



2019 ANNUAL REPORT
presented at the
State of the Court Luncheon
October 23, 2019

Chief Judge Denise Page Hood

STATE OF THE COURT MESSAGE

October 23, 2019

“The United States Courts are an independent, national judiciary providing fair and impartial justice within the jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and Congress. As an equal branch of government, the federal judiciary preserves and enhances its core values as the courts meet changing national and local needs.” The core values are: the rule of law; equal justice; judicial independence; accountability; excellence and service. Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary, September 2015, Judicial Conference of the United States.

Court Information

The Eastern District of Michigan is one of two federal district courts in the great State of Michigan. Our district is part of the Sixth Circuit, which is comprised of districts in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. The seat of the Sixth Circuit is located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Our district includes the eastern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, divided into two divisions – the Northern Division and the Southern Division. The Court’s main office is located in Detroit at the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse. Other Southern divisional offices are located in Ann Arbor, Flint and Port Huron, and Bay City in the Northern Division.

The Eastern District of Michigan has 357 employees – 28 judicial officers, 82 staff working directly for judges, 99 Clerk’s Office employees, 88 Probation employees, 34 Pretrial Services employees, and 26 other court staff (court reporters and staff attorneys).



Judicial Officers in the Eastern District of Michigan

Judicial Officer	Date Appointed *	Appointing President
Denise Page Hood	6/16/1994 (A)	Bill Clinton
Avern Cohn	9/26/1979 (Sr)	Jimmy Carter
Bernard A. Friedman	4/20/1988 (Sr)	Ronald Reagan
Robert H. Cleland	6/19/1990 (Sr)	George H.W. Bush
Nancy G. Edmunds	2/10/1992 (Sr)	George H.W. Bush
Paul D. Borman	8/10/1994 (A)	Bill Clinton
Arthur J. Tarnow	5/22/1998 (Sr)	Bill Clinton
George Caram Steeh	5/22/1998 (Sr)	Bill Clinton
Victoria A. Roberts	6/29/1998 (A)	Bill Clinton
Marianne O. Battani	6/2/2000 (Sr)	Bill Clinton
David M. Lawson	6/2/2000 (A)	Bill Clinton
Thomas L. Ludington	6/12/2006 (A)	George W. Bush
Sean F. Cox	6/12/2006 (A)	George W. Bush
Stephen J. Murphy, III	8/18/2008 (A)	George W. Bush
Mark A. Goldsmith	6/22/2010 (A)	Barack Obama
Gershwin A. Drain	8/8/2012 (A)	Barack Obama
Terrence G. Berg	12/7/2012 (A)	Barack Obama
Judith E. Levy	3/14/2014 (A)	Barack Obama
Laurie J. Michelson	3/14/2014 (A)	Barack Obama
Matthew F. Leitman	3/14/2014 (A)	Barack Obama
Linda V. Parker	3/17/2014 (A)	Barack Obama

* (A) Active Judge, (Sr) Senior Judge

Currently the Eastern District of Michigan has 14 active district judges and seven senior judges with caseloads. Our senior judges receive cases at substantially the same rate as district judges in active service. There is one vacancy that was created when Judge Gerald E. Rosen took senior status on October 26, 2016. This vacancy is expected to be filled by the elevation of Stephanie Dawkins Davis from magistrate judge to district judge.

Our Court has district judges on several prestigious national and circuit committees, including but not limited to the following:

Chief Judge Hood	<i>Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules</i> <i>Sixth Circuit Ad Hoc Outreach & Civics Committee</i>
Judge Cleland	<i>Sixth Circuit Space & Facilities Committee</i>
Judge Ludington	<i>Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System</i>
Judge Murphy	<i>Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules</i>
Judge Berg	<i>Judicial Conference Committee on Criminal Law</i>
Judge Levy	<i>Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services</i>

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

Our Court also has seven magistrate judges – Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen, Mona K. Majzoub, David R. Grand, Patricia T. Morris, Elizabeth A. Stafford, Anthony P. Patti and Stephanie Dawkins Davis. Magistrate Judge Whalen continues to serve as Executive Magistrate Judge for the Court. Due to the impending retirement of Magistrate Judge Majzoub and the pending elevation of Magistrate Judge Davis to district judge, we have been able to recall Magistrate Judge Michael Hluchaniuk until we are able to fill those two vacancies.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

Bankruptcy Judge Phillip J. Shefferly continues to serve as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court. Chief Judge Shefferly was first appointed as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court in April 2009, and is now in the second year of his current term, which will end on April 24, 2020. There are currently seven bankruptcy judges serving in the Eastern District of Michigan – Chief Judge Phillip J. Shefferly, Judges Marci B. McIvor, Thomas J. Tucker, Daniel S. Opperman, Mark A. Randon, Maria Oxholm and Joel D. Applebaum. Bankruptcy Judge McIvor will be retiring at the end of the year.

Death of Barbara K. Hackett

Retired District Judge Barbara K. Hackett died on December 23, 2018 at the age of 90. She was appointed as a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Michigan, the first woman in our district to hold that position, on March 1, 1973. She resigned that position and was later appointed a district judge by President Ronald Reagan on April 7, 1986. Judge Hackett took senior status on April 8, 1997, and retired on March 1, 2000.

Death of Judge Damon J. Keith

Senior Circuit Judge Damon J. Keith died on April 28, 2019 at the age of 96. He was appointed as a district judge to the Eastern District of Michigan by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 27, 1967, and elevated to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on January 22, 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. While on the District Court bench, he served as Chief Judge from December 14, 1975 until his elevation to the Circuit Court. Judge Keith served his entire career on the federal bench working out of the Levin Courthouse in Detroit.

Death of Judge James Harvey

Retired District Judge James Harvey died on July 20, 2019 at the age of 97 at his home in Naples, Florida. He was appointed to the District Court bench of the Eastern District of Michigan on December 19, 1973 by President Richard M. Nixon. Judge Harvey took senior status on March 29, 1984, and retired on June 29, 1992. During his tenure on the bench, Judge Harvey spent time at the courthouses in Detroit, Bay City, Flint and Port Huron.

Reappointment of Magistrate Judge David R. Grand

Magistrate Judge David R. Grand was appointed to a second eight-year term as magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. His reappointment term is November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2027.

Death of Retired Magistrate Judge Paul J. Komives

Retired Magistrate Judge Paul J. Komives died on December 10, 2018 at the age of 86. He was appointed as the Eastern District of Michigan's very first magistrate judge on February 12, 1971 and was the longest serving magistrate judge in the country at the time of he left the bench on January 6, 2015. He initially served four terms as magistrate judge, and was recalled for a number of years after his retirement in 1997.

Special Sessions of Court

The Eastern District of Michigan hosted several Special Sessions of Court over the past year.

- Portrait Dedication Ceremony for Judge Arthur J. Tarnow on October 19, 2019
- Appointment of Mark Jankowski as Acting United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan on April 8, 2019
- Appointment of Matthew Schneider as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan on June 13, 2019.

Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office is preparing for some big changes in the next year. The Court will be upgrading its CM/ECF software to the Next Generation (NextGen) of CM/ECF in the first quarter of 2020. NextGen is the culmination of a multi-year project headed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to provide for the current and future filing and case management needs of all CM/ECF users. The NextGen system will provide court users with several benefits and attorney users with the ability to maintain a single login and password for electronic filing and PACER access in all federal courts (Bankruptcy, District and Appellate). This central sign-on feature allows access to all courts in which an attorney has permission to file. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Western District of Michigan have already upgraded and the Bankruptcy Court will follow after the District Court upgrades. The transition will require current filers to complete preparatory steps and link their PACER accounts with their MIED e-filing accounts once the upgrade is complete. The Court's website will have detailed information for attorneys posted prior to the upgrade.

On average, more than 1,700 attorneys are filing more than 5,000 documents a month electronically. Court staff is filing more than 4,000 orders a month and 1,000 minute entries regarding hearings and conferences, on average. Even though overall filings are

trending down, the Clerk's Office remains very busy. See Court Statistics at the end of the report.

Pretrial Services

In 2019, the agency participated in a variety of district-wide and national trainings to learn ways to reduce unnecessary detention, increase adherence to bond conditions, identifying risk factors in supervision and personal leadership training for the administrative team.

The agency is comprised of 34 staff members, serving five Eastern District of Michigan court locations. In December 2018, Supervising Pretrial Services Officer Roland Jonville retired and Senior Pretrial Services officer Brandi Baltes was promoted to Supervising Pretrial Services Officer. In March 2019, Allison Bowers was promoted to Senior Pretrial Services Officer Specialist, and Pretrial Services Officer Jessica Homann transferred into the Eastern District of Michigan from the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Supervising Officer Susan Gilmore and Senior Officer Brandi Baltes worked as members of the Administrative Office's National Program Review Team. Chief Pretrial Services Officer Patricia Trevino served on the National Pretrial Services Working Group and the National Pretrial Steering Committee. The groups worked on the development and implementation of national pretrial policy. Pretrial Services Officer Ryan Helms was selected as a temporary Firearms and Safety Instructor for the Federal Probation and Pretrial Academy in Charleston, South Carolina. His temporary duty term is from January 2019 to January 2022. Pretrial Services Officer Heather McCamley was selected to assist the Administrative Office in a national study on the effectiveness of treatment. She will serve a three-year remote temporary duty role working 25% of the time for the Administrative Office. Pretrial Services Officer David Nicoloff completed the Federal Probation and Pretrial Academy's National Firearm Instructor Course in Charleston, South Carolina to become a District Firearm Instructor. Senior Pretrial Services Officer Allison Bowers completed the Federal Probation and Pretrial Academy's National Officer Safety Instructor Course in Charleston, South Carolina to become a District Safety Instructor.

Three participants successfully completed and graduated from the RESTART Program supported by Pretrial Services. Three more are pending completion in November 2019. The program was implemented in 2017 and is designed to divert selected defendants from a conviction and aid them in being productive members of the community. The program involves the collaborative efforts of Chief Judge Denise Page Hood, Judge Paul D. Borman, Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Stafford, along with representatives from the United States Attorney's Office, Federal Defenders, the Pretrial Services Agency and the Probation Department. Participants work in conjunction with the RESTART team in learning social skills and cognitive restructuring. Successful completion of the program leads to diversion from the criminal justice system as the charges against participants are ultimately dismissed.

In addition to the RESTART program, the Pretrial Services Agency worked in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office and completed 42 pretrial diversion investigations. Defendants that successfully complete the diversion program are diverted from the criminal justice system and avoid a federal conviction.

The United States Pretrial Services Agency is responsible for providing quality pretrial reports to the court and making pretrial release recommendations. For the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the Eastern District of Michigan Pretrial Services Agency received 1,017 initial appearances and completed 950 pre-bail reports. The table below represents pretrial interviews and reports completed in relevance to the sixth circuit.

Pretrial Services Interviews and Types of Pretrial Services Reports (Table H-2)
12-Month Period Ending: 2019/06/30

DSS Standard Report #1088

Circuit	District Name	Cases Activated	Interview Status		Types Of Pretrial Services Report		
			Interviewed	Not Interviewed	Prebail Reports	Postbail Reports	No Reports Made
6	Kentucky-Eastern	624	382	242	394	128	102
	Kentucky-Western	445	326	119	346	17	82
	Michigan-Eastern	1,017	792	225	950	61	6
	Michigan-Western	431	289	142	380	35	16
	Ohio-Northern	1,010	806	204	986	6	18
	Ohio-Southern	870	661	209	649	96	125
	Tennessee-Eastern	1,034	962	72	1,015	8	11
	Tennessee-Middle	388	23	365	199	77	112
	Tennessee-Western	686	518	168	512	71	103
	Total	6,505	4,759	1,746	5,431	499	575

The table below represents the distribution of the types of cases that were activated in the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charged Offense	12 Months Ending 2018/06/30				12 Months Ending 2019/06/30			
	Activated	% of Total	Nat Avg	% of Total	Activated	% of Total	Nat Avg	% of Total
Drugs	298	25.56%	266	25.54%	291	28.61%	279	24.57%
Escape/Obstruction	30	2.57%	15	1.40%	17	1.67%	14	1.25%
Firearms/Weapons	162	13.89%	106	10.17%	176	17.31%	122	10.73%
Immigration	188	16.12%	405	38.91%	196	19.27%	473	41.63%
Other	6	0.51%	49	4.71%	3	0.29%	52	4.57%
Property	285	24.44%	105	10.10%	227	22.32%	101	8.88%
Public Order	7	0.60%	17	1.67%	11	1.08%	17	1.51%
Sex Offenses	76	6.52%	33	3.22%	40	3.93%	34	3.01%
Violence	114	9.78%	44	4.27%	56	5.51%	44	3.84%
Total	1,166	100%	1,040	100%	1,017	100%	1,135	100%

The Eastern District of Michigan has a 57.6% release rate (excluding immigration cases) which is the tenth highest in the nation. The table below represents Eastern District of Michigan Pretrial Services release Rates and Detention Cases – Excluding Immigration.

Charged Offense	12 Months Ending 2019/06/30				
	Detained	Released	Total Cases	Release %	Nat Release %
Drugs	100	112	212	52.8%	35.4%
Escape/Obstruction	8	4	12	33.3%	40.9%
Firearms/Weapons	86	76	162	46.9%	29.3%
Immigration	21	4	25	16.0%	30.4%
Other	0	3	3	100.0%	14.7%
Property	30	177	207	85.5%	78.8%
Public Order	1	7	8	87.5%	87.5%
Sex Offenses	28	6	34	17.6%	38.2%
Violence	25	17	42	40.5%	28.6%
Total	299	406	705	57.6%	38.9%

The department is responsible for supervising 747 defendants on bond. The department spent over \$250,000.00 for treatment services to address substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender therapy. The district maintains an onsite drug testing lab which was renovated in 2019. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, over 5000 drug screens were processed in the lab. The district is below national average for failure to appear, re-arrest, and technical violations. The table below represents Pretrial Services Supervision Outcomes.

District	Total Clients Supervised	FTA Violations			Rearrest Violations						Technical Violations					
		# of FTA	# of Clients	% of Total Supervised Clients	# of Rearrest Violations	# of Mis-demeanors	# of Felonies	# of Petty	# of Clients	% of Total Supervised Clients	# of Technical Violations	# of Clients	% of Total Supervised Clients	# of Clients Revoked*	% Revoked Technical Violations	% of Total Supervised Clients Revoked for Technical Violations
National	47,663	709	640	1.3%	1,029	549	413	67	966	2.0%	12,984	8,301	17.4%	2,925	35.2%	6.1%
MIE	1,160	6	6	0.5%	21	11	10	0	20	1.7%	583	272	23.4%	41	15.1%	3.5%

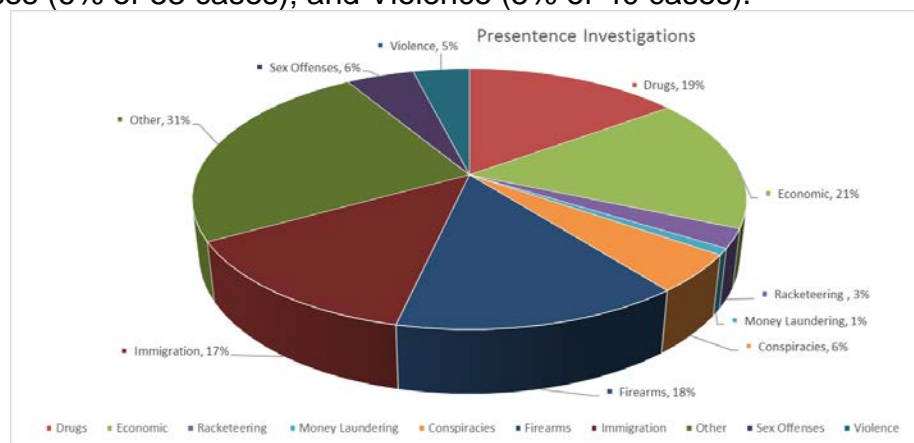
Probation Department

The mission statement of the United States Probation Department for the Eastern District of Michigan is to protect the public, assist the Court in the fair administration of justice and to assist offenders in making long-term positive change in their lives. The United States Probation Department consists of two district units: presentence and supervision. The department is comprised of 88 total staff members - 70 are sworn probation officers, two are sworn probation officer assistants and 18 are support staff. This fiscal year, the department hired three new probation officers, two probation officer assistants and three support staff and two valuable employees retired.

Probation officers prepare presentence reports or provide community supervision for individuals on supervision.

Presentence

During the 2018 calendar year, the Presentence Unit of the United States Probation Department (Eastern District of Michigan) completed a total of 880 presentence investigation reports for the Court. The reports were categorized in the following manner: Drugs (19% or 170 cases); Economic (21% or 183 cases); Racketeering (3% or 27 cases); Money Laundering (1% or 11 cases); Conspiracies (6% or 55 cases); Firearms (18% or 160 cases); Immigration (17% or 150 cases); Other (4% or 31 cases); Sex Offenses (6% or 53 cases); and Violence (5% or 40 cases).



In an effort to aid other districts throughout the country with their presentence investigations of defendants awaiting sentencing, the Probation Department completed 280 collateral investigations. Additionally, the Presentence Unit completed 120 First Step Act (Section 404) Eligibility Memorandums to the Court. These memorandums

assessed a defendant's eligibility for a sentence reduction under the First Step Act of 2018.

Supervision

The United States Probation Department offers many programs and treatment services to protect the community and to assist offenders in making long term positive change in their lives. Over the past year, we have provided substance use, mental health, and sex offender treatment services to an average of 300 people per month at a cost of approximately \$630,000.00, which also includes costs for the Location Monitoring Program.

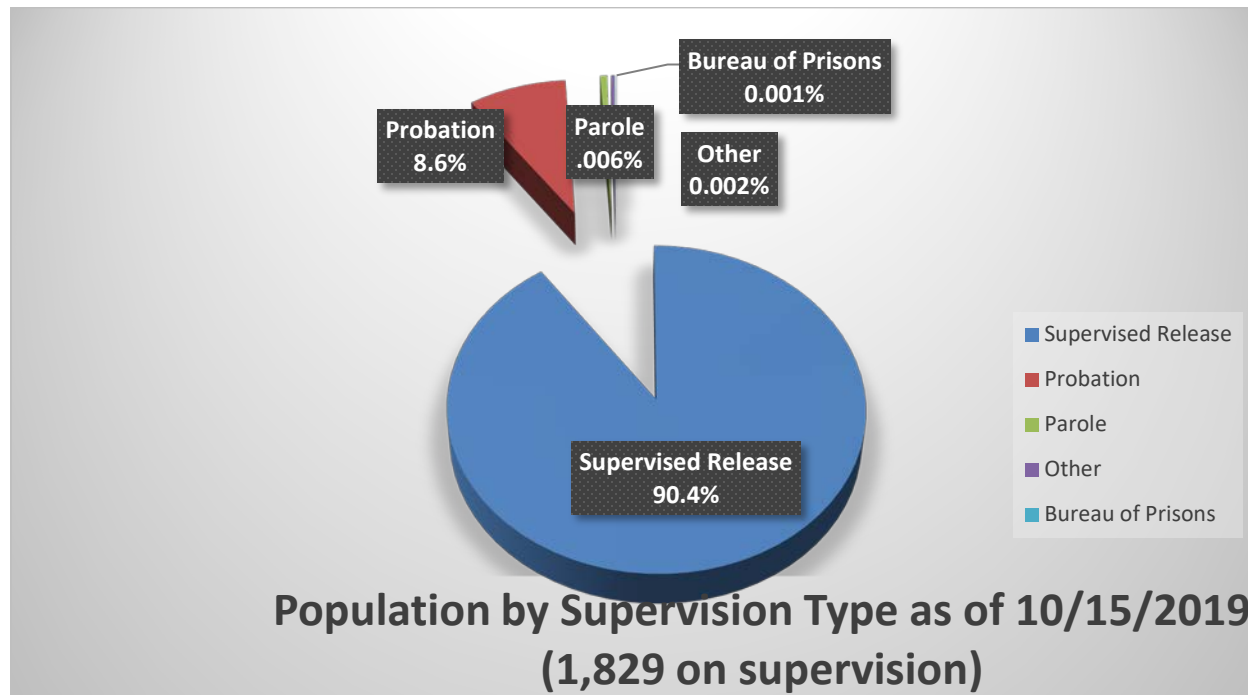
The United States Probation Department continues to be part of the Court's reentry program, Helping Offender's Positively Excel (H.O.P.E.) Program. H.O.P.E. involves the collaborative efforts of Judges Paul D. Borman and Gershwin A. Drain, along with the United States Probation Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defender's Office and various community resource providers. The program is available for moderate to high risk individuals on supervision, as well as individuals who are identified as being high need and high risk who are entering the community. Generally, the individuals who have long terms of supervise release voluntarily enter the program. The H.O.P.E. Program began on January 19, 2012. As of October 15, 2019, 62 participants have voluntarily entered the program. Of those individuals, 30 have successfully completed the program and discharged from supervised release. There are currently 22 active participants in the program. The H.O.P.E. program links participants with a wide range of social services, including education and literacy program, employment assistance, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, substance abuse treatment programming, mental health services, where needed. In addition, participants receive assistance with housing and educational and job training as needed. Participants are required to sign a participant agreement and abide by the terms. The agreement outlines the program and the responsibilities of all parties. As of October 15, 2019, the cost savings has exceeded \$140,000.00.

Officers also work with the Residential Reentry Center by attending weekly Program Review Team meetings and attending Community Relation Board Meetings. Both meetings assist with helping the individuals we supervise successfully reintegrate back into the community.

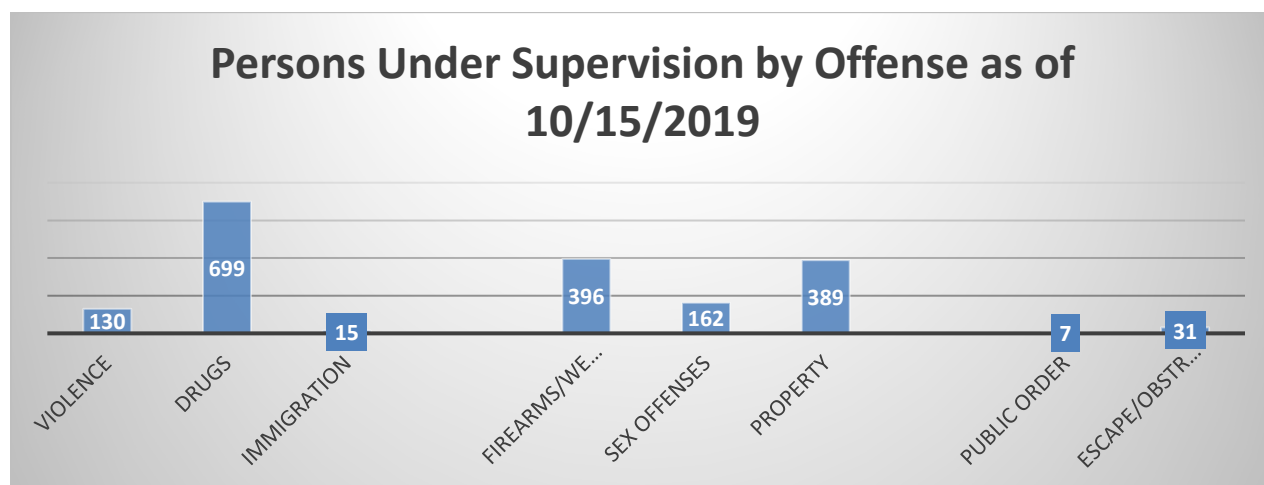
Chief Anthony Merolla serves on the National Advisory Group for Space and Security. There are several officers who serve as members of the Administrative Office's National Program Review Team: Supervisory Probation Officers Ann Smith, Kim Crova, Tracy Kosmas and Senior Probation Officers Corey Elder and Christopher Machak. Their continued commitment requires periodic travel to other districts to conduct program reviews/AUDITS.

For fiscal year 2019, (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019), the supervision unit has been responsible for supervising approximately 1,800 individuals. Ninety percent (90.4%) of the 1,800 are on supervised release. The probation department also

supervises individuals on probation (8.6%), parole (.006%), and Bureau of Prisons /conditional release case (.003%).



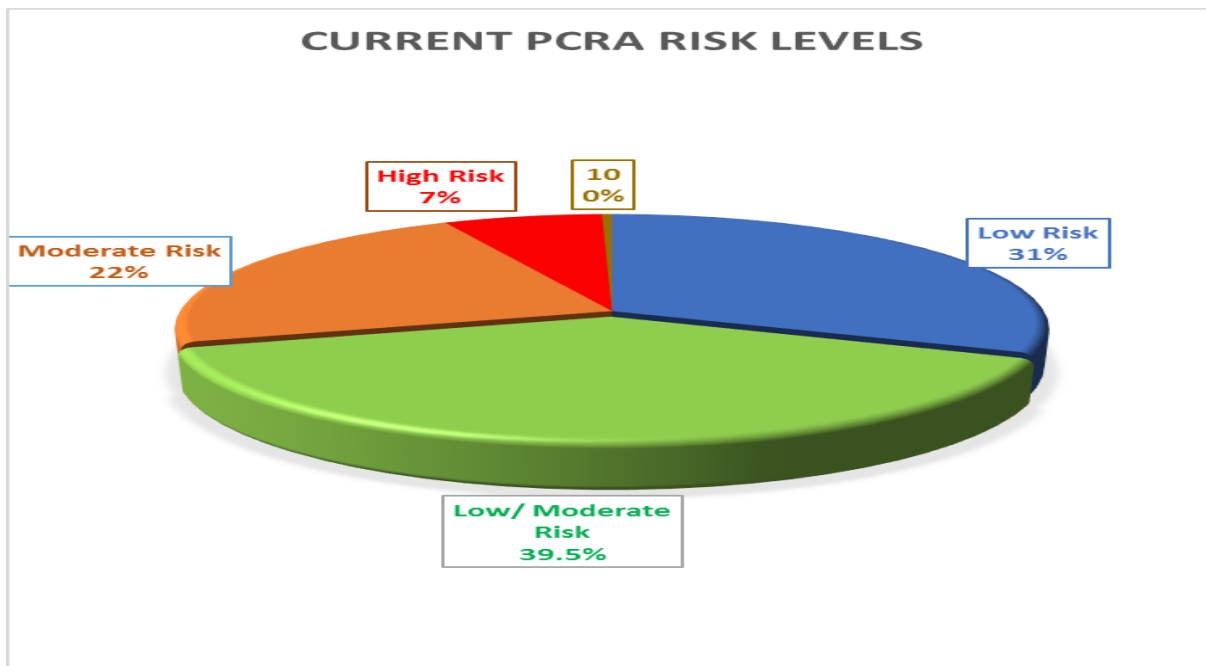
The probation department supervises individuals convicted of the following offenses: Drugs (37% or 699 persons); firearms/ weapons (22% or 396 persons), property (21% or 389 persons), sex offenses (9% or 162 persons); violence (7% or 130 persons); and immigration/obstruction/public order (.03% or 53 persons).



The probation department continues to integrate evidence-based practices (EBP) into the fabric of supervision. Evidence Based Practices are used to identify the needs of the population we supervise, to mitigate their risks, remove barriers, and provide them with the necessary tools to lawfully self-govern themselves.

The probation department has incorporated various evidence-based practices to protect the public and reduce recidivism. Risk and need based strategies have become the fundamental approach to effective supervision. To determine these factors, officers administer the Post-Conviction Risk Assessment Tool (PCRA). PCRA is federal community corrections assessment tool that identifies person under supervision risks, needs, and barriers. Annually, all supervisory and supervision officers are required to recertify in the use of PCRA. The assessment combines the risk and violence score to determine a risk level. Risk level indicates the probability of person under supervision maintaining a productive lifestyle and successfully completing supervision.

The risk level is a crucial component of supervision. The higher the risk level, the more resources the probation department devotes to monitoring, restricting and intervening with the person on supervision. The risk levels are separated into four categories low, low/ moderate, moderate, and high. As October 15, 2019, the probation department risk levels are distributed as follows: Low (31%), Low/Moderate (39.5%), Moderate (22%), and High (7%).



To further incorporate EBP into supervision strategies and reduce recidivism, all supervision supervisors and officers have been trained in Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest (STARR). The probation department has several employees who co-facilitate national STARR trainings, as well as provide in-district training and support. The probation department also facilitates numerous cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) programs to assist clients in changing their criminal thought patterns. The CBT groups include Family Ties, Peer Relationships, Social Values, Responsible Thinking, Substance Abuse, and Makin' It Work (an employment focused program).

The probation department continues to be an integral part of the implementation of EBP strategies and planning on a national level. The department is honored to have one of its senior officers serve as a national trainer for the Federal Judicial Center's (FJC), Supervising Officers in an Evidence-Based Environment (SOEBE) program. SOEBE targets specific competencies so that supervisors can monitor officers' supervision of defendants and offenders to assure that officers' interactions are in accordance with evidence-based practices; as well as increase overall awareness. Additionally, the probation department currently has a supervision officer committed to a 25% temporary duty position with the Administrative Office, assisting in the development of the Criminogenic Needs and Violence Curriculum (CNVC). The CNVC curriculum utilizes cognitive behavioral interventions designed to change the cognitions that influence maladaptive behavior and teach strategies for identifying and managing risk factors.

The probation department is committed to our mission to protect the public, assist the Court in the fair administration of justice and assist offenders in making long-term positive change in their lives. Our dedication to our mission is evident by the resources we use to eliminate factors that could lead to recidivism in the population we serve. Resources currently used by the department include mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment/vocational/educational strategies, and cognitive-based interventions. Officers understand and value the process of change, but still hold persons under supervision accountable for their actions when appropriate. This may entail recommending to the Court fair and appropriate modifications to the conditions of supervision or other recommendations for those who violate the terms of supervision. As a result, for fiscal year 2019, the Eastern District of Michigan Probation Department had the lowest revocation rate (18.6%) in the 6th Circuit, and 12th in the nation.

	Total Cases Closed* *	With Revocation										
		Total Cases Revoked			Technical		Minor		Major		Other	
		#	%	Natl Rank	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total s:	4836	1538	31.8%		945	19.5%	183	3.8%	382	7.9%	28	0.6%
KYE	450	185	41.1%	8	133	29.6%	9	2.0%	27	6.0%	16	3.6%
KYW	287	64	22.3%	3	53	18.5%	1	0.3%	9	3.1%	1	0.3%
MIE	760	141	18.6%	1	73	9.6%	13	1.7%	55	7.2%	0	0%`
MIW	355	112	31.5%	6	74	20.8%	16	4.5%	19	5.4%	3	0.8%
OHN	678	213	31.4%	5	108	15.9%	27	4.0%	76	11.2%	2	0.3%
OHS	649	145	22.3%	4	108	16.6%	9	1.4%	26	4.0%	2	0.3%
TNE	873	425	48.7%	9	25	29.3%	85	9.7%	84	9.6%	0	0%

			%		6	%		%				
TNM	279	61	21.9%	2	41	14.7%	9	3.2%	11	3.9%	0	0%

On August 9, 2019, the United States Probation Department hosted its Fourth Annual Community Resource Fair. The department's Workforce Development Committee recruited over 25 human services providers to participate in the event. This year there were over 400 attendees that enjoyed food, entertainment, and most importantly direct access to resources from a variety of agencies including; Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Detroit Training Center, DTE Energy, Detroit Public Schools, and many more.

Returning citizens, veterans, and members of the community were able to resolve Friend of the Court issues in a "warrant free" atmosphere, as well as obtain bill assistance, and educational/vocational services. The Mobile Dentists provided teeth cleaning, fillings, and x-rays to over 50 children. The event is free to the public and is an opportunity to showcase the probation department's commitment to build a network of community partners to promote their mission to facilitate positive change.

As noted above, the Probation Department is committed to providing factual investigations, quality supervision and support services to the United States Courts System. Our department is dedicated to enforcing Court ordered sanctions, minimizing risk to the public and providing individuals on supervision with an opportunity for being successful. The programs noted above are a testament to the dedicated staff of the Probation Department and their commitment to the Court and public service.

Pro Se Clinic & Pro Se Administrator

The Court continues to be proactive in its efforts to address the goals of the *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary* issued by the Judicial Conference to improve access to the courts for pro se litigants with the Pro Se Case Administrator position and the Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic.

The Pro Se Case Administrator works in the Clerk's Office and year to date has had 509 interactions with over 200 pro se litigants. These interactions range from referrals to the Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic, answering procedural questions to ensuring documents are properly completed. The interactions have been in-person, by telephone and email. Also, instructions for some court forms have been re-designed to be more user friendly.

The Bench has also extended the operation of the Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic pilot project, managed in collaboration with the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, through 2020. The Clinic operates under the administration of Nicholas Schroek, Associate Dean of Experiential Education.

The Clinic, located in the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, is open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. According to their most recent report of June 2019, the Clinic has assisted 172 pro se litigants from

February 2019 – May 2019. During the 2019 winter semester, 10 students under the supervision of Kevin Carlson, Clinical Director, provided over 1500 hours of service to pro se litigants in the form of providing legal advice and preparing documents such as complaints, amended complaints, and responses to motions. The Clinic also directs pro se litigants to the correct court or social service agency, eliminating the filing of cases that would not meet the jurisdictional requirements which saves judicial resources.

Pro Se Prisoner Mediation Program

Judge Victoria Roberts introduced the Pro Se Prisoner Mediation Program to the Bench. This program allows pro se inmates who file prisoner civil rights lawsuits to participate in mediation.

In June 2018 the Bench approved the creation of the Pro Se Prisoner Early Mediation Program (“Program”) for a pilot period of two years. Since March 2019, eighteen cases have been mediated. Magistrate Judge Patricia Morris serves as the Mediation Referral Judge overseeing the Program. The program currently has 40 volunteer mediators who serve without compensation. The Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Attorney General’s Office continue to support the program and have recently created a unit with a sole focus on the mediation programs in the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan.

Pro Bono

The Court has been working with the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association exploring ways to increase participation on the Court’s Pro Bono Panel while educating attorneys on the importance of providing pro bono services to the underserved.

On October 7, 2019 the Court launched a re-designed Pro Bono Information page accessible from the Eastern District of Michigan’s website. Pro bono opportunities can now be viewed online, and attorneys can accept appointments by completing an online form. Lawyers are encouraged to visit the website to consider selecting a case online.

Theodore Levin United States Courthouse Renovation Project

A \$140-million program to upgrade mechanical, electrical and other systems within the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Detroit has been underway for over three years. The four-year project at the historic courthouse is one of the largest projects the General Services Administration has undertaken in Detroit in many years. The work will be completed without having to relocate building tenants to external space. The 770,000 square foot building will remain fully occupied through the duration of the project.

The construction work started over the summer of 2016. To date the contractor has completed the 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 5th, 3rd, and 2nd floors and parts of the 4th and 1st floors.

New Fan Coil Units (FCUs) are being installed throughout most of the courthouse which should help improve the year-round heating and cooling in much of the court's space. New HVAC systems and ductwork have been entirely replaced on the 7th and 2nd floors.

Phase 6 of the project is now underway with substantial completion targeted for December 31, 2019. Phase 6 includes the 6th floor, and the remainder of the 1st floor and 4th floor. The restoration of the historic ceiling in the 1st floor lobby area is nearly complete.



The new stair tower is scheduled for completion by approximately April 2020.



The renovation of the new judges parking area has been completed. Renovation of the loading dock area in the basement is underway. The modernization of the eight passenger elevators, is underway and seven of the eight new elevators are in service.

The construction of a new Arraignment Court on the 1st floor was just recently completed. Pictures of old arraignment court space (below left) which had to be repurposed to accommodate the new stair tower and the new Arraignment Courtroom (below right) are shown below for comparison.



The Court has an ad hoc renovation committee consisting of Chief Judge Hood and Judges Cleland, Cox, and Michelson. They are available for project progress updates and to provide critical design and construction input and feedback throughout the project life cycle.

The Court thanks you in advance for your patience and cooperation through this project. After completion, the building will be greatly improved for many years to come, housing the Court family and better receiving the public and the Bar.

For more details visit the USDC Intranet and/or GSA Website for project.

<https://300decisions-levincourthouse.com/>

Budget

The fiscal year 2019 budget, which ended on September 30, 2019, provided an increase to the funding levels from the prior fiscal year for the Eastern District of Michigan. The District Court Fiscal Year 2019 local budget was two percent higher than Fiscal Year 2018.

The Court did not receive its final FY 2019 budget until March 2019. The District Clerk's Office, Probation Department and Pretrial Services Agency payroll accounts were funded near or above their funding levels from the prior year. In fiscal year 2019, the District Clerk's Office authorized staffing increased by 4.4 work units, the Probation Department increased by 1.6 work units and the Pretrial Services Agency work units

remained consistent. The operational and information technology accounts were reduced by 3.5% across-the-board for the District Clerk's Office, the Probation Department and the Pretrial Services Agency. The Court was able to maintain local budget levels, which permitted the Court to hire additional Clerk's Office staff and Probation and Pretrial Services officers as needed, allowing the Court to maintain all normal operational levels to the public and the Bar.

The final budget picture for fiscal year 2020 appears more challenging than in recent years. The House of Representatives passed the FY 2020 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations Bill, which provides the largest annual increase in funding for the Judiciary since fiscal year 2014. The bill also includes a pay adjustment for federal civilian workers, but does not provide the additional funding required to implement it. If enacted as currently structured, the Judiciary would have to absorb the substantial cost of the pay adjustment. The increase in payroll costs, along with several other factors, has resulted in a 9.4% reduction to the interim financial plan to balance requirements with assumed financing. The Senate version of the FSGG appropriations bill provides funding below the House version and could result in an additional 2.3% reduction to the Judiciary's financial plan. Congress has not completed negotiations and it remains unclear what will become of the final FY 2020 appropriations bills.

The Court expects to be on a Continuing Resolution (CR) of some duration, starting the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2019 until a final budget is passed.

Congressional action the past few fiscal years has been very encouraging for the Judiciary and reflects the continued hard work of the Judicial Conference's Budget Committee, judges around the country involved in our congressional outreach efforts, and staff at the Administrative Office.

I want to personally thank our outstanding staff for their continued hard work and good stewardship. I also want to thank Congress for making the Judiciary a funding priority in order to allow us to continue to provide the level of services that the Court historically has provided to the public and the Bar. Thanks are also due to the Judicial Conference Budget Committee.

I will continue to keep you informed on FY 2020 funding for the Judiciary as it progresses through the full Congress and ultimately the President of the United States.

Space & Facilities Projects

The Chief Judge's historic courtroom was recently renovated with a lighting upgrade and the A/V infrastructure for a new sound and evidence presentation system. The equipment portion of this project should be completed next year.

Courtroom 219 will be renovated next Summer. This project includes relocating the jury box next to the jury deliberation room as well as the infrastructure for A/V upgrades for evidence presentation and sound systems.

The Court will also renovate the Magistrate Judge courtroom in Ann Arbor so it may be used for criminal trials. The jury box will be expanded to seat 14 people. New attorney tables and lectern will have new connections and monitors for electronic evidence presentation. This project will start later this year.

The new stair tower at the Levin Courthouse will include a secure dedicated elevator for judges, as well as a freight elevator and public stair. This work should be completed in the Spring.

Public Information

Public Information Officer David Ashenfelter responded to hundreds of inquiries this year from news organizations and freelance journalists seeking information about civil and criminal cases handled by our Court. Most of the inquiries involved questions about upcoming court hearings, newsworthy developments in cases and rules governing access to our courthouses with cell phones and laptop computers.

Due to severe cutbacks in the media, the Court has adopted a proactive approach to alerting news organizations to the work of our Bench. Mr. Ashenfelter tracks scores of newsworthy civil and criminal cases, and notifies journalists about key developments, important legal decisions and criminal sentences as well as other information of importance to the public.

He also manages the Court's Media Center in Detroit and works with judges and Information Technology staff to live-stream major court hearings there. He issues news releases about major Court initiatives.

The information officer also is responsible for reviewing and approving requests from journalists to obtain court-issued credentials to enter our courthouses with cell phones. The devices must be muted upon entering courthouses and used in restricted areas. Phones may not be used in courtrooms. Some 141 such passes have been issued since the program's inception in March 2018. Phone privileges for two journalists were suspended for six months for rules violations in 2018.

Live Streaming at the Court

In the past year, the Court's IT Department has enhanced the live stream experience to allow media to, when approved, watch high profile trials, ceremonies and other court matters directly from the media room. By installing a dedicated streaming server and cameras in almost every courtroom, IT staff has made more court matters available to the media and to all court staff.

Naturalization Ceremonies

In calendar year 2018, the Eastern District of Michigan naturalized 13,339 new citizens, up from 11,785 in 2017. Nationally, the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS) naturalizes approximately 700,000-750,000 citizens each year. The Court continues to hold three or four ceremonies each week at the Levin Courthouse. In addition to these

ceremonies, judicial officers presided over several large off-site ceremonies throughout the Eastern District of Michigan including venues such as Comerica Park, the Macomb Intermediate School District, Citizens Day at Wayne State University, the USCIS facility on East Jefferson in Detroit, and several local community festivals.

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Court Ombudsman

Retired Judge Fred M. Mester resigned as the Ombudsman for the Eastern District of Michigan earlier this year. He served as Ombudsman for the Eastern District of Michigan since March 24, 2015.

The Ombudsman's role for the Eastern District of Michigan is as an intermediary between judicial officers of the Eastern District and the Bar. He acts on an informal basis to interface and address those matters lacking an institutional mechanism or forum for redress.

A search is currently underway to fill this very important role for our Court.

Judicial Interns

The Court conducts a summer internship program in June and July for judicial interns. This summer there were approximately 70 summer interns who worked for our District Judges and Magistrate Judges. The Court's summer internship program included presentations by other federal agencies such as the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defender Office, the FBI, DEA and ATF. The interns also had the opportunity to visit certain divisions of the state court system, sit down at breakfast or brown bag lunches with several of the Judges on this Bench, and attend numerous Federal Bar Association events.

Court History Program

Oral history interviews of Judge Arthur J. Tarnow and Judge George Caram Steeh are being finalized for printing and binding.

The video project approved by the Historical Society board got underway early this year when Capture LLC was hired to film the documentary. Detroit PBS has indicated interest based on their review of the prospectus and the Historical Society has received two grants from outside organizations for funding the project. The film will cover the courthouses and focus on five historic cases that it is hoped will educate the public on the effect that the federal judicial system has upon their lives. The renovation and restoration of the Levin Courthouse has already been filmed in addition to several interviews on the cases. Much more is to be done!

The Historical Society for the Eastern District of Michigan website is undergoing a complete rewrite and will shortly be introduced to the public.

The officers of the Historical Society are Matthew Lund, president; Debra Geroux, vice president; Kevin Ball, secretary; and Jeff Raphelson, treasurer.

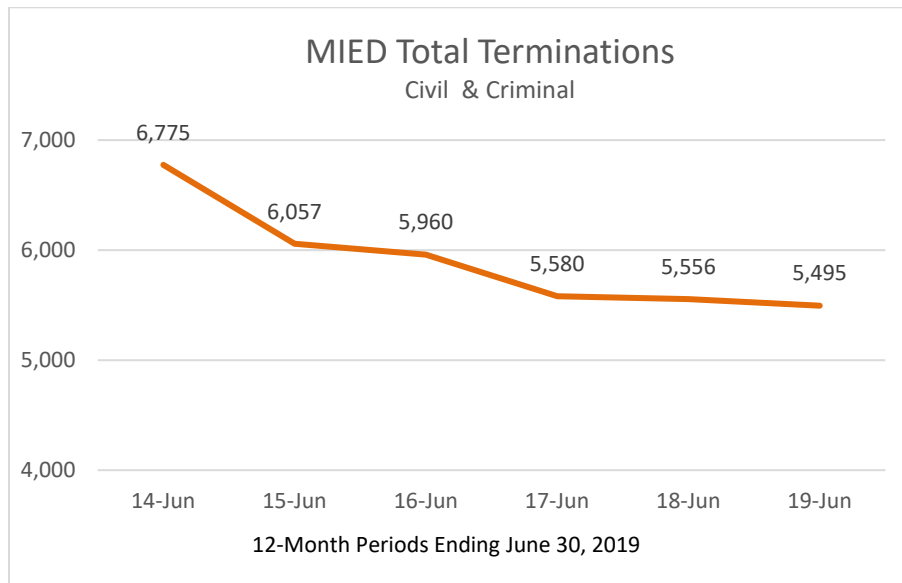
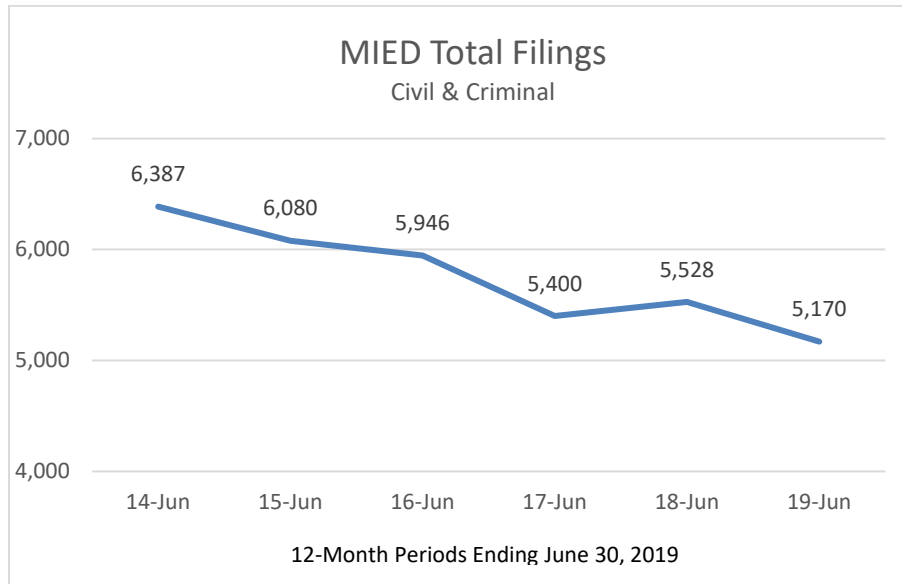
Conclusion

The Court strives to uphold the mission of the federal judiciary and to deliver justice under the law to the public it serves. The Court is mindful of the importance of the Court to the community and ensures that the Court is open and accessible to all.

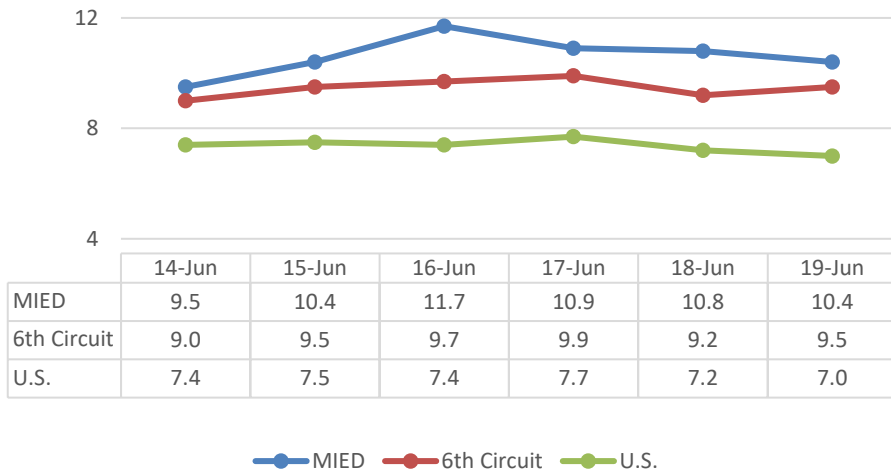
A special thank you to all of the court staff who have contributed to this annual report – David Weaver, Anthony Merolla, Patricia Trevino, Joseph Herd, Kinikia Essix, Josh Matta, Robyn Ringl, Kevin Williams, David Ashenfelter, Michael Coker, Stephen English, Victoria Lung, Stephanie Miskowski and Judy Christie.

Following are some Court statistics you may find interesting.

COURT STATISTICS



Median Months to Criminal Disposition



Median Months to Civil Disposition

