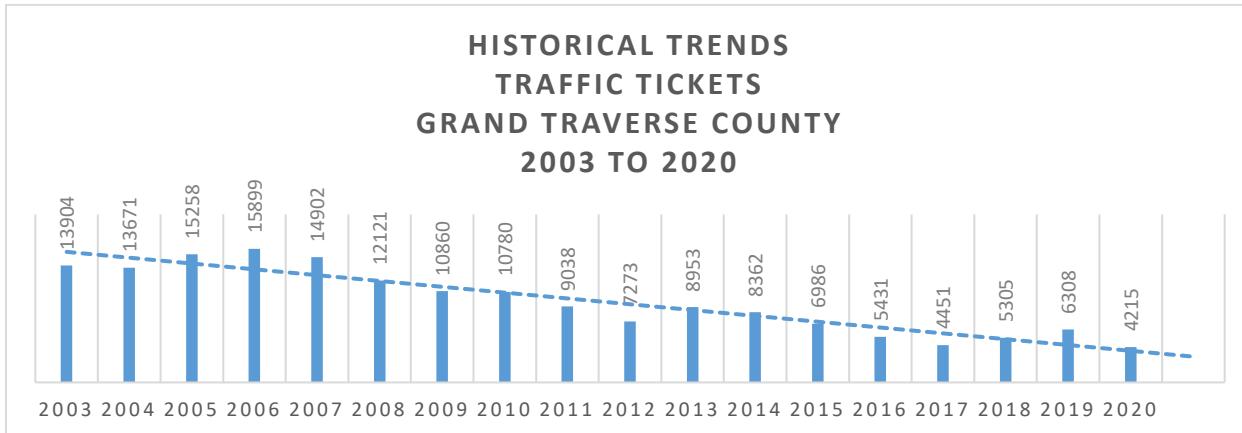
The decision of the magistrate may be appealed to the District Court Judge with a Formal Hearing.

This chart is a four year comparison between the three counties of civil infractions that were filed with the district court.

CIVIL INFRACTIONS



As we review the historical data of civil infractions filed with the court, we notice a downward trend in all three counties.



CIVIL DIVISION

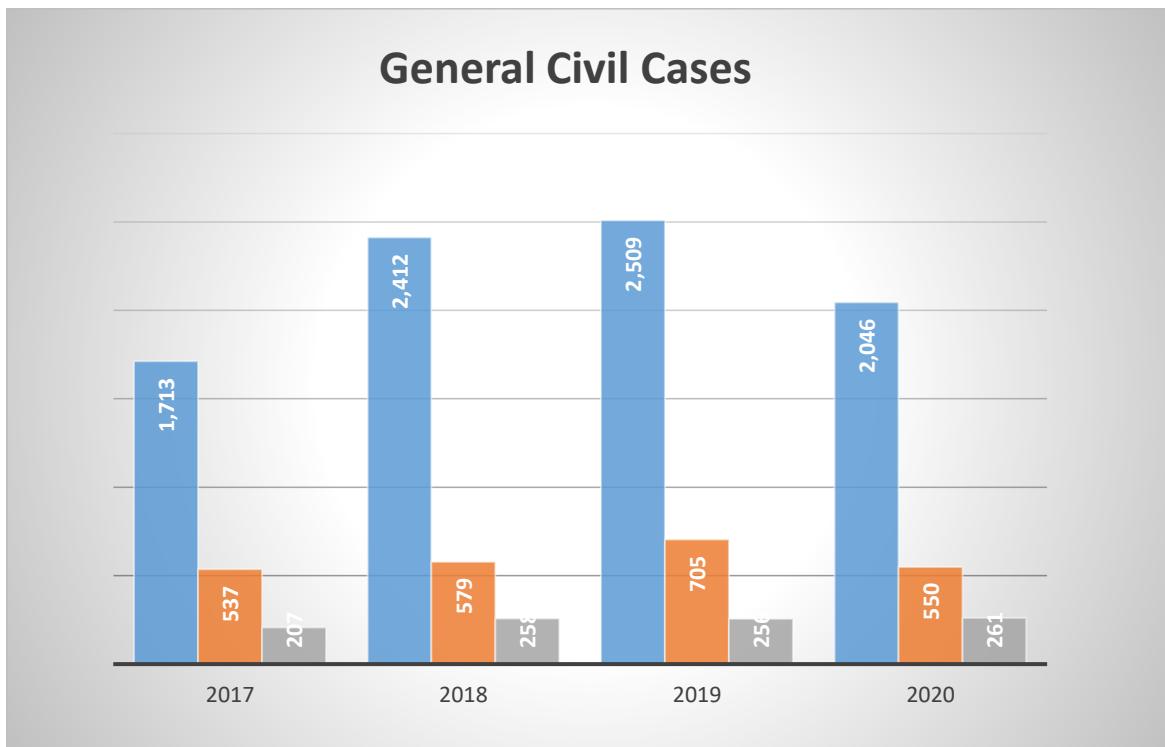
In Grand Traverse County we have three full time and a part time clerk assigned to process the civil case filings. In Antrim County we have one full time clerk assigned and in Leelanau we have one full time clerk assigned that also assists with the criminal/traffic clerk duties.

Each of the full time clerks in the civil division in Grand Traverse County are assigned to a specific civil specialty and the part time clerk assists the full time clerks with case entry and processing. In Antrim and Leelanau Counties, the clerks handle all of the different types of civil cases. These positions require a thorough knowledge of civil court process and the ability to process a large amount of cases and information.

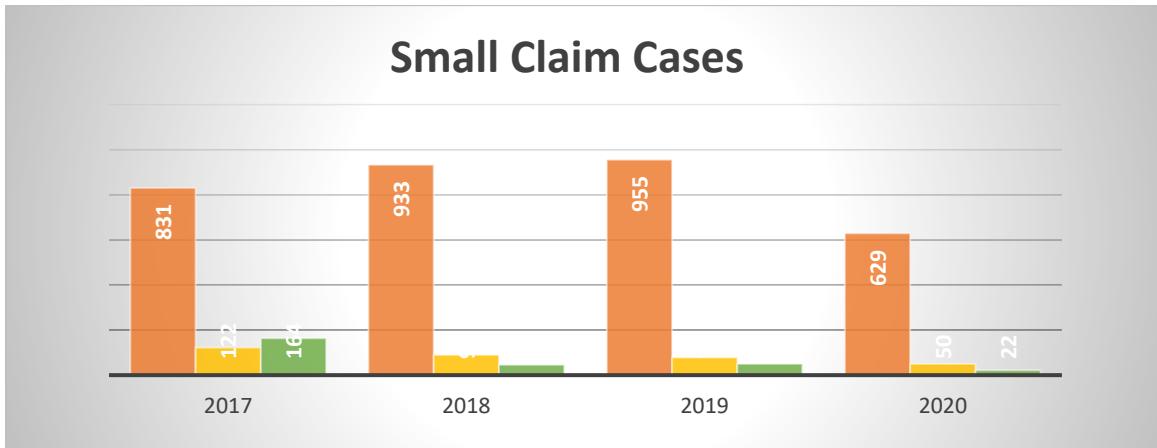
The civil division processes all general civil, small claims and summary proceeding (landlord-tenant) cases. They schedule civil hearings and trials, process civil writs, garnishments and they receive filing fees for cases filed. The clerks in this division have a thorough knowledge of their specific civil specialties and process a large number of cases each year.

The three charts below are a four year comparison between the three counties of all General Civil, Small Claims and Landlord/Tenant case filings.

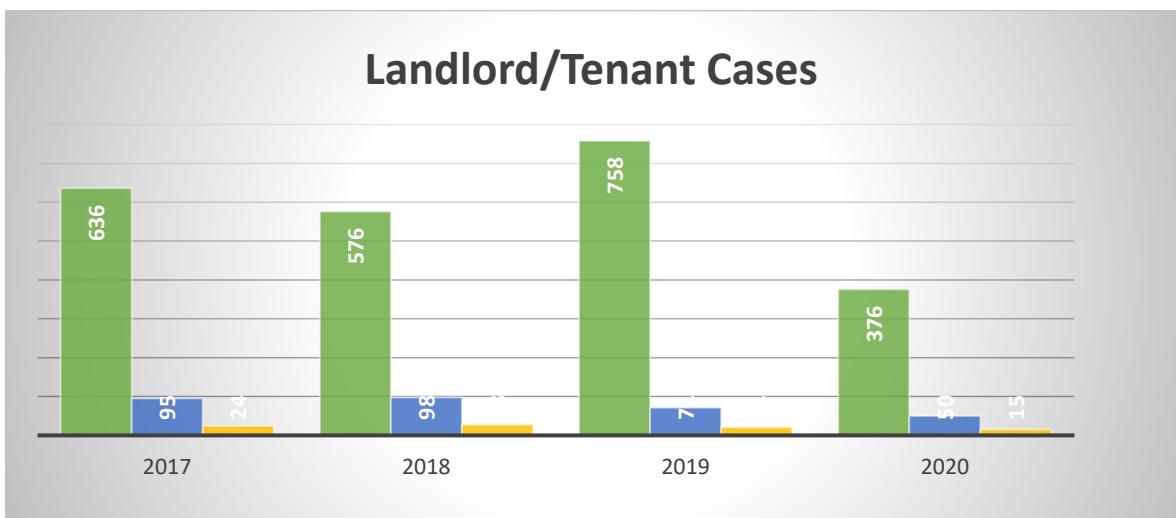
General Civil - The District Court has jurisdiction over disputes involving individuals and businesses where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less.



Small Claims - The plaintiff in a case that has an amount in controversy of not more than \$5,000 can elect to file in small claims. Lawyers cannot represent either party in a small claims case and the rules of evidence during a small claims trial are much less formal than in a general civil case trial. The attorney magistrate hears small claims cases in Antrim and Grand Traverse counties.

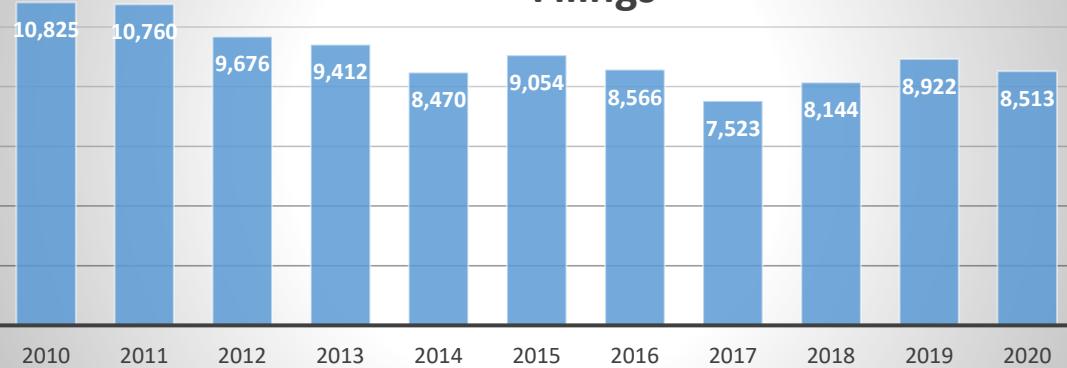


Landlord/Tenant (Summary Proceedings) - Landlord/Tenant cases were created to provide real property owners a quick method to recover their property from a tenant or land contract vendee that is not complying with the terms of the lease or contract. These cases are usually originated by apartment owners, land contract holders, mobile home park operators and even boat slip owners.

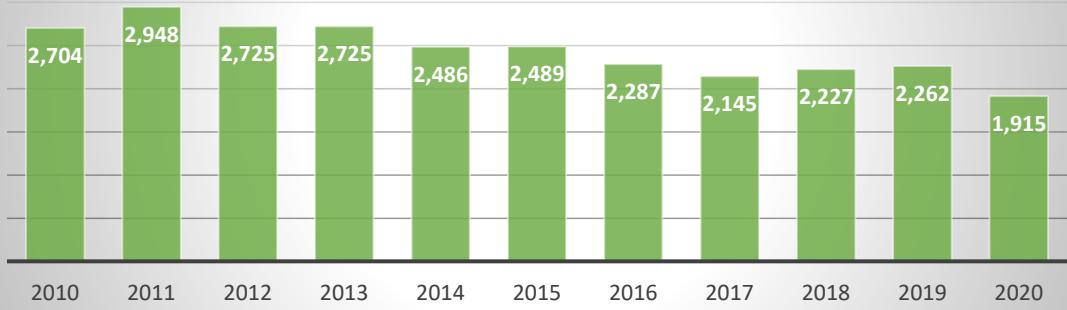


Post Judgment Filings – These filings mean that plaintiffs are filing garnishments, motions, writs of execution or writs of restitution in cases after obtaining a judgment in an effort to collect what is due to them. All of these filings require a fee be paid, a portion which stays local and a portion that goes to the state.

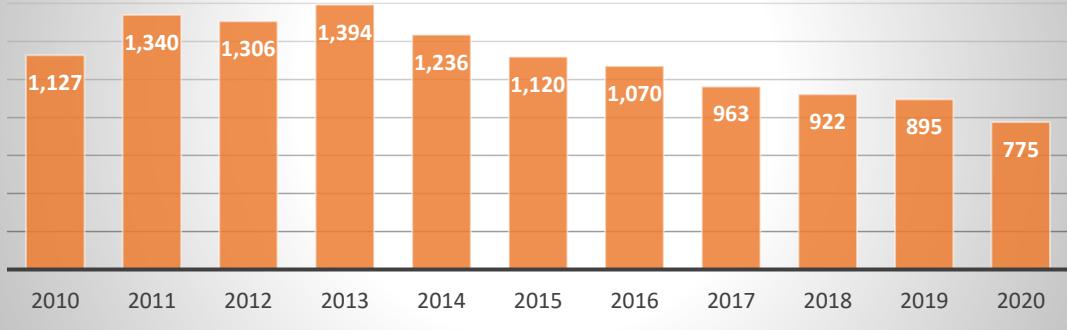
Grand Traverse County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Antrim County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Leelanau County Civil Postjudgment Filings



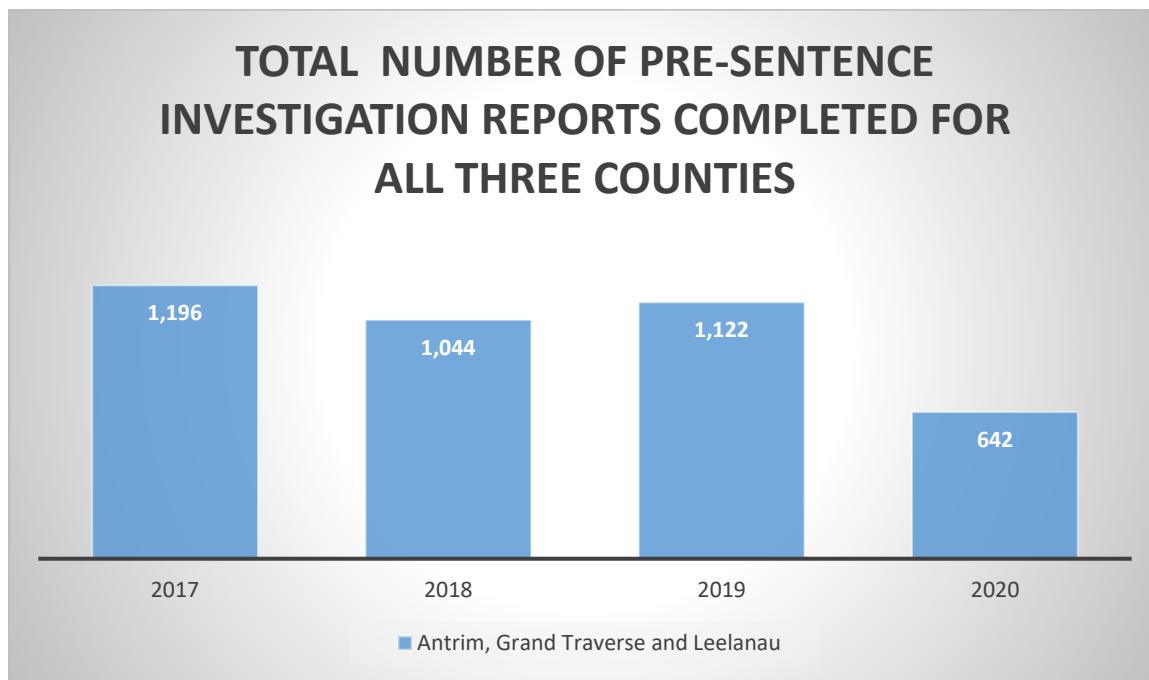
PROBATION DIVISION

The mission of the 86th District Court Probation Division is to provide quality services to judges, victims, probationers and the communities of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau counties. The probation department performs two main functions:

1. Pre-sentence investigation reports (also known as PSI's)
2. Supervises defendants who were sentenced to a probation term.

In Grand Traverse County our probation department is staffed by 4 full time and 2 part time probation officers and 1 part time compliance officer. In Antrim County, we have a full time probation officer and compliance officer. In Leelanau County, we have a full time probation officer. We also have 2 full time probation clerks that work in Grand Traverse County. They also assist in processing paperwork for Leelanau.

Prior to sentencing, the Judge may request a Pre-Sentence Investigation to be done by a probation officer in our Probation Department. The PSI is completed by interviewing the defendant and compiling information into one report with recommendations made by the probation officer on what should happen to the defendant in the case. The purpose of this report is to assist the Judge in sentencing a defendant.



Once a criminal defendant is sentenced to probation, the probation department takes over supervision of the case. This includes monitoring a defendant to ensure compliance with Court ordered requirements, scheduling any court dates related to defendants on probation, entering and processing any paperwork and entering any required LEIN information. The services that the probation department provides are necessary to restore victims and communities, protect the public, promote probationer accountability and create a climate for probationer behavioral change.

The following chart shows the Annual Probation Survey Report between the dates of January 1st to December 31st each listed year. The number used is the total number of adults on probation as of December 31st.

PROBATION CASELOAD	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grand Traverse	1080	1083	925	701
Antrim	168	169	154	119
Leelanau	219	220	158	117

On December 31st of each year, the number of Probationers and their **MOST** serious offense:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grand Traverse County				
Felony	18	24	42	35
Misdemeanor	1050	953	874	662
Other	12	8	9	4
Antrim County				
Felony	1	2	1	0
Misdemeanor	165	136	153	119
Other	2	2	0	0
Leelanau County				
Felony	1	1	1	2
Misdemeanor	215	191	157	114
Other	3	0	0	1

On December 31st of each year, the **TYPE** of most serious offense:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grand Traverse County				
Drug law violation	110	71	46	35
Driving under the influence	300	242	247	202
Other	670	672	632	464
Antrim County				
Drug law violation	20	13	3	1
Driving under the influence	72	48	57	41
Other	76	79	94	77
Leelanau County				
Drug law violation	25	8	3	1
Driving under the influence	116	104	93	61
Other	78	80	62	55

SPECIALTY COURTS

This caseload follows a nationally developed model of Drug Treatment Courts and is designed to provide treatment alternatives to repeat drunk drivers and those charged with felony drug offenses in order to promote rehabilitation and recovery in lieu of jail. With intensive supervision by a case manager and judicial monitoring throughout probation, these chemically dependent offenders may avoid incarceration by pleading guilty and successfully completing probation. Those with felony charges are sentenced to a 36 month probation. While those with misdemeanor charges complete a 24 month probation.

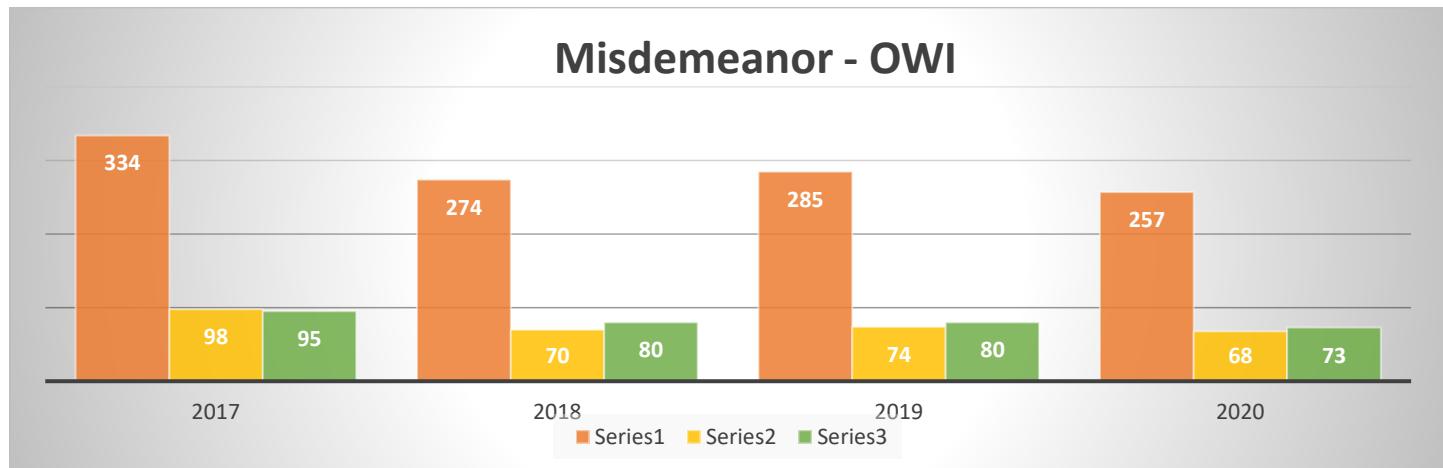
In 2019 both our Sobriety and Drug Treatment Courts went through the State's Certification process and are now certified treatment courts. This certification allows our courts to be eligible for grant money through the State of Michigan.

Sobriety Court – Since 2001, the 86th District Court has had a successful Sobriety Court. The main focus of the program is 2nd and 3rd offense drunk drivers. Currently, 67% of the cases in Sobriety Court are felony 3rd offense drunk drivers. All Sobriety Court cases are heard in front of Judge Michael S. Stepka.

One of the many successes of a Recovery Court can be shown in the recidivism rates. The following chart shows a comparison of our program participants and graduates compared to matched pairs according to age, race, gender, geographic location, etc.

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	13%	10%	628
Matched Comparison Members	29%	27%	

Graduates Only	4%	2%	
Matched Comparison Members	29%	27%	396



2020 – Sobriety Court - Jail Alternative	GRAND TRAVERSE	ANTRIM	LEELANAU
Admissions in 2020			
Felony admissions	25	1	2
Misdemeanor admissions	11	0	1
Active Cases			
Felony	62	3	7
Misdemeanor	30	1	3
Successful Discharges			
Felony	11	1	3
Misdemeanor	7	0	0
Unsuccessful Discharges			
Felony	13	0	2
Misdemeanor	7	0	1

Drug Court – We started our Drug Treatment Court in the fall of 2016. The main focus of the program are those defendants with felony drug convictions. Since this program is relatively new, we do not have the comparison data at this time. All Drug Treatment Court cases are heard in front of Judge Robert A. Cooney.

2020 – Drug Court - Jail Alternative	GRAND TRAVERSE	ANTRIM	LEELANAU
Admissions in 2019			
Felony admissions	25	0	0
Active Cases			
Felony	48	0	0
Successful Discharges			
Felony	3	0	0
Unsuccessful Discharges			
Felony	13	0	0

Domestic Violence Court – Our criminal division has a separate docket referred to as our Domestic Violence Court. All misdemeanor charges of domestic violence filed in Antrim and Grand Traverse Counties are scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Robert A. Cooney. Having a specialized docket allows cases to come to trial quickly so that those cases are not only decided fairly, but also swiftly. Prompt court action enhances the safety of domestic violence victims and leads to prompt punishment and treatment of convicted offenders. Due to the nuances of these type of offenders, we have a probation officer specifically assigned to this caseload.

Community Outreach Court – The 86th District Court – Grand Traverse County has established a Community Outreach Court. The mission of this court is to provide constructive, alternative sentencing options to individuals whose homelessness or risk of homelessness is contributing to unlawful conduct. The objective is to offer participants an opportunity to resolve outstanding criminal and civil infraction cases when they successfully complete an individualized action plan designed to address the root causes of their homelessness, or risk of homelessness, and criminal history. Successful program completion may result in the reduction or dismissal of fines, fees, court costs, bench warrants or open cases. All Community Outreach Court cases are heard in front of Judge Michael S. Stepka.

13TH CIRCUIT COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

SHERISE SHIVELY - COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MANAGER

Sherise has worked for Community Corrections since 2006. She has Bachelor degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology and is completing her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health with an emphasis in Substance Use Disorder. She is currently a board member for Northern Lakes Community Mental Health and serves as the secretary for the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Managers.

She is a team member of both the Sobriety and Drug Court programs and participates in the Grand Traverse County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council as well as several substance use coalitions in the region. She participated in the Governor's Task Force for Pretrial and Jail incarceration and is active in the Pretrial Reform Initiative in Michigan.

Community Corrections Staff – Our Community Corrections division employs 2 full time community corrections officers, 1 full time community corrections/drug court probation officer, 1 full time community corrections/pre-trial services officer and 1 full time compliance officer.

Community Corrections – The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) within Field Operations Administration of the MDOC administers Public Act 511 passed in 1988. The goal of the Act is to reduce prison commitments through a State grant programs for community-based sanctions and services. OCC works in cooperation with local governments to reduce admissions to prison, improve local jail utilization, improve rehabilitative services to offenders and strengthen offender accountability.

Local governments apply for grants by establishing community corrections advisory boards (CCAB's) which develop comprehensive corrections plans. The plans identify local policies and practices, as well as programs and services which will help achieve their goals. OCC requires each CCAB to identify linkages with Michigan Works! agencies, the local Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, the local community health departments, local school districts and other agencies to help provide cost-effective and non-duplicated services to offenders.

Grants are awarded to help support services such as substance-abuse treatment, and provide residential programs for certain types of offenders. Cognitive restructuring is often a part of treatment in the community.

Most of the offenders enrolled in treatment-type programs are sentenced felons. Offenders with higher sentencing guideline scores, probation violators and those who have convictions for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol account for increasing proportions of new enrollees in residential programs. Misdemeanants account for the majority of enrollments in Community Service Work and House Arrest Programs. By supporting appropriate use of non-prison sanctions for felony offenders who might otherwise come to prison, the department has helped reduce the state prison commitment rate.

The 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections Department has served Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties since 1991. Services are provided to both the Circuit Court and District Court offenders. The Community Corrections Department is a recognized leader in providing valuable information to Judges, Probation Agents and Offenders of available programming to assist the offender in addressing their problems that bring them into the Criminal Justice environment. The available programs and services they provide enable the offender to become a healthy and productive member of society.

Programs offered by 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections include the following:

Pre-Trial Services – The process has three primary functions: to collect and analyze defendant information for use in determining risk, to make recommendations to the court concerning conditions of release, and to supervise defendants who are released from secure custody during the pretrial phase.

Probation Residential Services – Comprehensive chemical dependency treatment services offered in a structured treatment environment. Services often include individual and group counseling, structured physical activities, vocational training, relapse prevention support, social skills training, educational services and 12-step recovery programs.

Recovery Home Supervision – Recovery homes (sometimes known as transition houses or T-houses) offer individuals with substance abuse issues a safe and sober living environment and provide a structured opportunity to work toward positive change in their lives. The recovery homes are supervised by Case Managers who offer residents educational, employment and life skills assistance to guide them on their path to getting and staying clean.

House Arrest Services – 24/7 GPS monitoring of offenders in lieu of jail. They must participate in outpatient counseling, drug/alcohol testing when required, 12 step recovery meetings, employed full time and provide proof of their whereabouts at all times.

Community Service Work – In lieu of a jail sentence, offenders are ordered and agree to complete community service work at area non-profit agencies. This provides valuable work to the community and relieves jail overcrowding and allows an offender to give back to the community in which they committed their crime.

In Home Alcohol Monitoring – Rental of portable Breathalyzer units and continuous alcohol ankle monitors allow an offender the option to test at home or work in lieu of traveling to an agency to test. This reduces their need to miss work in order to test, and relieves the cost of travel and time associated with getting to testing.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

2020	Grand Traverse	Antrim	Leelanau
Jail Alternative programs			
Assessed	47	12	6
Approved & Enrolled	35	10	6
Positive Completion	83	14	7
Failed and returned to jail	13	3	2
Successful Completion %	81%	79%	88%
Average Daily Jail beds saved	13	1.40	1.46
Jail Bed Days saved annually	11,028	1204	535
Community Service Work			
Enrolled	241	31	20
Successful	227	29	17
Failures	37	2	1
Jail Bed Days Saved Annually	1627	210	145
Hours of work provided to nonprofit agencies annually	13,223	1325	1019

COURT RECORDERS

Court Recorders have the responsibility of making a permanent record of court proceedings and providing a transcript of these proceedings upon request. Along with the efforts of other clerical staff, a probation officer and a court officer, they assist the judge in providing efficient docket movement. They are also responsible for filling out court disposition sheets as each case is heard, which provides for a written record of what transpires during a case from time of arraignment to final conclusion.

All three counties are equipped with technology that allows for court proceedings to be captured on video. Each courtroom is also equipped with a Polycom system allowing our magistrates and judges to perform video arraignments and other hearings on defendants who are incarcerated without the defendant having to be physically transported to the courthouse. Since most jails around the state have this type of system, it also allows our judges to conduct these hearings on defendants around our state, without our jail staff having to provide a transport. This makes the process more efficient, safe and provides a cost savings for our counties.

COLLECTIONS

The court has a formal Collections policy and collection efforts have been implemented in all three counties. Staff members actively work to set up payment agreements and time is spent working delinquent cases. For those cases where the defendant is on probation, the probation officer plays a more active role in ensuring the probationer makes their agreed upon payments.

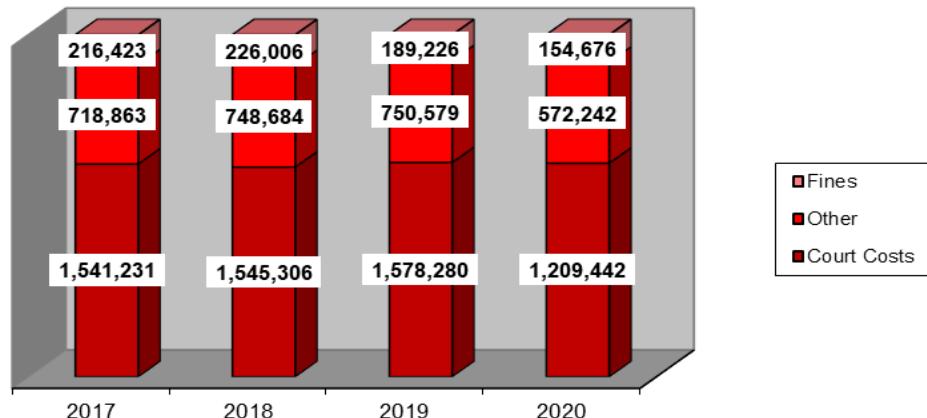
In Grand Traverse County, between 180 – 185 collections Show Cause hearings are set each month on cases where payments are past due. However, due to COVID-19, the 86th District Court did not conduct our normal show cause hearings.

In 2020, Grand Traverse County issued 587 State Income Tax Garnishments. For the 2019 tax year, our court collected approximately \$45,116.55 from the tax garnishments.

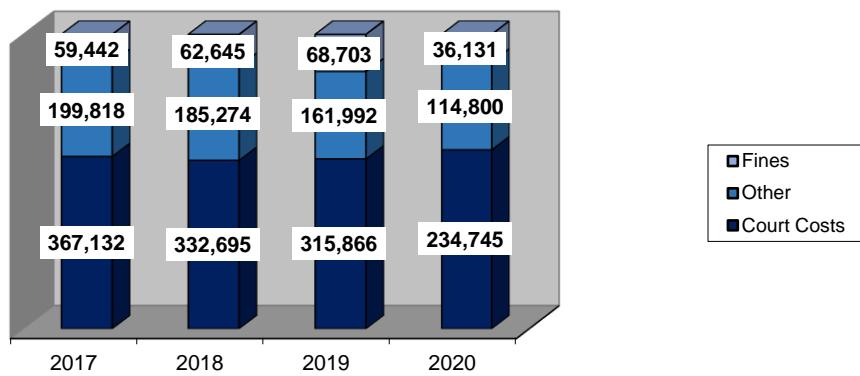
All money collected is deposited with the County Treasurer and dispersed monthly according to state guidelines. Some of the collected money stays with the local county, the fines collected go to the local libraries, and other monies are distributed to the State of Michigan, local townships and the victim's fund.

In 2016 the Michigan Supreme Court announced the adoption of amendments to court rules that codify existing case law regarding determining a defendant's ability to pay fines, fees and costs. This has made the court review our collections procedures and has ultimately had a negative impact on the amount of money the court is able to collect. However, it is important to point out that the courts are not revenue generating entities.

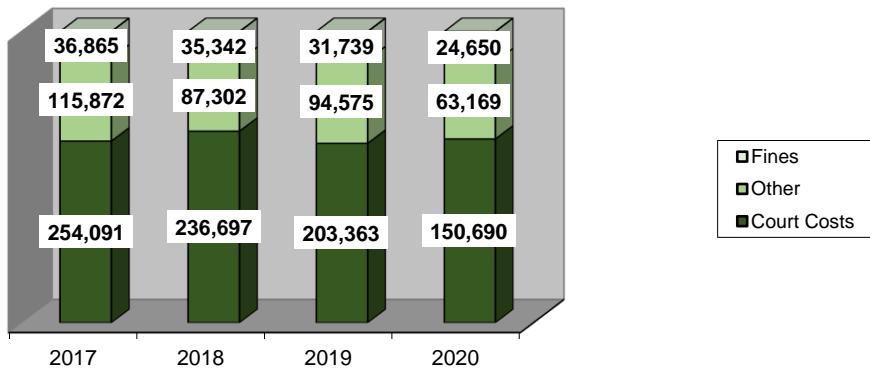
Grand Traverse County Revenue



Antrim County Revenue

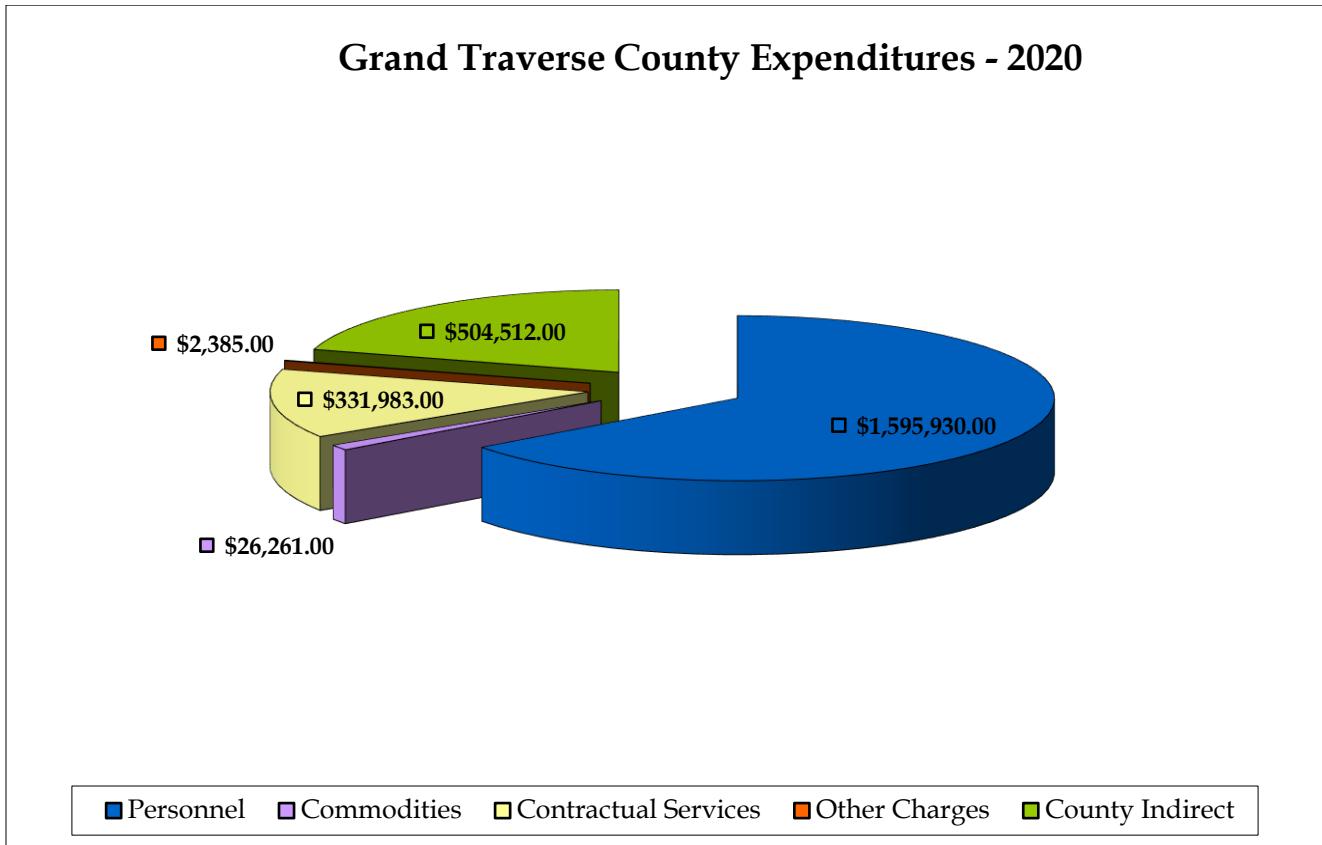


Leelanau County Revenue



FINANCES

Grand Traverse County is the fiscal agent for the 86th District Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses. The District Court maintains three separate budgets for each of the counties and one shared-cost budget. Separate budgets are also maintained for Community Corrections and for the grants associated with the Treatment Courts.



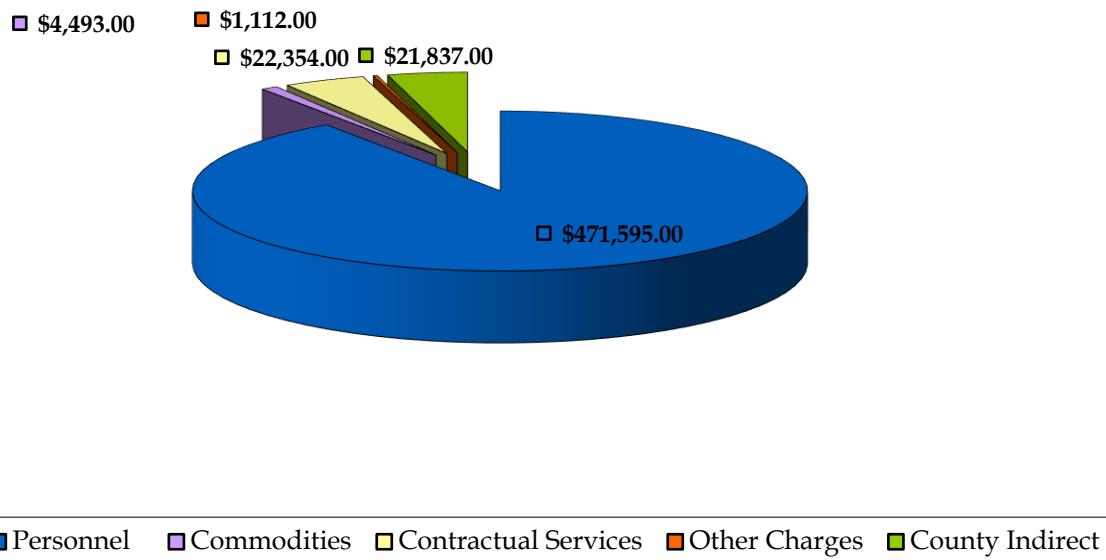
Commodities include office supplies, printing, postage and similar expenses

Contract Services include transcript fees, jury and witness fees, court appointed attorney, interpreter, and IT expenses

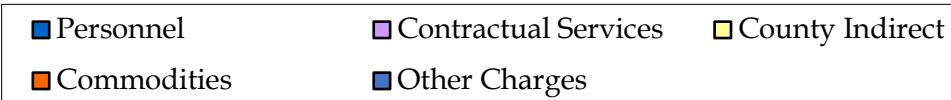
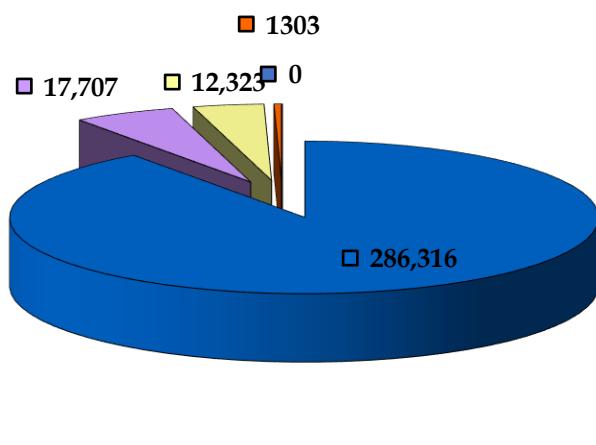
Other Charges include office equipment repair and maintenance, books, tuition reimbursement and employee training

County Indirect is the amount charged by Grand Traverse County for indirect costs such as space, heat, electric, facilities maintenance, finance, human resources, etc.

Antrim County Expenditures - 2020



Leelanau County Expenditures - 2020



STAFF RETIREMENTS

Ashley Justice

Ashley was hired by the 86th District Court and was appointed as the Antrim County Attorney-Magistrate on February 25, 2015. She was primarily assigned to Antrim County but working in Grand Traverse County hearing Small Claims and Landlord Tenant cases. Ashley left the court on March 5, 2020.

Mary Wenger Townsend

Mary was hired by the 86th District Court on June 28, 2010 as a civil office specialist. During her time with the court, she was promoted to the position of Court Recorder. Mary retired from the court on April 21, 2020.

Pam Blue

Pam was hired by the 86th District Court on December 8, 2003 as a probation officer. During her time with the court, Pam was promoted to the Chief Probation Officer position which she held until she left the court on May 15, 2020.

PROMOTIONS

In 2020, Christy Milarch was promoted from the position of office specialist to court recorder.