

# 86TH DISTRICT COURT – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**MISSION 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 86<sup>th</sup> District Court continued to adjust to the Global Pandemic again in 2021, providing prompt and efficient service to members of the public, litigants, and attorneys. In 2021, there were 15,008 criminal (both misdemeanor and felony), traffic, civil, landlord/tenant and small claims cases filed. All cases, except for jury trials, were conducted using Zoom, by our two judges and three magistrates and most cases were brought to conclusion without significant delay.

Jury trials from 2020 and 2021 continued to be placed on hold in 2021 due to pandemic restrictions and the Court's efforts to follow local and state protocols to keep the public safe pursuant to Michigan Supreme Court guidelines. Criminal defendants were provided personal recognizance bonds or moderate cash bonds which helped to reduce the jail population of pretrial defendants and helped keep jail staff and other incarcerated defendants safe.

The Court's Sobriety and Drug Court's continued to conduct their weekly review hearings by Zoom and probation agents met with their probationers by Zoom, email and phone as well.

In closing, the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court, using Zoom technology, continued its important function of protecting and serving the public without issue. The Court acknowledges the efforts of staff and administrators who have worked to navigate the challenges of the past two years. We look forward to the hopeful lifting of restrictions and getting back to "regular" life as much as possible in 2022.

## JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES



**Chief Judge Michael S. Stepka**

Judge Michael Stepka was elected to the 86<sup>th</sup> 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 86<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court. His interests include road and mountain biking, running and downhill skiing. Judge Stepka has two children, Michael, and Betsie.



**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**  
**Interim Court Administrator – Beginning - October 2021**

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 most 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 86<sup>th</sup> 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Michigan Court Administrators Association, is the Chair of the MCAA Awards Committee, is the Michigan Court Managers Conference Committee Chair and is a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sub-committee of the MCAA.

In October of 2021, Dawn was asked to serve in the capacity of Interim Court Administrator for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court.

Gwen Taylor  
Office Manager  
Interim Deputy Court Administrator – Beginning October 2021

Gwen graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Criminal Justice. She went on to earn a Master of Public Administration at Grand Valley State University. Gwen began working for Grand Traverse County as an employee with the Sheriff's Office. She then worked as the Family Advocate for the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center. Gwen returned to Grand Traverse County in 2017, as a Probation Officer. She was promoted to Office Manager in May 2021. Gwen began as acting Deputy Court Administrator in October 2021. She is currently a member of the Michigan Court Managers Association.

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The 86<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

## NOTES FROM 2021

2021 continued to be a year of change for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. The COVID pandemic continued to be forefront on the minds of everyone, including the Courts of the State of Michigan. Our courthouses, which had been closed in all three counties to the public for walk ins, towards the end of the year, began to open to the public, while all our hearings continued to be held via Zoom in our virtual courtrooms.

Staffing issues continued to be a problem in 2021 as we lost several veteran employees to other jobs or retirement. It seemed that interviews were a never-ending process as we tried desperately to fill key positions.

One of the key positions lost to retirement was Carol Stocking, our longtime Court Administrator. Carol was the court administrator for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court for over 20 years. Her knowledge and experience will be hard to replace as we move forward in our search for a new court administrator.

We also lost a dear friend and co-worker this year. Claudette Tarr passed away unexpectedly in the spring of 2021. Claudette was employed with the district court for over seventeen years. She worked as an office specialist where her last assignment was as the Grand Traverse, Small Claims clerk. She had a sharp sense of humor and was a pleasure to work with. Her loss is felt keenly.

This year, the court made some changes to our staffing plan to pro-actively respond to new legislation which was to impact our probation department. Several positions were eliminated in probation, and we consolidated our probation department to have one probation office that services all three counties. As Judges are being required to look more closely at a defendant's ability to pay when assessing court costs, it was determined to eliminate the collections position and instead contract court collections with an outside agency.

The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court is a three-county court. As often happens, processes for clerical functions vary for each county. To provide better oversight, training, and assistance, we created a new Office Manager position. This was a cost neutral move for the funding units and has proven to be a good move as we experienced staff shortages.

Our Court continued to function by fully utilizing the virtual courtroom. Hearings held via Zoom were the norm. The only thing that was truly impacted was the ability to hold jury selections/trials. Our Judges continuously monitored the COVID numbers and local and CDC guidelines in their decision on when to begin jury selections/trials. Public safety was forefront in their minds.

This year we completely updated our courtroom recording equipment in all the courtrooms in all three counties to digital systems. We are excited to have the upgraded recording equipment.

And finally, we would like to recognize the staff of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. They have worked tirelessly through these difficult times and have adapted to what has seemed to be weekly changes in processes, while still providing great customer service to the citizens of Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

## STAFFING PLAN

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Carol Stocking – Court Administrator  
Dawn Wagoner – Deputy Court Administrator  
Gwen Taylor – Office Manager

### **ANTRIM COUNTY STAFF –**

Sarah Lorigan – Magistrate  
Jennifer Rashleigh-Houser – Office Specialist  
Jerri White – Traffic Clerk  
Paulette Meyer – Civil Clerk

### **GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY STAFF –**

### **CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION**

Tammi Rodgers – Magistrate  
Sue Schaub – Office Coordinator  
Megan Curto  
Stacy Donaldson-Patton  
Sonya Perreault  
Open for most of 2021

### **PROBATION DIVISION**

Heidi Gilde – Sobriety Court Probation Officer\*  
Trisha Moore – Sobriety Court Probation Officer  
Beth Lajko – Drug Court Probation Officer  
Jana Morton – Probation Officer - GT  
Kristy Helmreich – Probation Officer – GT/Leelanau  
Elizabeth Stanichuk – GT/Antrim  
Lindsey Jacobs – Probation Clerk  
Open for much of 2021 – Probation Clerk

### **LEELANAU COUNTY STAFF –**

Norene Kastys – Magistrate / Office Coordinator  
Cindy Schaub – Criminal / Civil Clerk

### **CIVIL DIVISION**

Ella Dreves – General Civil  
Susan Womack – Landlord/Tenant  
Sheila Blesh – Small Claims  
Tammie McLain\*

### **ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN**

Debra Stevens

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Sherise Shively – Community Corrections Manager  
Morgan Dumond – Community Corrections Officer  
Lynn Hildebrand – CC/Pre-Trial Services Officer  
Courtne Smus – Compliance Officer

### **COURT RECORDERS**

Tammy Odom  
Amanda Webster  
Dawn Rector

Part-time employee (\*)



## MAGISTRATES AND ACTIVITY

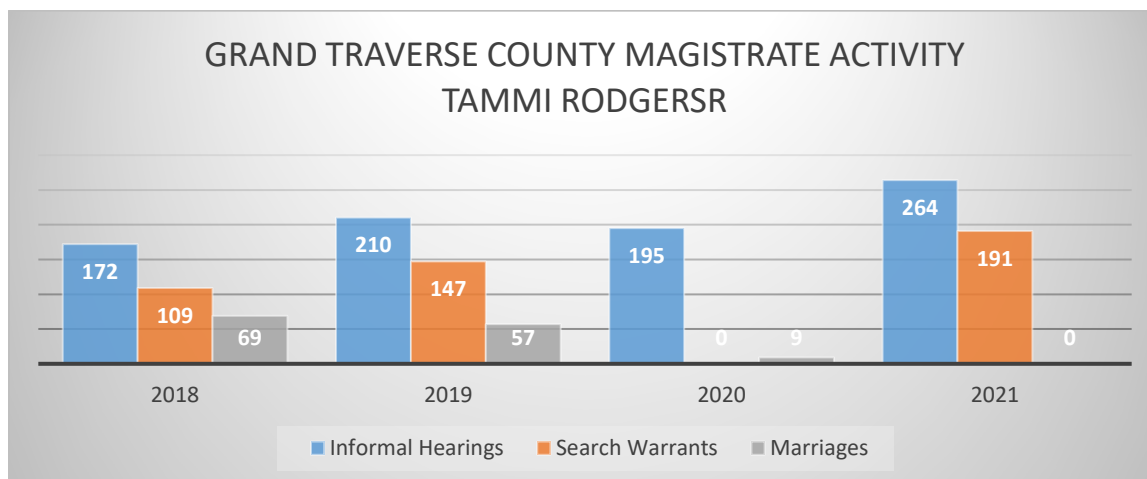
All Magistrates are appointed by the Chief Judge of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court and with approval of the County Board of Commission that they will be assigned to work in. Magistrates are required to reside in the county that they are appointed to work in, serve at the pleasure of the judges of 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 attorneys to represent indigent defendants.

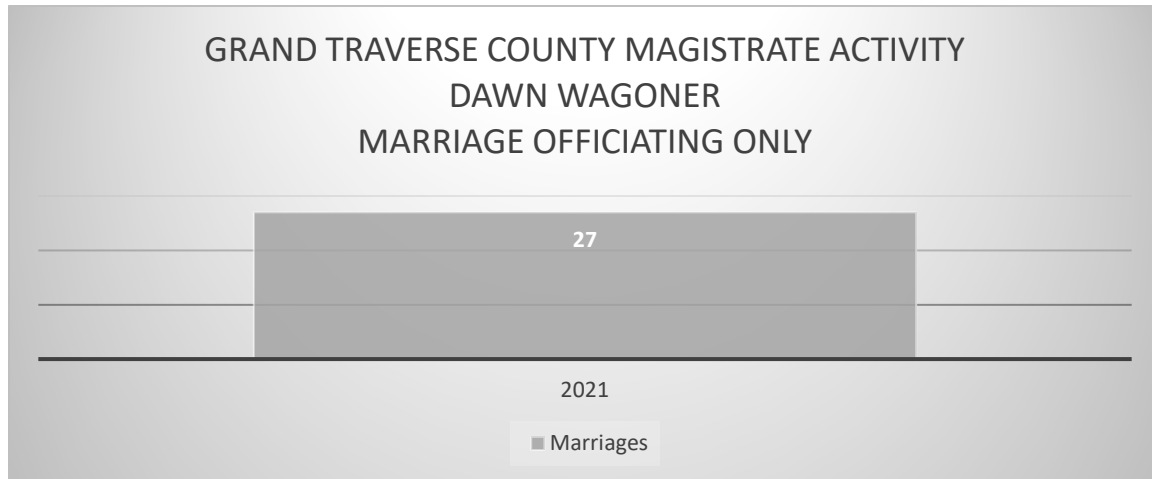
The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court has 4 magistrates that are appointed by the Chief Judge. Though the magistrates have assigned counties that they work in, all magistrates of the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court work together to serve the residents of all three of the counties within the 86<sup>th</sup>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

### **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.

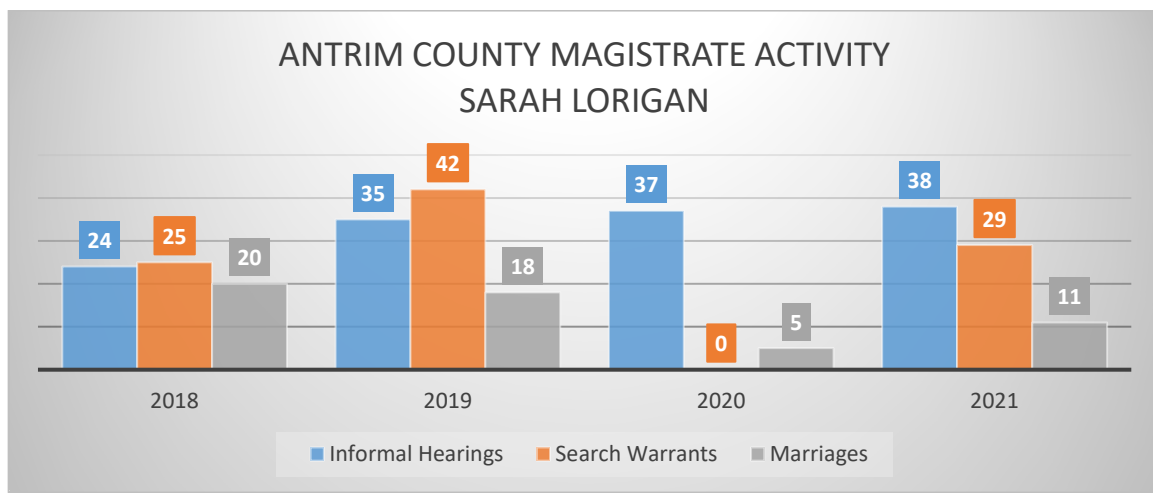


**DAWN WAGONER – MAGISTRATE – GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY** – Is the Deputy Court Administrator and serves as a magistrate in a backup capacity. As of 2021, Magistrate Wagoner is the primary magistrate to officiate weddings in Grand Traverse County. She was appointed in 2017.



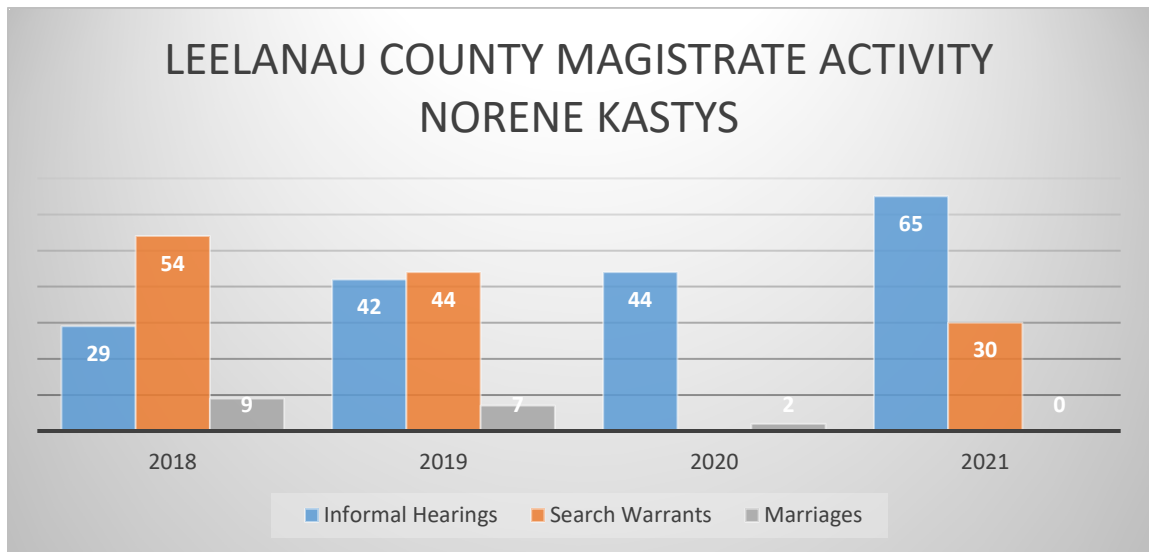
**SARAH LORIGAN – MAGISTRATE – ANTRIM COUNTY – .6 FTE**

Magistrate Lorigan was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court in 2018 and worked as a Compliance Officer in Antrim County until she was promoted to Probation Officer in Leelanau County. She was selected for the position of Sobriety Court Probation Officer in Grand Traverse County until she was appointed as a Magistrate in 2021 and assigned to Antrim County. She attended the University of Toledo where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and is a member of both the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.



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

Magistrate Kastys was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> 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.

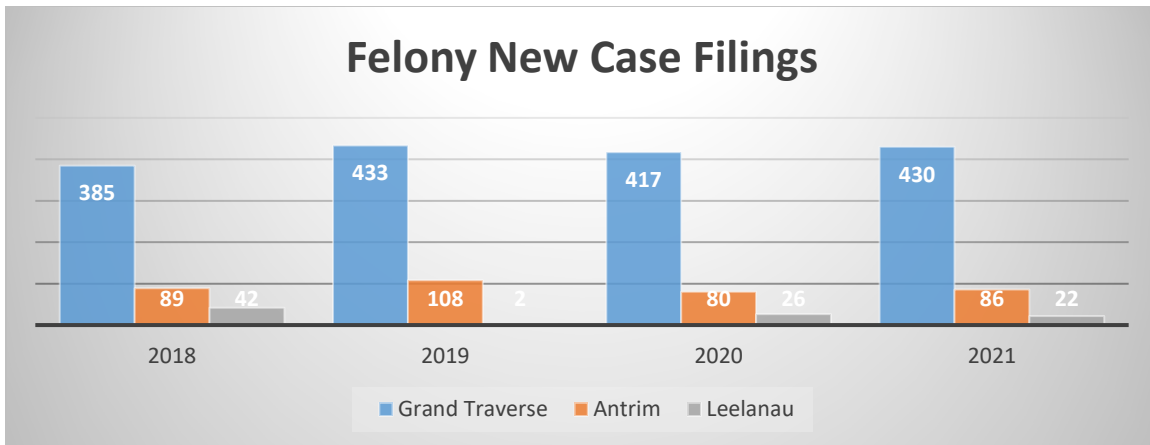
**CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION**

Our criminal/traffic division clerks in all three counties are tasked with processing all the criminal/traffic cases in the district court. Their tasks involve tracking every case filed with the 86<sup>th</sup> 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.

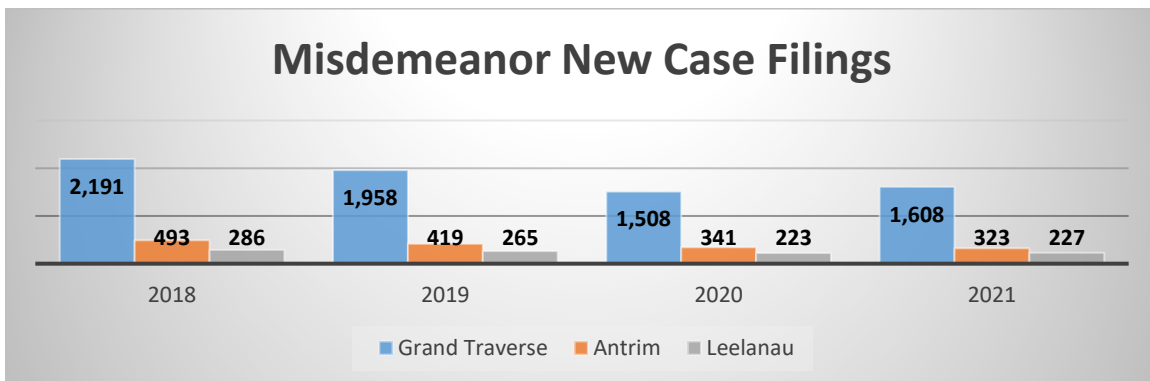
In addition, they are responsible for entering traffic tickets into the computer system, taking payments for both traffic and criminal cases, receiving, and disbursing bonds and notifying the Secretary of State of case dispositions. This division also handles weddings that are performed by the Court. 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. In Antrim County we have two full time clerks which working in this division. In Leelanau County we have a part time Office Coordinator and a full-time clerk.

**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.



**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.



**Traffic - Civil Infractions** - The 86<sup>th</sup> 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 to begin the process.

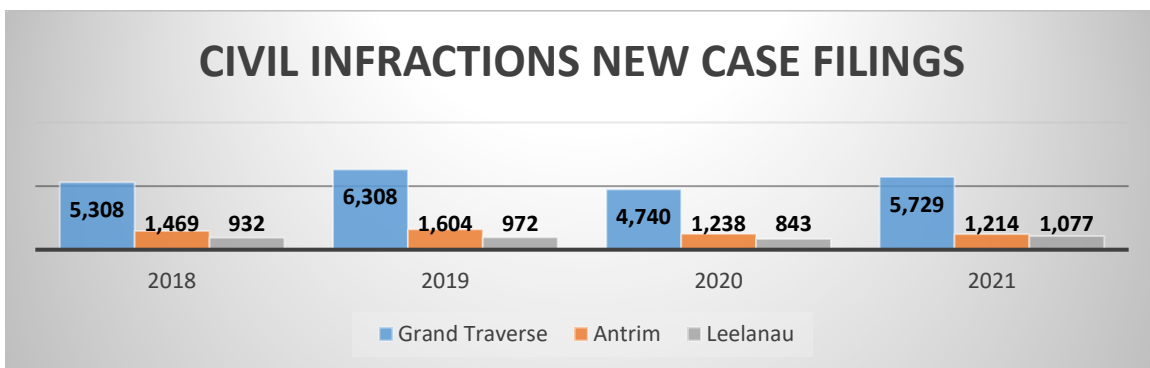
Most violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code are civil infractions. Probably the most common civil infraction is the speeding ticket.

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.



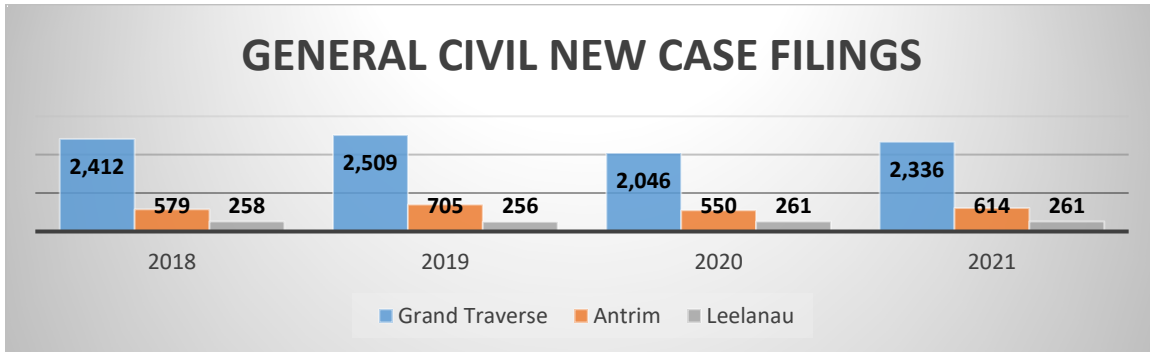
## CIVIL DIVISION

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.

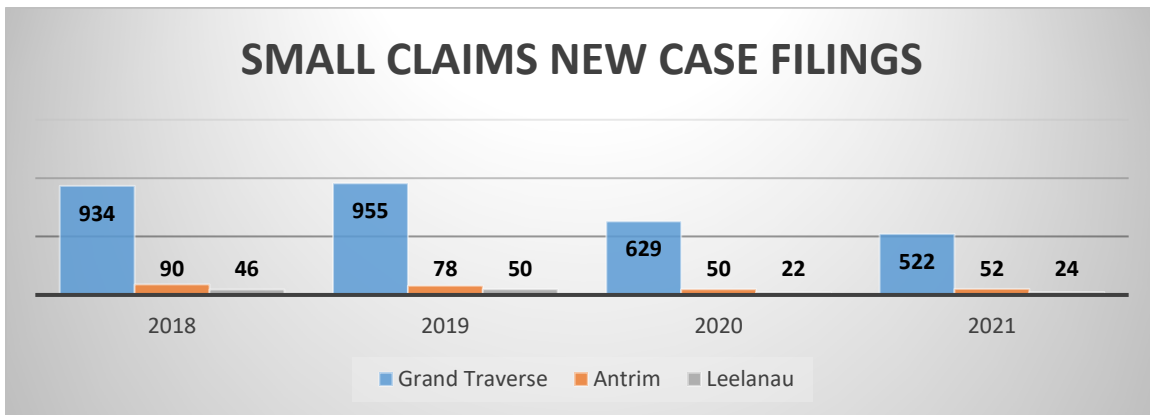
Each of the full-time clerks in the civil division in Grand Traverse County are assigned to a specific civil specialty and the part time clerk assists the full-time clerks with case entry and processing. In Antrim and Leelanau Counties, the clerks handle all the different types of civil cases. These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

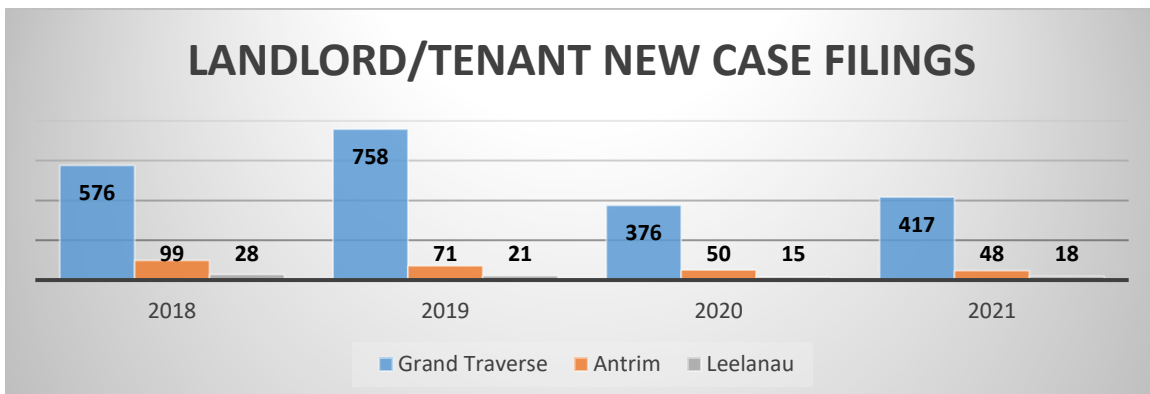
**General Civil** - The District Court has jurisdiction over disputes involving individuals and businesses where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less.



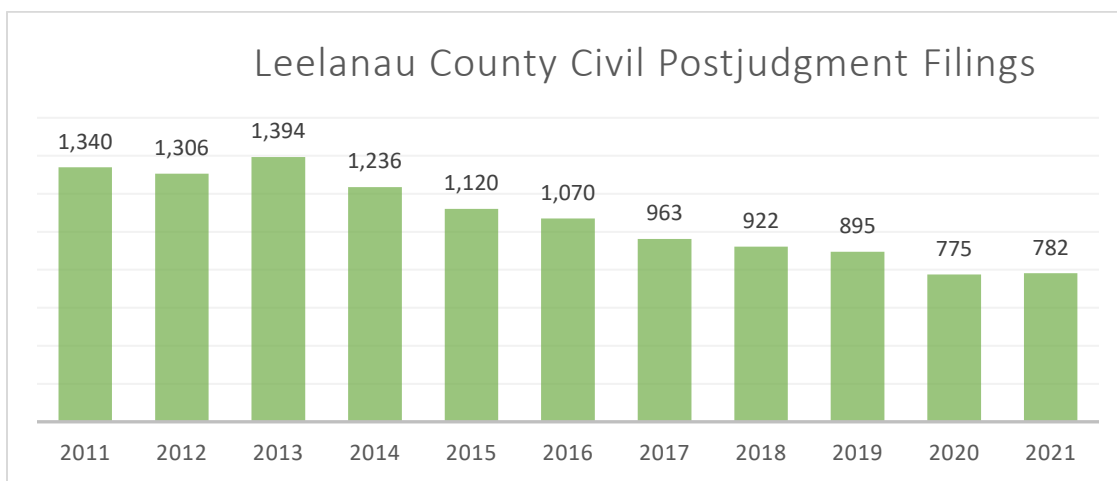
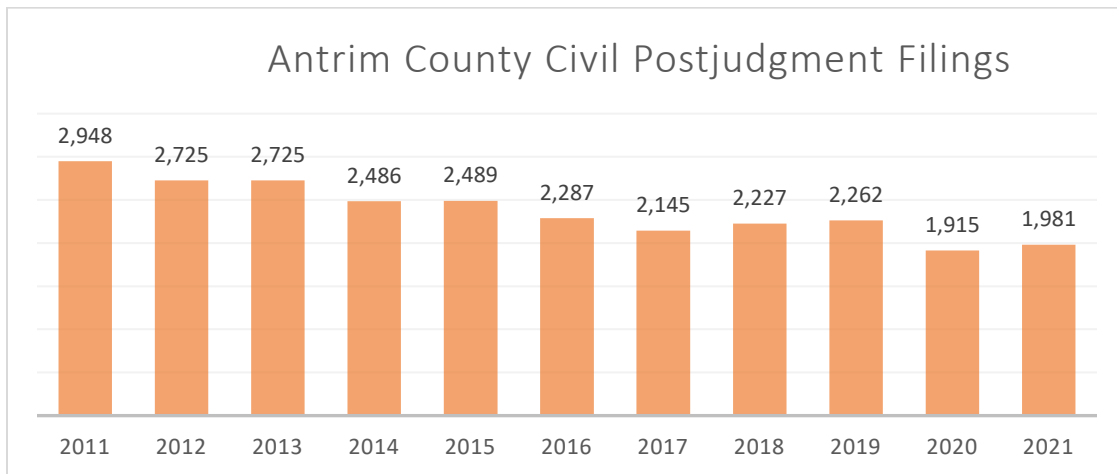
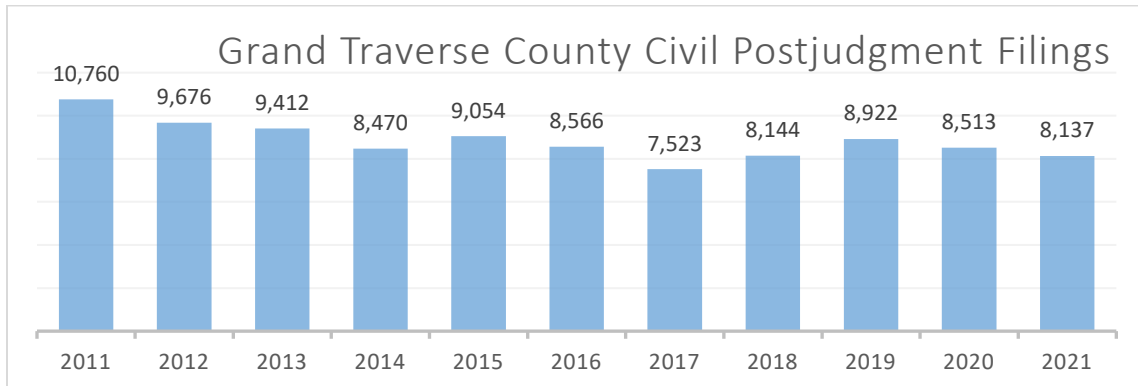
**Small Claims** - The plaintiff in a case that has an amount in controversy of not more than \$6,500 can elect to file in small claims. Lawyers cannot represent either party in a small claims case and the rules of evidence during a small claims trial are much less formal than in a general civil case 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 these filings require a fee be paid, a portion which stays local and a portion that goes to the state.



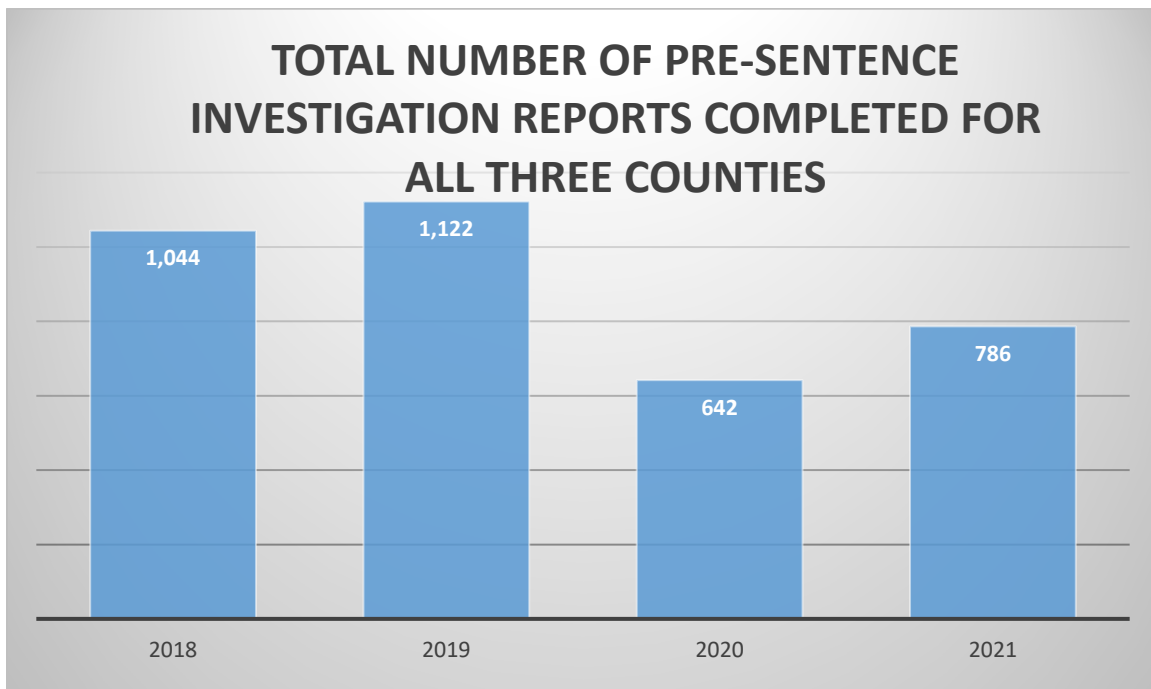
## PROBATION DIVISION

The mission of the 86<sup>th</sup> 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.

Our probation department is staffed by 5 full time and 1 part time probation officer. We also have 2 full time probation clerks.

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.



PROBATION CASELOAD	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Grand Traverse</b>	1083	925	701	648
<b>Antrim</b>	169	154	119	91
<b>Leelanau</b>	220	158	117	116

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

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Felony	24	42	35	50
Misdemeanor	953	874	662	596
Other	8	9	4	2
<b>Antrim County</b>				
Felony	2	1	0	2
Misdemeanor	136	153	119	88
Other	2	0	0	1
<b>Leelanau County</b>				
Felony	1	1	2	0
Misdemeanor	191	157	114	114
Other	0	0	1	2

On December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the **TYPE** of most serious offense:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Grand Traverse County</b>				
Drug law violation	71	46	35	27
Driving under the influence	242	247	202	178
Other	672	632	464	443
<b>Antrim County</b>				
Drug law violation	13	3	1	2
Driving under the influence	48	57	41	41
Other	79	94	77	48
<b>Leelanau County</b>				
Drug law violation	8	3	1	0
Driving under the influence	104	93	61	57
Other	80	62	55	59

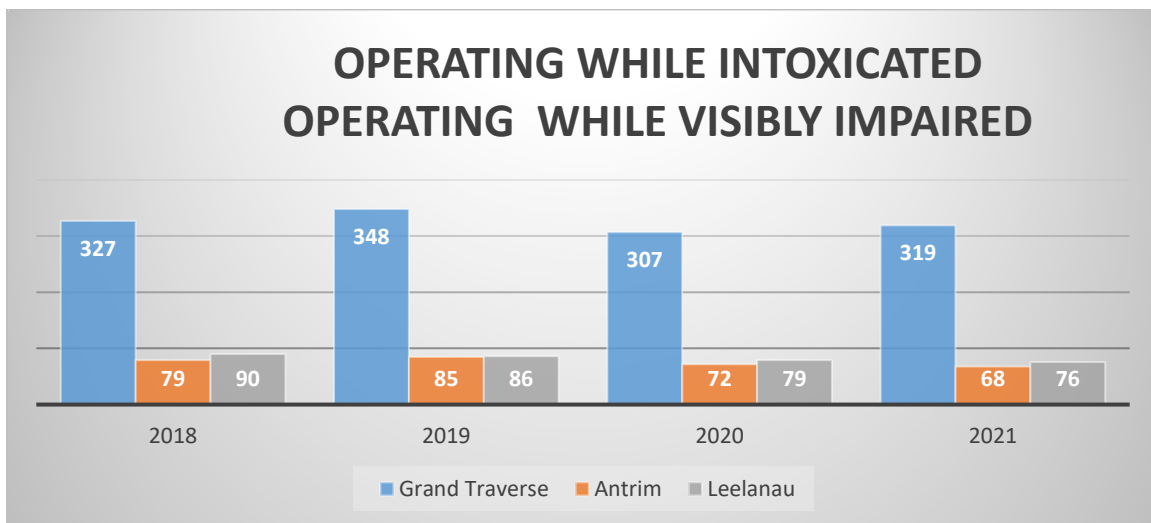
## SPECIALTY COURTS

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 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 86<sup>th</sup> District Court has had a successful Sobriety Court. The primary focus of the program is 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense drunk drivers. Currently, 67% of the cases in Sobriety Court are felony 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**D86 – Grand Traverse Adult Hybrid Court**

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	11%	9%	87
Matched Comparison Members	30%	28%	

Graduates Only	2%	0%	59
Matched Comparison Members	29%	27%	

**Statewide Adult Hybrid Court**

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	19%	12%	4,178
Matched Comparison Members	29%	20%	

Graduates Only	9%	6%	2,645
Matched Comparison Members	26%	19%	

2021 – Sobriety Court - Jail Alternative	GRAND TRAVERSE	ANTRIM	LEELANAU
<b>Admissions in 2021</b>			
Felony admissions	26	0	5
Misdemeanor admissions	4	0	1
<b>Active Cases</b>			
Felony	67	2	8
Misdemeanor	17	1	3
<b>Successful Discharges</b>			
Felony	6	1	1
Misdemeanor	4	1	1
<b>Unsuccessful Discharges</b>			
Felony	14	1	2
Misdemeanor	3	0	0

**Drug Court** – The 86<sup>th</sup> District Court started our Drug Treatment Court in the fall of 2016. The primary focus of the program are those defendants with felony drug convictions. All Drug Treatment Court cases are heard in front of Judge Robert A. Cooney.

**D86 – Grand Traverse Adult Drug Court**

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	45%	38%	29
Matched Comparison Members	24%	24%	

Graduates Only*			<10
Matched Comparison Members	29%	27%	

\*Our court has less than 10 matched pairs for this analysis.

**Statewide Adult Drug Court** (Data are measured three years after admission into the programs since 2015)

Conviction Within 3 Years of Admission	Any New Conviction	New Alcohol or Drug Conviction	Number of Matched Pairs
All Program Participants	27%	13%	307
Matched Comparison Members	43%	30%	

Graduates Only	11%	5%	152
Matched Comparison Members	41%	29%	

2021 – Drug Court - Jail Alternative	GRAND TRAVERSE	ANTRIM	LEELANAU
<b>Admissions in 2021</b>			
Felony admissions	25	0	0
<b>Active Cases</b>			
Felony	43	0	0
<b>Successful Discharges</b>			
Felony	5	0	0
<b>Unsuccessful Discharges</b>			
Felony	12	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.

## 13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

### **SHERISE SHIVELY - COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MANAGER**

Sherise has worked for Community Corrections since 2006. She has bachelor's 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 1 full time community corrections officer, 1 full time community corrections/pre-trial services officer and 1 full time compliance officer.

### **13th Circuit Court 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 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 most enrollments in Community Service Work and House Arrest Programs. By

supporting appropriate use of non-prison sanctions for felony offenders who might otherwise go 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 while on bond.

**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, be employed full time and provide proof of their whereabouts at all times.

**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 to test and relieves the cost of travel and time associated with getting to testing.

**\*\*\*Statistics for 2021 Jail alternative programs don't reflect normal numbers due to the COVID pandemic. This resulted in significantly less sentences overall in both the 13th Circuit and 86th District courts. \*\*\***

**ANNUAL STATISTICS**

<b>2021</b>	<b>Grand Traverse</b>	<b>Antrim</b>	<b>Leelanau</b>
<b>Jail Alternative programs</b>			
Assessed	22	3	2
Approved & Enrolled	20	3	2
Positive Completion	18	3	2
Failed and returned to jail	2	0	0
Successful Completion %	90%	100%	100%
Average Daily Jail beds saved	13	1.40	1.46
Jail Bed Days saved annually	2,150	300	266
<b>Pretrial Services</b>			
PRAXIS Assessments	378	17	3
Felony Defendants supervised	274	15	2
Failure to comply and returned to jail on bond	208	14	1

**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 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.

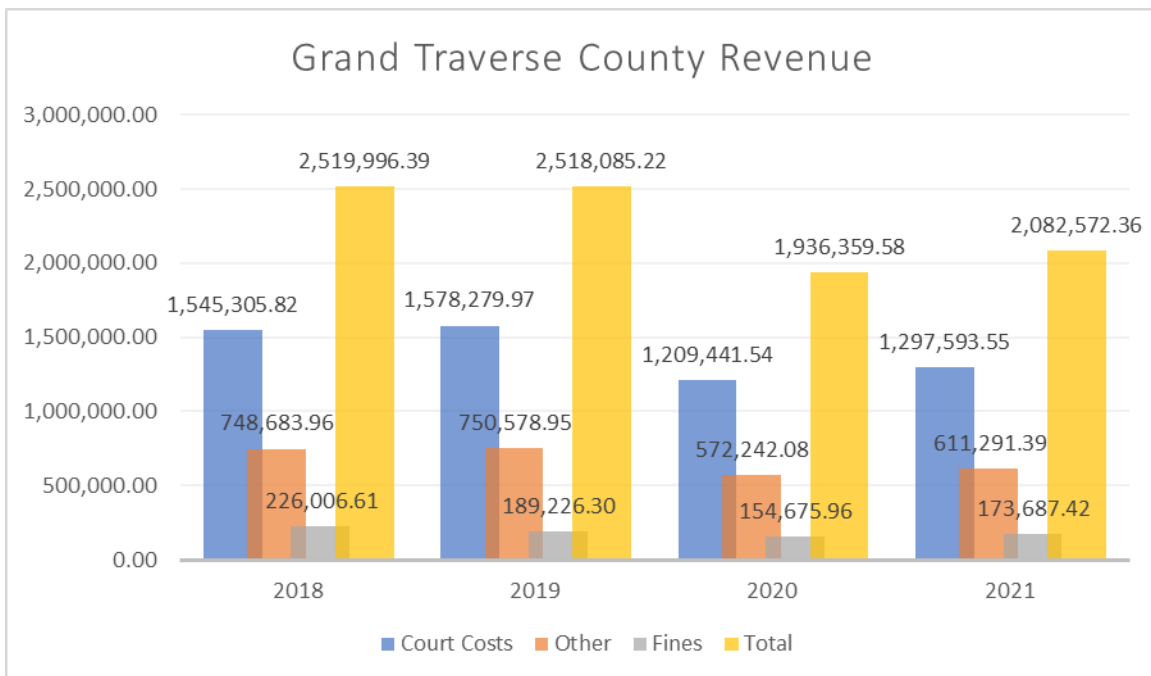
## COLLECTIONS

The court has a formal Collections policy and collection efforts have been implemented in all three counties. This year the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court began to utilize an outside collections agency called Court Collections.

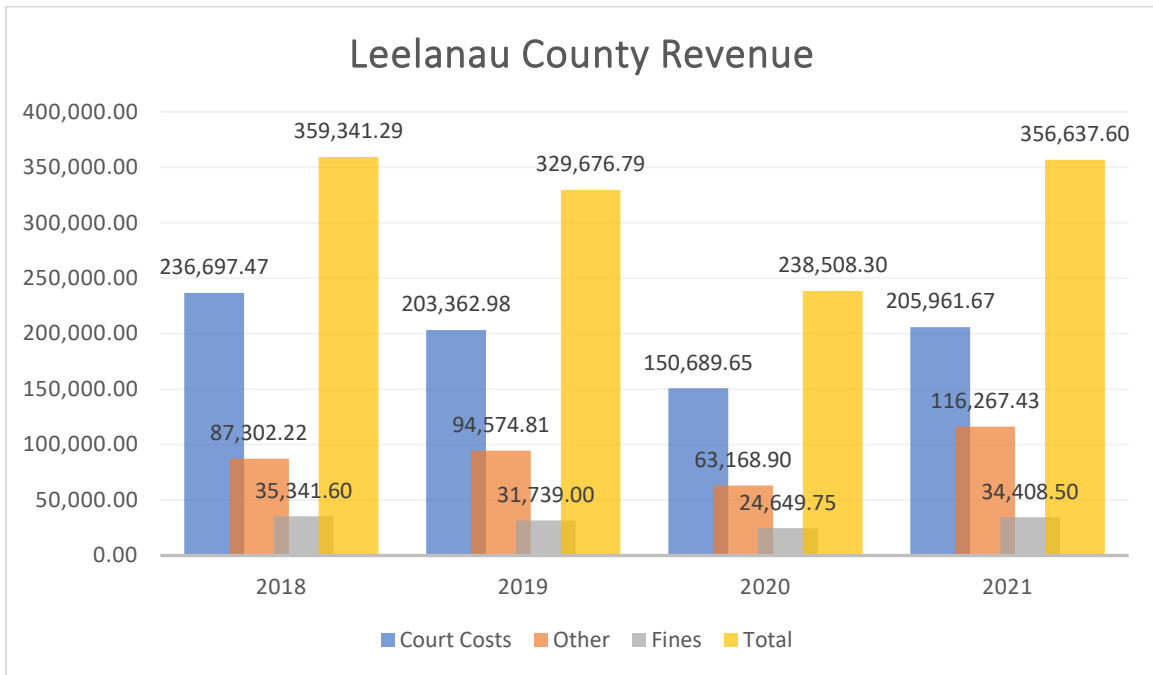
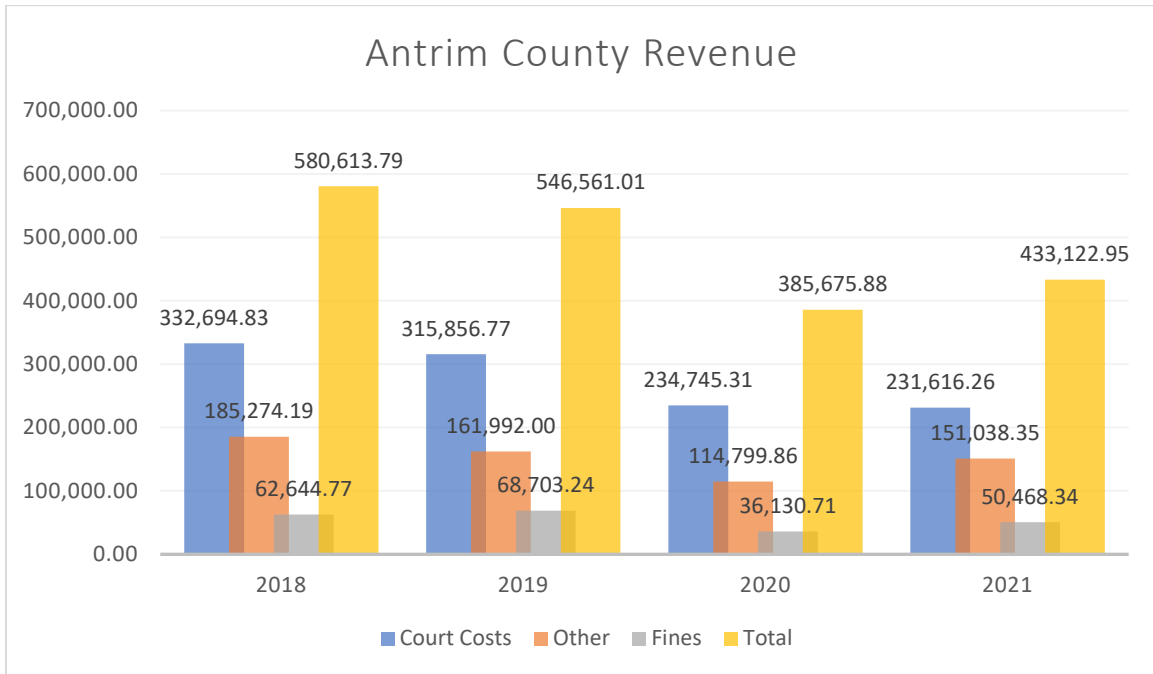
The purpose behind using the court collections agency was due to a decrease in the amount of court costs assessed due to a defendant's ability to pay and in anticipation of an even deeper reduction in the amount of court costs that can be imposed. It was felt that by eliminating a staff position and utilizing an outside agency, we could help offset that reduction.

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.







## FINANCES

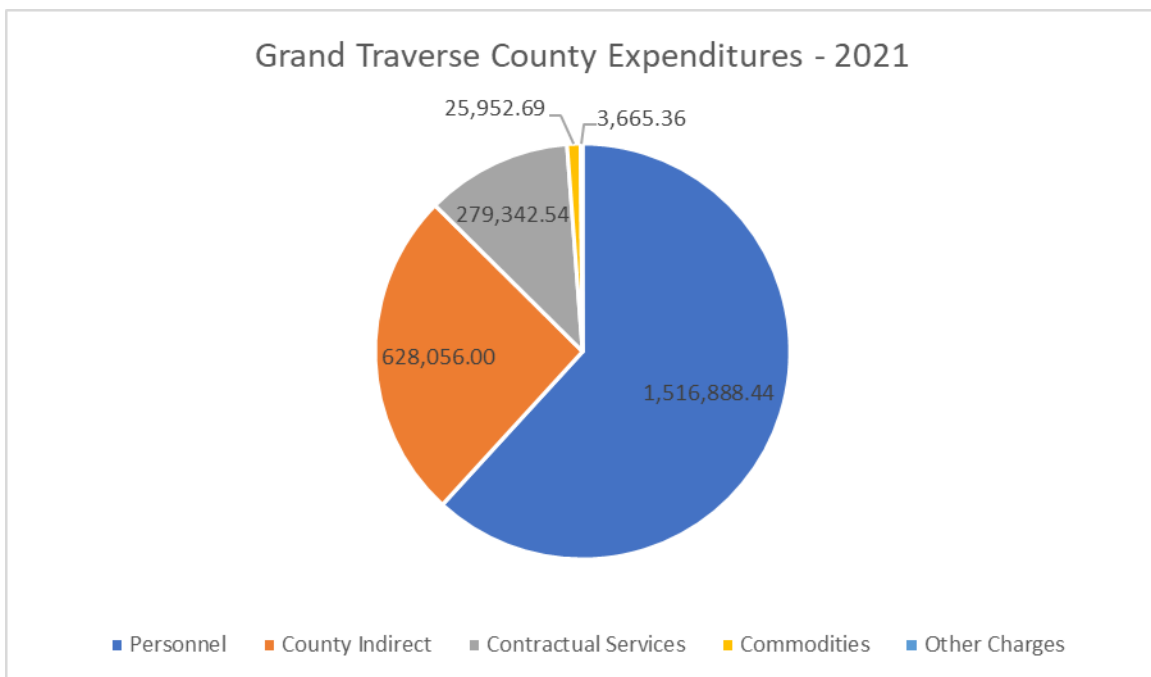
Grand Traverse County is the fiscal agent for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses. The District Court maintains three separate budgets for each of the counties and one shared-cost budget. 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

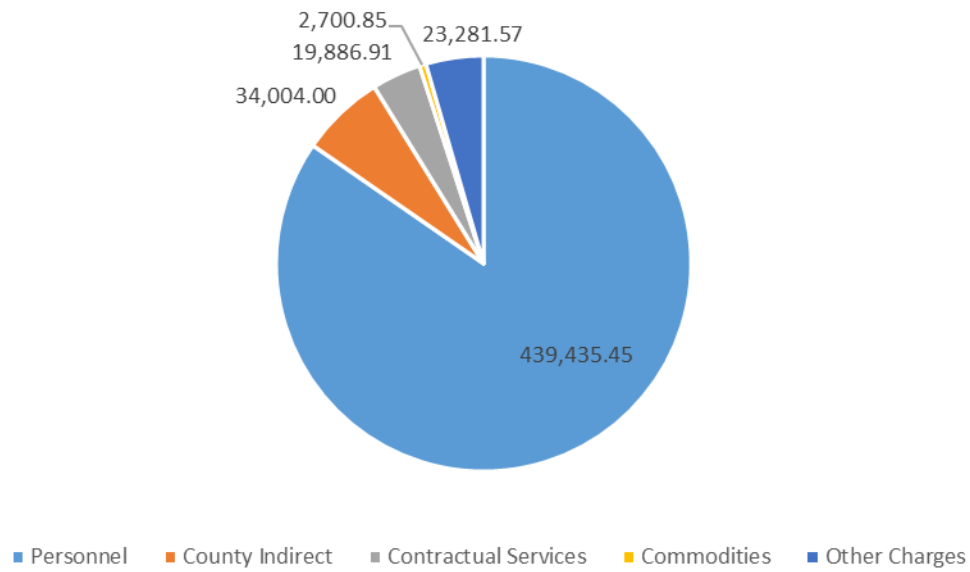
**Contract Services** include transcript fees, jury and witness fees, court appointed attorney, interpreter, and IT expenses

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

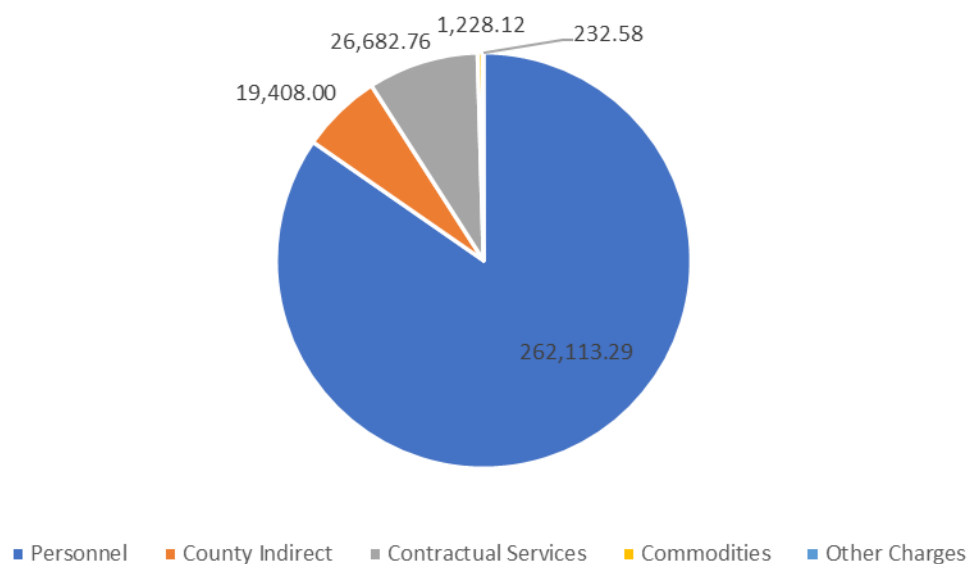
**County Indirect** is the amount charged by Grand Traverse County for indirect costs such as space, heat, electric, facilities maintenance, finance, human resources, etc.



Antrim County Expenditures - 2021



Leelanau County Expenditures - 2021



## STAFF RETIREMENTS

### **Carol Stocking**

Carol was hired by Grand Traverse County on October 8, 1984, where she worked in the Human Resources Department. In February of 2001, she was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court to fill the newly created Court Administrator position. Carol retired in October of 2021 and will be missed.

### **Shirley DeWitt**

Shirley was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on July 1, 2000. Shirley worked in Antrim County as the Office Coordinator. She retired on March 19, 2021.

### **Margaret Drury**

Margaret was hired by Grand Traverse County on March 13, 2000. Margaret worked as a Community Corrections Officer, and she retired from the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on September 17, 2021.

### **Ella Dreves**

Ella was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on September 11, 2001. She worked as a General Civil Clerk in the Traverse City office until her retirement on December 29, 2021.

### **Trisha Moore**

Trisha was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on October 2, 2002. She worked as an Office Specialist, Collections Specialist and Probation Officer. She left the court on September 16, 2021.

### **Dawn Rector**

Dawn was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on December 9, 2005. She worked as an Office Specialist, Collections Specialist and as a Court Recorder. She left the court on July 26, 2021.

### **Cynthia Visnaw**

Cindy was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on March 16, 2012. She was assigned to the Antrim office as a Civil Clerk. She left the court on April 30, 2021.

### **Sara Deschler**

Sara was hired by the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court on July 28, 2014. She was assigned as an Office Specialist in the criminal / traffic division for the Traverse City office. Sara left the court on February 8, 2021.

## PROMOTIONS

### **Stacy Donaldson-Patton**

Stacy was hired as an office specialist on December 2, 2019. She was promoted to the position of Account Technician in August of 2021.

### **Sarah Lorigan**

Sarah was promoted to the position of non-attorney magistrate in Antrim County in May of 2021. Sarah was previously a compliance office, assigned to Leelanau County as a probation officer and to sobriety court as a treatment court probation officer.

## DEATHS

### **Claudette Tarr**

Claudette was hired with the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court as an Office Specialist on December 16, 2004. Claudette passed away unexpectedly in March of 2021.