



2020 ANNUAL REPORT  
presented at the  
State of the Court Luncheon  
October 14, 2020

*Chief Judge Denise Page Hood*

## STATE OF THE COURT MESSAGE

October 14, 2020

“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 339 employees – 27 judicial officers, 79 staff working directly for judges, 92 Clerk’s Office employees, 85 Probation employees, 32 Pretrial Services employees, and 24 other court staff (court reporters and staff attorneys).



## Judicial Officers in the Eastern District of Michigan

<b>Judicial Officer</b>	<b>Date Appointed *</b>	<b>Appointing President</b>
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
Stephanie Dawkins Davis	12/31/2019 (A)	Donald J. Trump

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

Currently the Eastern District of Michigan has 15 active district judges and five senior judges with caseloads. Our senior judges receive cases at substantially the same rate as district judges in active service.

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 Pattern Jury Instructions Committee</i>
Judge Cleland	<i>Sixth Circuit Space &amp; 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 Judge Morris	<i>Federal Magistrate Judges Association Rules Committee</i>

## *MAGISTRATE JUDGES*

Our Court also has seven magistrate judges – Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen, David R. Grand, Patricia T. Morris, Elizabeth A. Stafford, Anthony P. Patti, Kimberly G. Altman and Curtis Ivy, Jr. Magistrate Judge Whalen continues to serve as Executive Magistrate Judge for the Court. Due to two magistrate judge vacancies this year, we were able to recall Magistrate Judge Michael Hluchaniuk for a period of time until the Court was able to fill those two vacancies. The two vacancies were recently filled by Magistrate Judges Kimberly G. Altman and Curtis Ivy, Jr.

## *BANKRUPTCY JUDGES*

Bankruptcy Judge Daniel J. Opperman was appointed as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court on April 25, 2020 to a three-year term. Chief Judge Opperman came on to succeed former Chief Judge Phillip J. Shefferly who will retire at the end of this year. Judge Shefferly served as chief judge for 11 years.

There are currently seven bankruptcy judges serving in the Eastern District of Michigan – Chief Judge Daniel J. Opperman, Judges Thomas J. Tucker, Mark A. Randon, Maria Oxholm and Joel D. Applebaum. Bankruptcy Judge Marci McIvor retired at the end of 2019.

### **Death of Patrick J. Duggan**

Judge Patrick J. Duggan passed away on March 18, 2020 at the age of 86. Judge Duggan was appointed by President Ronald Reagan on October 14, 1984. He took senior status on September 29, 2000 and maintained a full caseload until he shut down his chambers in September 2015. Prior to taking the federal bench, Judge Duggan served in the Wayne County Circuit Court for 10 years. Judge Duggan spent his entire career with the Eastern District of Michigan located in the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse in Detroit.

### **Death of Judge James P. Churchill**

Judge James P. Churchill passed away on June 29, 2020 at the age of 96. Judge Churchill was appointed by President Gerald Ford on December 20, 1974. He served as Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Michigan from February 7, 1989 until he took senior status with a reduced caseload on December 30, 1989. He went on inactive status in late 1995. During his tenure with the Eastern District of Michigan, Judge Churchill was located in Detroit, Flint and Bay City, and also occasionally spent time in Tennessee.

### **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.

## **Retirement of Magistrate Judge Mona K. Majzoub**

Magistrate Judge Mona K. Majzoub retired from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan on January 6, 2020. She was initially appointed to an eight-year term on January 6, 2004, and was reappointed to a second eight-year term on January 6, 2012. She spent her entire judicial career with our court in the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse in Detroit. Upon her retirement, she founded Mona K. Majzoub Dispute Resolutions and was recently named Michigan Lawyers Weekly's Woman of the Year.

## **Retirement of Court Administrator/Clerk of Court**

David J. Weaver, Court Administrator/Clerk for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced his intention to retire at the end of 2020 after 33 years of service to the federal court system.

Mr. Weaver began his career with the federal judiciary in 1987 in the Northern District of Ohio as a Deputy Clerk. He held several different positions in the Northern District of Ohio before transferring to the Eastern District of Michigan in August 1998. He was promoted to Court Administrator/Clerk of Court on July 3, 1999 and has served in that role for the last 21 years. During his tenure as Clerk he has served four chief judges and oversaw the appointments of thirteen district judges and eleven magistrate judges. He regularly interacts with every judicial officer and is known to be highly accessible to both judges and Court staff.

Some highlights of Mr. Weaver's career include bringing our Court into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by implementing many technological advances including CM/ECF, high technology courtroom installations, and promoting electronic public access to courtroom hearings. He oversaw the consolidation of shared administrative services throughout the District. He worked extensively with several judges regarding a comprehensive look at the Court's Juror Selection Plan and dealt with issues related to jury diversity and a jury outreach program. Mr. Weaver has also been overseeing the major renovation of the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse on all levels including finance, design, construction, communication, and being a liaison between all the organizations completing the work. Mr. Weaver has been the Court's representative on the Federal Executive Board and has been active in promoting their initiatives throughout the district.

On the national level, he has also served on multiple oversight and advisory committees, and has participated in several management review (audit) teams at other federal courts throughout the country. He is well respected in Washington, DC and throughout the country for his leadership and management skills, and is often sought out for guidance on national programs and initiatives.

Most recently Mr. Weaver's leadership has been instrumental on the Court's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and related issues. The business of the Court remains constant, while different from pre-pandemic times, yet also fluid in adapting to ever-changing circumstances. Mr. Weaver has helped to ensure the Court's mission continues to be carried out effectively during this challenging time.

Mr. Weaver has been an active participant in Bar programs and events throughout his entire tenure. He has actively served as ex officio member of the FBA Board and participated in many annual luncheons, programs and seminars. Under Mr. Weaver the Court has begun several annual traditions alongside the FBA including the annual Law Day event and Constitution Day. He also actively serves on the Court Historical Society.

Mr. Weaver is highly respected and well-liked by all judicial officers and Court staff in the Eastern District of Michigan, as well as by his colleagues among all the federal courts throughout the country. He is leaving the Court in a great position to continue moving forward in our goals and missions, but he will be deeply missed by all.

Mr. Weaver is considering opportunities beyond his judiciary career, but for the immediate future will enjoy time with his family at his home on the Lake Erie waterfront.

### **Court's Response to COVID-19**

On March 24, 2020, Governor Whitmer's Executive Order to suspend activities that were not necessary to sustain or protect life went into effect and the Court jumped into action with a new, uncharted way of conducting operations.

Chief Judge Hood and the Bench deemed the safety of our staff a priority, and employees started working remotely immediately, even those who had not done so before. The Court's IT Department went into overdrive, and everyone was quickly acclimated to telework. Staff immediately began to research, develop and implement ways of conducting judicial proceedings within the parameters set by the judiciary as well as providing access for the public. Within two business days, duty court was up and running remotely. We proceeded as though the Court would be back in the Courthouse within three weeks. As you know, that turned out not to be the case.

A Reconstitution Committee was formed to evaluate matters such as gating criteria, return to work factors, workplace safety, screening and testing, personal protective equipment and contact tracing. These are subjects of our weekly meetings. The Court had to swiftly institute methods to operate remotely for the unforeseeable future.

Soon, the need for Grand Jury proceedings was evident, so a new way of conducting grand jury proceedings was developed and executed in Detroit. Socially distancing grand jurors and the use of video feeds was expeditiously established.

Our multiple naturalization ceremonies held in the courthouse were moved to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) where individual naturalizations were conducted in a drive-up manner.

Zoom became the medium for conducting judicial proceedings and making them available to the public. Court meetings continue to be conducted by Skype and other interactive methods. The Court continues to operate well.

Regarding pro se access to court proceedings, our Pro Se Case Administrator has provided procedural assistance virtually by telephone and email beginning mid-March 2020. In response to the delays in mail delivery, the Pro Se Case Administrator advocated for the creation of the Temporary Pro Se Document Upload Program for use by pro se

litigants who had access to the internet and the ability to upload their document in a PDF format. Since July 2020 over 200 documents have been submitted using the program.

Virtual procedural assistance has been provided to over 174 pro se litigants from March to September. Despite reduced new case filings (91 cases) by pro se litigants, the number of interactions increased by 46 percent (529 interactions) compared with the same time period in 2019 (177 cases; 55 pro se litigants; 397 interactions). Pro se litigants required more procedural assistance to file new cases/documents and obtaining case information due to the closure of places that provided free internet access and printing services such as public libraries.

The Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic began providing remote assistance to pro se litigants in March. The Clinic established call back procedures and email communications to ensure that pro se litigants had access to the Clinic's services. If a pro se litigant had internet connectivity and the capability, meetings were held via Zoom video conferencing.

The Clinic also obtained court orders that allowed the Clinic director to file electronically on behalf of qualified pro se litigants: (1) for the purpose of opening a case where a statute of limitations or other court imposed deadline could not be extended or tolled; (2) for the purpose of stipulating to an extension of a court imposed deadline; or (3) for the purpose of filing a motion or other paper in order to comply with a court-imposed deadline or scheduling order.

The Clinic worked with the U.S. Attorney's office to set up an alternate means of service by email in social security appeals where clients did not have safe or ready access to serve papers by mail. The Clinic coordinated with the Pro Se Case Administrator to submit pro se documents drafted by the Clinic directly to the pro se case administrator for filing.

Finally, the Clinic supplied electronic docket monitoring services to a number of pro se litigants who were concerned about the reliability of their mail service during the pandemic. Students checked the docket and provided weekly reports of any updates. Where available, copies of any filings or orders were provided to these litigants via email.

Fast forward to today. The Court's Reconstitution Committee is developing protocols for the safe resumption of jury trials and other court hearings. Courtrooms are being rearranged for social distancing and retrofitted with plexiglass barriers. However, COVID trends are still not in an acceptable downward trajectory so the Court and its staff continue to work remotely, which is required by the Judiciary's Recovery Plan before the Court can move into Phase One of reopening. Judges and staff are working diligently in their planning for the day when our Court will be able to begin to reopen and conduct proceedings in courthouses.

We appreciate the patience the Bench, the Bar and the public during this unprecedented health crisis.

### **Clerk's Office**

During the past year, CM/ECF was upgraded to a new version referred to as NextGen. The biggest change for attorneys is the integration of CM/ECF and the PACER system.

For years attorneys had to have separate login credentials for each federal court into which they were admitted, and a separate PACER login to pay for record searches and documents in cases of interest. After the upgrade, attorneys went through a one-time process to link their accounts together to create a single login for all federal courts and PACER. In the first week after the upgrade, more than 3,800 attorneys logged in and linked their accounts. To date, more than 6,000 attorneys have linked their accounts in the Eastern District of Michigan. Additionally, the Court has admitted almost 600 new attorneys since the upgrade, using the new admissions process through PACER's website. The new, streamlined admissions process registers the attorney for e-filing simultaneously, instead of requiring a second registration step.

## **Succession Management Program**

The Succession Management Program ("SMP") was designed to identify, train and maintain a steady, reliable source of leadership talent in the District Court. Deputy clerks selected to participate in the program are provided an opportunity to develop leadership knowledge and skills in preparation for future leadership roles.

The SMP is a 12 to 18-month commitment that is divided into three components: A leadership assessment, completion of online management modules and course reading on managing people; and offsite courses conducted by Schoolcraft College.

The first component is self-directed and primarily online. Participants have to complete three online modules on being a first-time manager through the Judiciary Online University as well as read *Managing People – Secrets to Leading for New Managers*. These assignments are followed by a "Donuts and Discussion" roundtable with the Operations management team. This module was a prerequisite for advancement to the next stage in the training process.

The second module is the successful completion of a Leadership Potential Assessment administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

The third component is classroom-based instruction on leadership and other skills that was designed to build upon a participant's previous experience. Each course is followed by a roundtable discussion with the Operations management team and an invited guest manager. Roundtable discussions are an opportunity for participants to share what they learned and for management staff to expand on that by providing related experiences.

Leadership development is focused on developing future court leaders who will be better able to:

- Apply leadership skills and successfully lead work groups and build strong relationships across work units
- Effective use of emotional intelligence
- Give and receive supportive and corrective feedback
- Increase performance through coaching
- Use delegation as a tool to motivate and develop staff
- Identify and apply critical project management tools

- Communicate effectively and inclusively in a diverse environment
- Identify process management and improvement opportunities
- Lead and assist staff in effectively managing change

The first group of nine participants to successfully complete the program graduated on August 31, 2020 in a Zoom ceremony. There is a second group of eight participants currently in the program and they are expected to graduate in early 2021.

### **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.

Our Pro Se Case Administrator works in the Clerk's Office and year to date (2020 only) has had 685 interactions with over 220 pro se litigants. These interactions range from referrals to the Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic, answering procedural questions to ensuring documents are properly completed. Since March 2020, assistance has been provided virtually by telephone and email. Also, the Court's Representing Yourself internet page has been re-designed to include user friendly information about how to file a case, legal assistance options and legal research links.

A chat option has also been added to the Court's internet site as an additional means to provide expanded service to the public.

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 September 2020, the Clinic has assisted 450 pro se litigants since January 2017. During the 2020 winter and summer semesters, 20 students under the supervision of Barbara Patek, Clinical Director, provided over 2,500 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. Volunteer attorneys and a paralegal also provided additional support services to the Clinic as well as acting as a mentors to the students.

### **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.

The Bench approved the creation of the Pro Se Prisoner Early Mediation Program (“Program”) for a pilot period of two years. Since last fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 seventeen cases have been mediated. The mediations were temporarily suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When mediations resume, they will be conducted virtually using Zoom conferencing.

Magistrate Judge Patricia Morris serves as the Mediation Referral Judge overseeing the Program. The program currently has 50 volunteer mediators who serve without compensation. The Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Attorney General’s Office continue to support the program and created a unit with a sole focus on the mediation programs in the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan.

### **Pro Bono Program**

The Court continues to work 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.

Pro bono opportunities can be viewed online, and attorneys can accept appointments by completing an online form. The Bench requested pro bono attorneys for 27 cases of which 18 requests were accepted. The pro bono panel consists of 63 attorneys.

Lawyers are encouraged to visit the website to consider selecting a case online.

### **Pretrial Services**

In March 2020, the Pretrial Services Agency had to change investigation and supervision practices due to the Covid-19 pandemic to meet the Court’s mission. All pretrial investigation interviews were done virtually or over the telephone and all pretrial court matters were also held virtually. Throughout the pandemic, Pretrial Services Officers continued to monitor persons under supervision in the community, while adhering to safety guidelines to minimize the risk of exposure to Covid-19. Staff showed an amazing amount of resilience and teamwork during these times of uncertainty.

The agency is comprised of 32 staff members, serving five Eastern District of Michigan Court locations. In February 2020, Deputy Chief Sharon Riehs retired after serving over 30 years with the Pretrial Services Agency. In May 2020, Senior Pretrial Services Officer Specialist Homero Hinojosa retired after serving over 20 years with the agency. In June 2020, Michael Mitchell was promoted to Senior Pretrial Services Officer Specialist. In July 2020, Kim Crova was selected as the new Deputy Chief Pretrial Services Officer for the Eastern District of Michigan.

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 is serving a three-year term 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. The other 75% of her time is working with the Administrative Office on national case management systems. Senior Pretrial Officer Michael Mitchell presented at the virtual National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies. Pretrial Services Officer Jessica Homann serves in the Air National Guard. In 2020, she was called to active duty three times. A portion of her active duty responsibilities included distributing food and helping with medical resources related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Pretrial Services agency runs self-surrender groups quarterly for defendants and their families to provide them with knowledge about the Bureau of Prisons before beginning their custodial sentence. A Woman's Group and Men's Group is offered to all defendants as an added support system as they navigate through the judicial system. Pretrial Services is also enhancing knowledge, skills, and abilities in evidence-based practices and learning core correctional practices to better assist our clients.

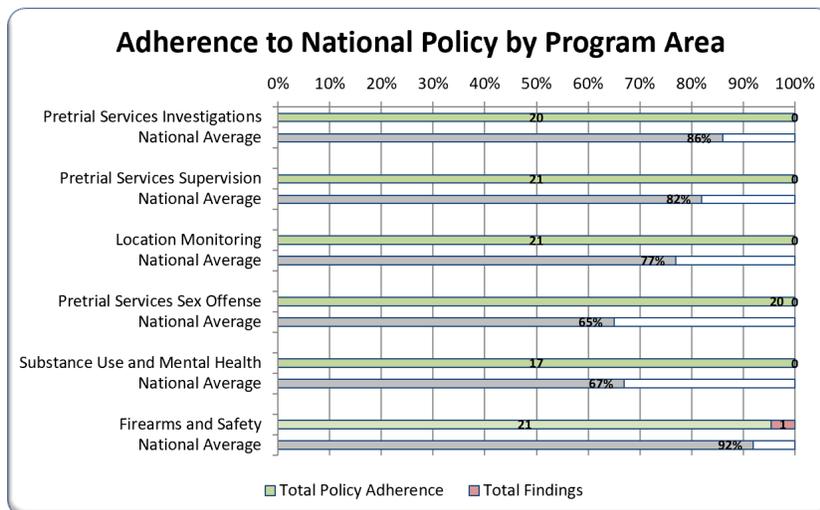
2020 marks the three-year anniversary of the RESTART Program operating in the Eastern District of Michigan. The program involves the collaborative efforts of Chief Judge Denise Page Hood, Judge Paul D. Borman, Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Stafford, along with representatives from the United States Attorney's 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. Six participants successfully completed and graduated from the RESTART Program since October 2019.

In addition to the RESTART program, the Pretrial Services Agency worked in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office and completed 31 pretrial diversion investigations. Defendants that successfully complete the diversion program are diverted from the criminal justice system and avoid a federal conviction.

In September 2020, the Pretrial Services Agency welcomed intern Nour Hammoud from the University of Michigan – Dearborn. She is with us virtually until the end of the fall term.

In October 2020, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts conducted a program review of the Pretrial Services Agency in the Eastern District of Michigan. Results of the review found the agency scored an overall 99% rate for adherence to national policy and standards, as compared to the national adherence average of 81%. The table below outlines the findings.

**U.S. Pretrial Office  
Eastern District of Michigan  
Review Dates: September 28-October 1, 2020**



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, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the Eastern District of Michigan Pretrial Services Agency received 754 initial appearances and completed 724 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: 2020/06/30**

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	498	346	152	338	62	98
	Kentucky-Western	316	229	87	240	16	60
	Michigan-Eastern	754	615	139	724	25	5
	Michigan-Western	328	240	88	297	21	10
	Ohio-Northern	890	714	176	876	8	6
	Ohio-Southern	710	535	175	552	90	68
	Tennessee-Eastern	760	736	24	745	0	15
	Tennessee-Middle	327	16	311	166	71	90
	Tennessee-Western	502	381	121	348	61	93
<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>3,812</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>445</b>

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 2019/06/30				12 Months Ending 2020/06/30			
	Activated	% of Total	Nat Avg	% of Total	Activated	% of Total	Nat Avg	% of Total
Drugs	291	28.81%	279	24.57%	195	25.86%	243	25.21%
Escape/Obstruction	17	1.67%	14	1.25%	13	1.72%	12	1.26%
Firearms/Weapons	176	17.31%	122	10.73%	154	20.42%	102	10.63%
Immigration	196	19.27%	473	41.63%	129	17.11%	400	41.52%
Other	3	0.29%	52	4.57%	3	0.40%	45	4.72%
Property	227	22.32%	101	8.88%	146	19.36%	81	8.36%
Public Order	11	1.08%	17	1.51%	4	0.53%	13	1.40%
Sex Offenses	40	3.93%	34	3.01%	51	6.76%	31	3.23%
Violence	56	5.51%	44	3.84%	59	7.82%	35	3.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Eastern District of Michigan has a 59.7% release rate (excluding immigration cases) which is the seventh highest in the nation. The table below represents the ten highest districts in the nation for release pretrial release rates.

## RELEASE RATES

The Top Ten Districts with overall release rates higher than the national average in every PTRS category are (ranked by total average release rate):

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Wisconsin Western (74.4%)       | National<br>Average:<br>44.5%<br><br>Average<br>Release<br>Rate of Top<br>Ten: 62% |
| 2. Alabama Southern (70.2%)        |  |
| 3. New York Eastern (63.3%)        |  |
| 4. California Northern (62.1%)     |  |
| 5. Connecticut (62.1%)             |  |
| 6. Arkansas Eastern (60.4%)        |  |
| 7. <b>Michigan Eastern (59.7%)</b> |  |
| 8. Hawaii (56.2%)                  |  |
| 9. Alabama Middle (54.9%)          |  |
| 10. Massachusetts (52.8%)          |  |

The department is responsible for supervising 766 defendants on bond. The department spent over \$200,000.00 for treatment services to address substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender therapy. Approximately \$97,000 was spent for the location monitoring program. From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, over 5,000 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 National and Eastern District of Michigan Pretrial Services Supervision Outcomes.

**1244: Pretrial Services Supervision Outcome Report - National Metrics**  
**For Time Period of 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020**

Data Current as of 09/30/2020

Excludes courtesy in cases  
 \*Number of clients revoked are only counted if they were revoked due to technical violation

District	Total Clients Supervised	FTA Violations			Rearrest Violations					Technical Violations					% of Total Supervised Clients Revoked for 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
National	47,603	795	695	1.5%	1,151	560	514	77	1,076	2.3%	13,540	8,361	17.6%	2,672	32.0%	5.6%

**Michigan-Eastern**

PTRA	Total Clients Supv	FTA Violations			Rearrest Violations					Technical Violations					% of Total Supervised Clients Revoked for 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
Total	979	10	10	1.0%	20	7	13	0	18	1.8%	536	249	25.4%	40	16.1%	4.1%

**Probation Department**

**Mission**

The United States Probation Department for the Eastern District of Michigan is a component of the United States Courts and is responsible for community corrections. We are committed to maintaining a diverse organization that provides factual investigations, quality supervision, and support services to the United States Courts System.

We are dedicated to enforcing Court ordered sanctions, minimizing risk to the public, and providing individuals with the opportunity for correctional services.

**Vision**

The United States Probation Department for the Eastern District of Michigan strives to be a leader in the field of community corrections. We endeavor to develop, evaluate, and implement innovative practices and technologies. We strive to exemplify the highest ideals and standards in community corrections. We pledge our support and cooperation with all who share our goals, commitment, and values.

**Organizational Structure**

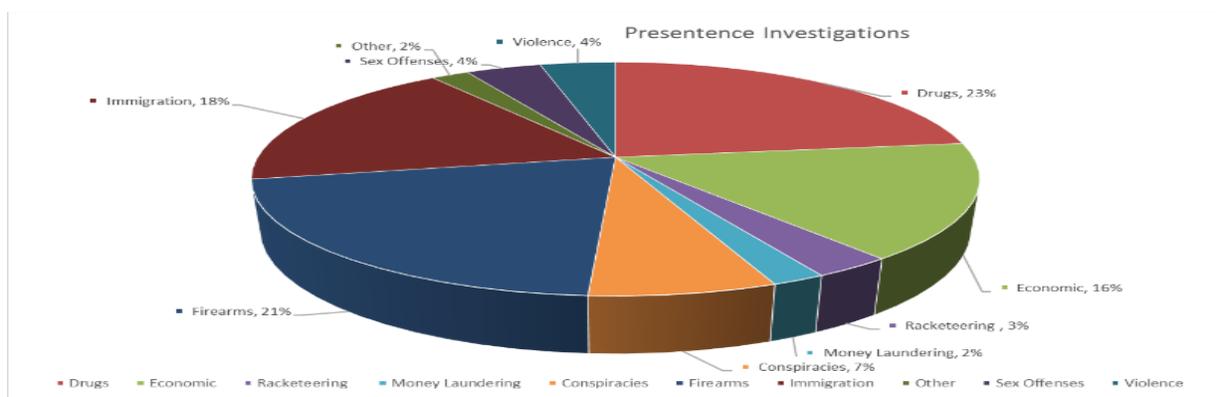
The United States Probation Department is led by the Chief United States Probation Officer. The department consist of 86 total staff members: 68 sworn probation officers, two sworn probation officer assistants, and 16 support staff. Over the past year, we had two dedicated staff retire from our department.

The department’s senior management is comprised of Anthony J. Merolla, Chief United States Probation Officer, Dion J. Thomas, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, and Michelle D. Livingston, Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer.

The department is divided into three units. The presentence unit interviews person convicted of federal offenses, investigates, research, and calculate sentencing guidelines. The presentence unit submits accurate and unbiased report to the Court, along with making client centered recommendation. The supervision units provide community supervision to protect the community and create an opportunity for individuals to make meaningful life changes. Support staff supports both units and provides consumer service for the public and other stakeholders. All units, at all levels work in unison to support the mission of the department and goals of the Court.

## Presentence

During FY 2020 calendar year, the Presentence Unit of the United States Probation Department (Eastern District of Michigan) completed a total of 806 presentence investigation reports for the Court. The reports were categorized in the following manner: Drugs (23% or 183 cases); Economic (16% or 130 cases); Racketeering (3% or 28 cases); Money Laundering (2% or 15 cases); Conspiracies (7% or 54 cases); Firearms (21% or 169 cases); Immigration (18% or 145 cases); Other (2% or 20 cases); Sex Offenses (4% or 33 cases); and Violence (4% or 29 cases).



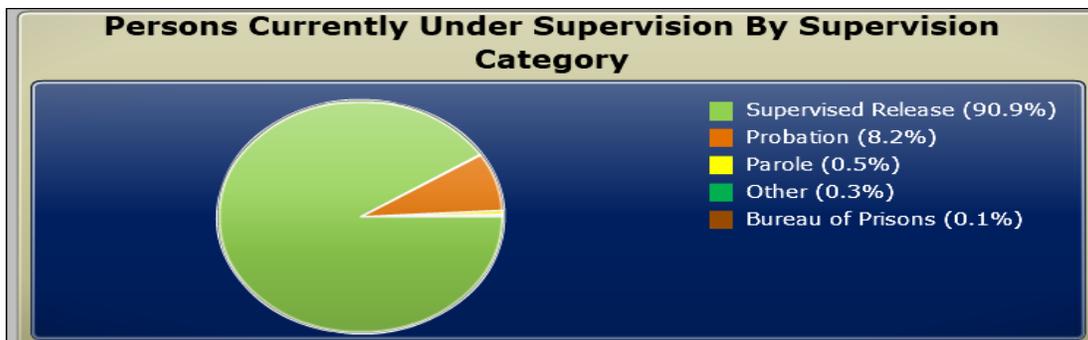
To aid other districts throughout the country with their presentence investigations of defendants awaiting sentencing, the Probation Department completed 267 collateral investigations. Additionally, the Presentence Unit completed 972 Judgment and Commitment Orders, as well as 51 First Step Act (Section 404) Eligibility/Compassionate Release Memorandums for the Court. These memorandums assessed a defendant's eligibility for a sentence reduction under the First Step Act of 2018 and/or addressed compassionate release issues raised by defendants in motions filed with the Court.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the traditional way officers have conducted their day-to-day activities within the unit, officers have altered their work practices to ensure the uninterrupted outflow of work to our stakeholders. Presentence interviews are conducted remotely using Zoom, home inspections are conducted virtually through a variety of platforms (i.e., FaceTime, Google Duo, etc.) and officers participate in sentence hearings remotely via Zoom. All these efforts have contributed to the department's goal of providing optimum service delivery to the Court and our stakeholders.

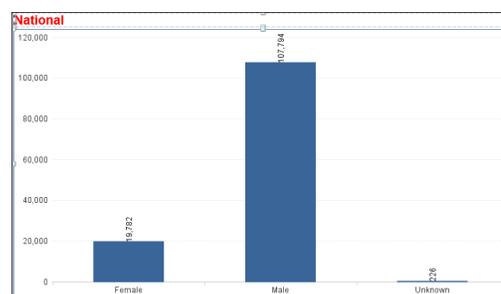
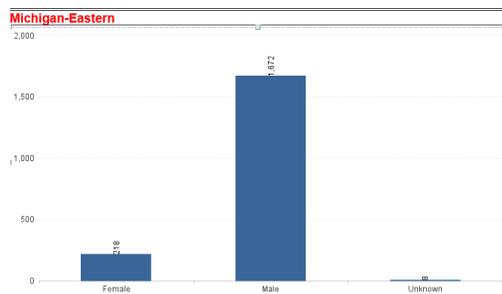
Adhering to the vision of our department to be innovative, the presentence unit implemented a new trauma assessment tool ACEs. **A**dverse **C**hildhood **E**xperiences (ACEs) are adverse childhood experiences that harm children’s developing brains and lead to changing how they respond to stress. Administering this self-assessment tool, officers can answer the question, “What has happened to clients?” instead of, “What clients did wrong?” Officers will use ACEs to provide the Court with detail accounts of the individuals background and provide even more client focus recommendations.

**Demographics of Service Population:**

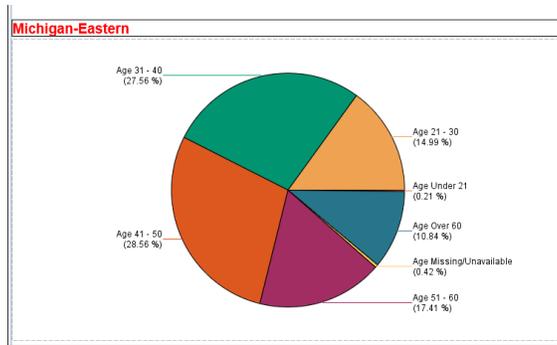
For fiscal year 2020, (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020), the supervision unit was responsible for supervising approximately 1,900 individuals: 1,726 (90.9%) were on supervised release; 155 (8.2%) were on probation; 10 (0.5%) were on parole; and 7 (.4%) were on Bureau of Prisons or conditional release cases.



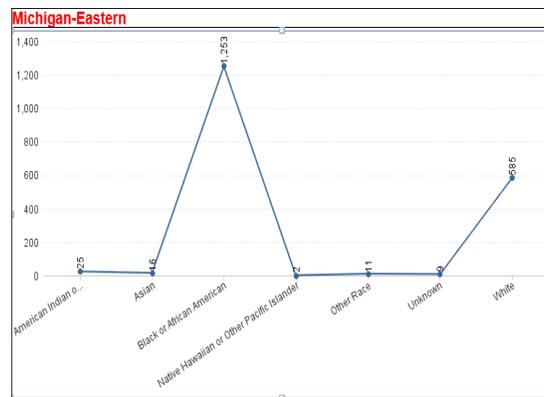
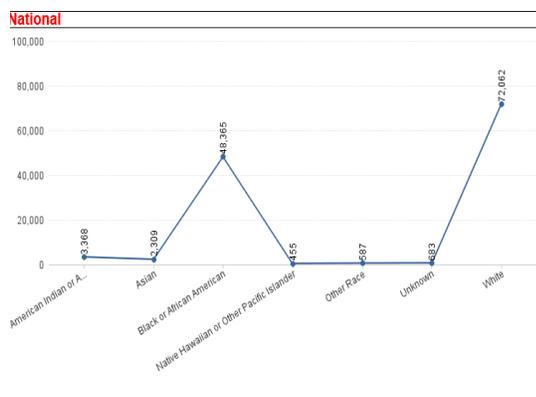
Our department supervises a predominantly male population. Males represent 88.09% while female only represent 11.49%. These percentage are consistent with the national averages (84.34% male, 15.48% female).



In FY 2020 the probation department supervised individuals of all age groups but most of the individuals were between the age of 31 to 50. Last year the department supervised approximately 255 individuals between the ages of 21 to 30. This year that number has risen to 285, which represents about an 11% increase from FY 2019. Individuals over the age of 60 represents the smallest number person supervised. However, due to the increase in compassionate and elder release this demographic may increase in FY2021.

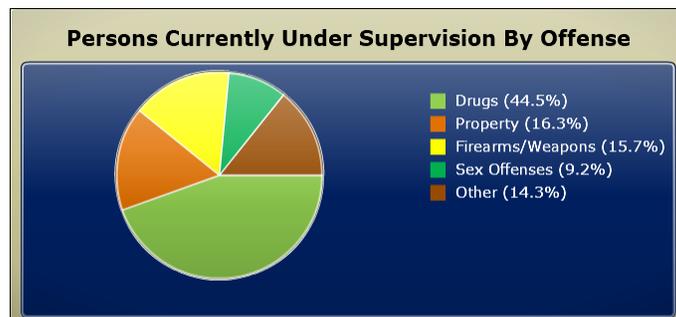


Regarding race, African Americans represent 65.91% of persons under supervision, 30.77% White, 1.32% Native Americans, 0.84% Asian, and 1.16% other. The national averages are: African American 37.84%, White 56.37%, and Native American 2.63%.



### Type of Offenses:

The department supervises individuals convicted of various federal offenses. The primary offenses include drugs, weapons, sex offences and property crimes. The overall distribution of convictions: Drugs 44.5%, Property 16.3%, Firearm/Weapons 15.7%, Sex Offenses 9.2%, and other offenses 14.3%.



The type of offense changes with the geographical region within the district. For example, if the conviction originated in the Flint area, it is more likely to be a firearm/weapons or a violent offense (43.2% Firearms/Weapons, 4.4% violent offenses). If the person under supervision is convicted of sex offense, their crimes are more likely to have originated in

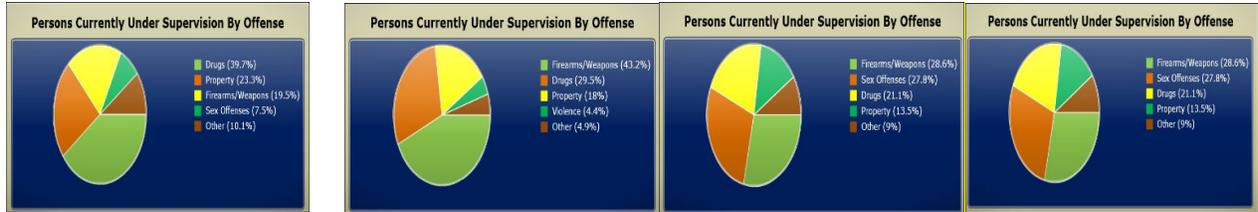
Bay City or Ann Arbor area (28% respectively). In Detroit, convictions are mostly likely drugs (39.7%) and property (23.3%).

(Detroit)

(Flint)

(Bay City)

(Ann Arbor)



## Success and Revocation Rates

### Revocation

For the second consecutive year, the probation department has the lowest revocation rate in the Sixth Circuit. In FY 2020, only 14.9% of the cases supervised were revoked and closed. The breakdown of the revocation is as follows: 45% technical, 42% major, and 13% minor.

	Total Cases Closed**	With Revocation										
		Total Cases			Technical		Minor		Major		Other	
		#	%	Rank	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4111</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	
KYE	426	169	39.7%	8	141	33.1%	5	1.2%	16	3.8%	7	1.6%
KYW	222	50	22.5%	4	35	15.8%	0	0%	15	6.8%	0	0%
MIE	632	93	14.7%	1	42	6.6%	12	1.9%	39	6.2%	0	0%
MIW	317	102	32.2%	7	77	24.3%	8	2.5%	16	5.0%	1	0.3%
OHN	561	157	28.0%	5	106	18.9%	10	1.8%	40	7.1%	1	0.2%
OHS	529	108	20.4%	2	61	11.5%	12	2.3%	35	6.6%	0	0%
TNE	722	303	42.0%	9	167	23.1%	63	8.7%	73	10.1%	0	0%
TNM	253	56	22.1%	3	43	17.0%	4	1.6%	9	3.6%	0	0%
TNW	449	141	31.4%	6	69	15.4%	20	4.5%	50	11.1%	2	0.4%

The probation department utilizes the Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA) tool to determine the appropriate supervision level for clients. Approximately 45% of the individuals under supervision were classified as moderate to high risk of being rearrested or violating the terms of supervised release. In FY 2020, these moderate and high cases represented 89.7% of all violations. Even with the moderate and high supervision levels, our district continues to have the lowest re-arrest rates.



## Successful Termination

In FY 2020, approximately 85% of all closed cases successfully completed their term of supervision. In total of 539 individuals successfully terminated from supervision, of which

69.5% completed their full term, 28.4% terminated early from supervision and 2.1% other. The department's early termination rates are consistent with the majority of districts within the Sixth Circuit.

Total	Early Term	Full Term	Other
MIE 539	153 (28.4%)	372 (69.5%)	2.1%

## Supervision

The high success and low revocation rates are a testament of this department's commitment to our mission to protect the public, assist the Court in the fair administration of justice and assist individuals in making long-term positive change in their lives. The dedication to our mission is evident by the resources we use to eliminate factors that could lead to recidivism in the population we serve. 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. An example of our commitment is the use of Second Chance Funds, to remove such barriers as housing, transportation, life skills, and vocational training which increase the likelihood of their success.

Over the past year, we have provided various treatment services to an average of 250 people per month with an annual cost of approximately \$700,000.00. Treatment services include substance use manualized cognitive group and individual therapy, sex offender and polygraphs, random urine analysis, mental health and psychiatric evaluations, and other counseling. For individuals who cannot afford their psychotropic medications, the probation department covers the cost of the medication. To ensure clients have opportunities to receive long term services after supervision, the department continues to build and broaden our community treatment and service provider network. It should be noted, once the Governor's "shelter in place" took effect, our department enacted telemedicine. Telemedicine allowed clients to continue to receive much needed treatment services while adhering to the Governor's "shelter in place" order.

The United States Probation Department continues to be part of the Court's Reentry Program, Helping Offenders 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. Currently, HOPE has approximately 20 participants and successfully graduated five participants. Unfortunately, one participant had to be removed. To date, the H.O.P.E program has estimated supervision cost savings in excess of \$131,000.00.

The probation department utilizes location monitoring as an alternative sanction to increase monitoring and restrictions for persons under supervision. In addition, recommending location monitoring to the Court offers a suitable cost-saving alternative

to incarceration. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Probation Department's utilization of location monitoring has significantly increased. This increase is contributed to the release of vulnerable individuals from prison via compassionate release or federal location monitoring. Currently, approximately 10% of the persons under supervision are on some form of location monitoring. The Probation Department expects location monitoring usage to continue increasing well into FY 2021.

In March 2020, the Court issued an Administrative Order, to protect staff and public, by closing the Court. All court staff were directed to work remotely. The abrupt stoppage of in-person contacts forced our department to be innovative in executing our duties. The ability to adjust to a new environment, speaks volumes of the flexibility of our staff, our policies and procedures, and shared services. Officers began supervising clients virtually (Video Calling) and by using other electronic means to perform our duties. In July, officers resumed field work but are adhering to social distance protocols and the Court's Administrative Order. To date, over 95% of the probation department's staff have been tested for COVID-19.

### **Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)**

The department continues to incorporate EBP into supervision strategies for the purpose of reducing 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 intricate 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 (FJC), Supervising Officers in an Evidence-Based Environment (SOEBE) program. SOEBE targets specific competencies so that supervisors can monitor officers' supervision of defendants and persons under supervision to assure that officers' interactions are in accordance with evidence-based practices, as well as increase overall awareness.

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.

Another supervising officer has a 25% TDY position to assist Probation and Pretrial Services Office (PPSO) in evaluating the impact of substance use disorder treatment services on recidivism. The results of this research will greatly assist PPSO in developing evidence informed policy and procedures in the area of treatment services.

Lastly, Chief Probation Officer Anthony Merolla chairs the national presentence working group. The group is charged with reviewing current national practices and making recommendations to change and improve the presentence process nationwide.

### **Community Collaboration**

The probation department's workforce development team continues to collaborate with local training and employment agencies. Prior to the pandemic, the department used Second Chance Funds to pay registration fees so several clients could attend a 12-weeks Masonry Restoration Vocational Training Program, through the Detroit Training Center (DTC). Individuals that completed the program earned their vocational certifications and were employed with local businesses earning a livable wage.

The department was collaborating with Michigan Rehabilitative Services (MRS) and the Residential Reentry Center (RRC), to identify clients that could benefit from rehabilitative employment services before being released from custody. The goal of the collaboration was to have clients enrolled in MRS and be in a vocational program prior to commencing supervised release.

The probation department has established a relationship with Ceasefire Detroit, a gang reduction organization. A representative from the probation department attends quarterly meetings, provide input, intel if needed, and support the effort make positive changes in our community.

The probation department continues to build the relationship with the Native American community. We are actively engaged in supporting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). MMIWG is a Native American organization that raises awareness on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including sexual violence. We must examine the underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence and particular vulnerabilities of Indigenous women and girls. Recently, one of the department Senior Probation Officers participated in the filming of an infomercial to gain support for the organization.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Probation Department was unable to have our annual resources fair. After such a huge success in 2019, this was a big disappointment; however, with the department building our footprint in the community, we are confident next year's resource fair will exceed all expectations.

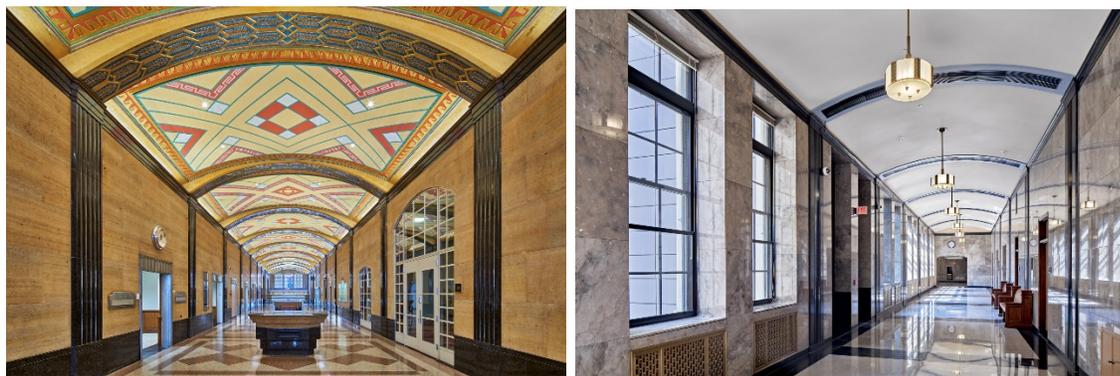
### **Theodore Levin United States Courthouse Renovation Project**

A \$140-million program to upgrade mechanical, electrical and other systems within the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Detroit has been underway for over four 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 was completed without having to relocate building tenants to external space. The 770,000 square foot building remained fully occupied through the duration of the project.

The construction work started over the summer of 2016. The contractor is substantially complete and the remaining work includes less than one hundred punch list items along with the fire alarm system final inspection, and the new Judge's elevator and Freight elevator final inspections. All work will be completed before the end of the 2020 calendar year.

New Fan Coil Units (FCUs) were installed throughout most of the courthouse which should help improve the year-round heating and cooling in much of the USDC space. New HVAC systems and ductwork have been entirely replaced on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.

The restoration of the historic ceiling in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor lobby and 7<sup>th</sup> floor hallways has been completed.



The Million Dollar Courtroom was upgraded with new LED lighting and new carpeting.



The new stair tower has been completed with the exception of final elevator inspections, after which it will be turned over for use.



The renovation of the new judges parking area has been completed. Renovation of the loading dock area in the basement has been completed. The modernization of the eight existing passenger elevators has been completed.

The construction of a new Arraignment Court on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was recently completed.



The Court has an ad hoc renovation committee consisting of Chief Judge Hood and Judges Cleland, Cox, and Michelson. They were available for project progress updates

and to provide critical design and construction input and feedback throughout the project life cycle.

The end result leaves the GSA with a building, greatly improved for many years to come, to house the Court family and better receive the public and the Bar.

For more details visit the GSA Website for project.

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

## **Budget**

The fiscal year 2020 budget, which ended on September 30, 2020, provided a decrease in funding levels from the prior fiscal year for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The Court received its final FY 2020 budget in February 2020. The District Clerk's Office, Probation Department and Pretrial Services Agency payroll accounts were funded below their funding levels from the prior year. In fiscal year 2020, the District Clerk's Office authorized staffing decreased 2.5 work units, the Probation Department work units remained consistent and the Pretrial Services Agency decreased 2.6 work units. The operational and information technology accounts were reduced by 9.4% across-the-board for the District Clerk's Office, the Probation Department and the Pretrial Services Agency. The Court was able to uphold local budget levels and maintain normal operational levels to the public and the Bar.

The final budget picture for fiscal year 2021 appears more challenging than in recent years. The Court is anticipating reductions higher than it received in FY 2020. Congress has not completed negotiations and it remains unclear what will become of the final FY 2021 appropriations bills. The Court is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR), starting the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2020 and currently running through December 11, 2020.

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 2021 funding for the Judiciary as it progresses through the full Congress and ultimately the President of the United States.

## **Space & Facilities Projects**

Courtrooms 207, 219 and 250 will be renovated in the Spring. This project includes relocating the jury box next to the jury deliberation room in courtroom 250 as well as the infrastructure for A/V upgrades for evidence presentation and sound systems in all three courtrooms.

The Court recently renovated the Magistrate Judge courtroom in Ann Arbor so it may be used for criminal trials. The jury box was expanded to seat 14 people. New attorney tables and lectern have new connections and monitors for electronic evidence presentation.

## **Public Information**

Public Information Officer David Ashenfelter fielded hundreds of inquiries again this year from news reporters and members of the public seeking information about cases on the Court's civil and criminal docket. Most of the inquiries involved questions about court procedure, upcoming court hearings, newsworthy developments in cases and regulations governing access to our courthouses with cell phones and laptop computers.

Due to drastic cutbacks in the media, the Court has adopted a proactive approach to notifying news organizations about the work of our Bench. Mr. Ashenfelter tracks scores of newsworthy civil and criminal cases, and alerts the media to important legal decisions, criminal sentences, as well as information about court programs and projects.

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 and reviews and approves requests from journalists to obtain court-issued credentials to enter our courthouses with cell phones. More than 150 such passes have been issued since the program began in March 2018.

Mr. Ashenfelter also monitors the media for compliance with Court rules which prohibit photographing, recording, or broadcasting judicial proceedings. In June, the Court suspended three New York Times staffers from using Zoom, the video conferencing computer program, for 90 days to attend court hearings. The journalists had published a Zoom screen shot of a criminal hearing. Judges began using Zoom beginning in March 2020 to allow the public to observe court hearings after our courthouses closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Naturalization Ceremonies**

In calendar year 2019, the Eastern District of Michigan naturalized 13,477 new citizens, up from 13,339 in 2018. 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, along with providing private naturalization ceremonies when applicable.

Since the pandemic does not allow the Court to hold large in-person naturalization ceremonies, many of our judges have volunteered to conduct individual “drive-through” naturalizations at BCIS headquarters in Detroit.



### **Judicial Interns**

Each year, the Court conducts a summer intern program in June and July for judicial interns in the Eastern District. This year, due to the efforts of our IT department and the dedication and increased participation of our judicial officers, the program thrived in a new, remote format. There were 57 participants this summer, which is about a dozen less than usual, but also included several interns that our judges agreed to accept at the last minute after other summer opportunities evaporated for them. Instead of the typical visits to federal agencies and the state courts or the sit-down events with various groups at the courthouse, the program centered on lunchtime Zoom presentations by the judges of the Eastern District. In the past, interns usually had such intimate access only to the judge for whom he or she worked and 2-3 other judicial officers. This year, however, 15 judges participated in this format (Hood, Friedman, Edmunds, Roberts, Lawson, Cox, Berg, Levy, Michelson, Leitman, Davis, Whalen, Grand, Stafford, Patti), and the interns really enjoyed and appreciated the frank and open views shared by the judges. The interns also had the opportunity to participate in 9 presentations by the office of the Federal Community Defender, 3 presentations by the United States Attorney’s Office, and two webinars presented by the Federal Judicial Conference.

### **Court History Program**

The Court Historical Society reports that all work was suspended on projects in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the filming of a documentary about the Court. Filming began again in September and, depending on the willingness of people to be interviewed, and will continue as quickly as possible under the circumstances. Fortunately, the grantors funding the project have realized that the deadline of the end of 2020 is now unrealistic and have given them until December 2021 to finish the film. The

film will be narrated by retired WDIV anchor Carmen Harlen. 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.

Historical Society officers have two-year terms so they remain: Matt 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 Miszkowski, Crystal Flood and Judy Christie.

Following are some Court statistics you may find interesting.

## **COURT STATISTICS**

