

# 12th District Court

Jackson, Michigan

## Annual Report 2024

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## 12TH DISTRICT COURT MISSION STATEMENT

The 12th Judicial District Court is dedicated to dispensing equal justice in all matters under the court's jurisdiction, providing the highest quality of professional services in a prompt and efficient manner, and recognizing and respecting the individual dignity of all people served by the court.

### Jurisdiction

The 12th District Court holds jurisdiction over the following case types in Jackson County.

- Felonies (through preliminary exam)
- Misdemeanors
- Traffic Civil Infractions
- Municipal Civil Infractions
- Landlord-Tenant Litigations
- General Civil Lawsuits (up to \$25,000)
- Small Claims Lawsuits (up to \$7,000)

### Value Statement

- We value the personal treatment of all members of the public based upon courtesy and respect, regardless of socio-economic status or personal characteristics.
- We value all members of our court staff and are committed to their professional development.
- We value a positive work environment, which promotes creativity, teamwork, and respect among personnel.
- We value the highest standards of performance demonstrated by processing each individual transaction in an accurate, thorough, and timely manner.
- We value the continual analysis of all court processes in order to provide the highest level of service in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

### Meet Our Judges



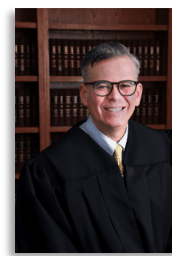
**The Honorable Daniel A. Goostrey**  
Appointed District Judge: 2012  
Re-elected: 2018, 2024  
Chief Judge: 2018-Present  
**Current Term Expires:**  
12/31/2030



**The Honorable Michael J. Klaeren**  
Appointed District Judge: 2007  
Elected District Judge: 2008  
Re-elected: 2014, 2020  
Chief Judge: 2014-2017  
Chief Judge Pro Tem: 2018-2021  
**Current Term Expires:**  
12/31/2026

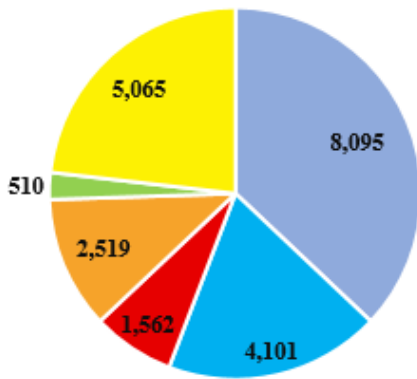


**The Honorable Allison L. Bates**  
Elected District Judge: 2021  
Chief Judge Pro Tem: 2022-Present  
**Current Term Expires:**  
12/31/2026



**The Honorable Robert K. Gaecke Jr.**  
Appointed District Judge: 2021  
Elected District Judge: 2022  
**Current Term Expires:**  
12/31/2028

### 2024 CASE FILINGS BY TYPE



Civil Infraction	Misdemeanors
Felonies	Landlord-Tenant
Small Claims	General Civil

### Attorney Magistrate

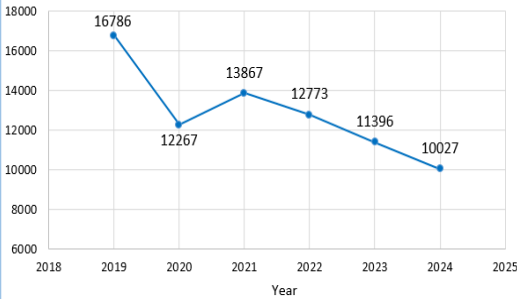


**Christopher J. Dickerson**  
Hired: 2022  
Serves in a quasi-judicial capacity prescribed by statute under the direction of the Chief Judge.

### Trends in Case Load

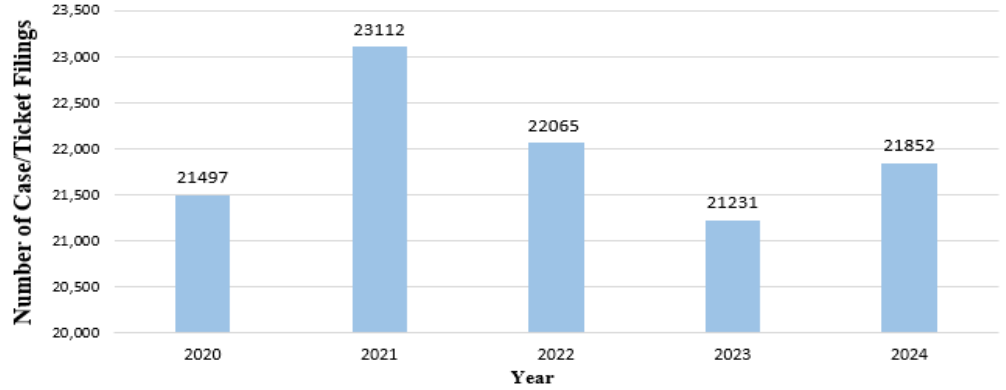
Two-thousand and twenty-four marks the first year of growth for our caseload following the impact of COVID-19. See the bar graph to the right titled **Total Case Load - Past and Present** for an overview of the past four years.

#### TRAFFIC CASELOAD - YEARLY COMPARISON

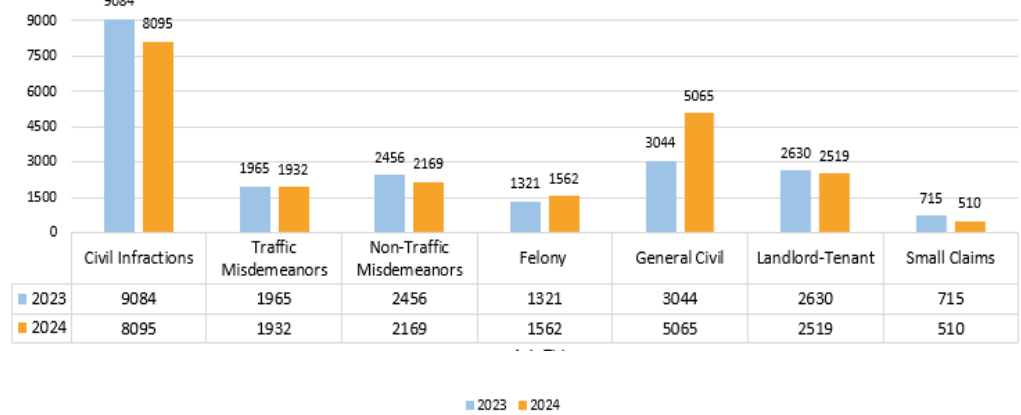


Although the issuance of civil infraction tickets are down from the previous years. A significant increase in General Civil filings (2,021 additional cases), and an increase in Felony filings (241 additional cases) overall boosted our total caseload. See the chart on the right titled **2024 Case Filings Compared to Previous Year** for a breakdown of filing categories compared to 2023.

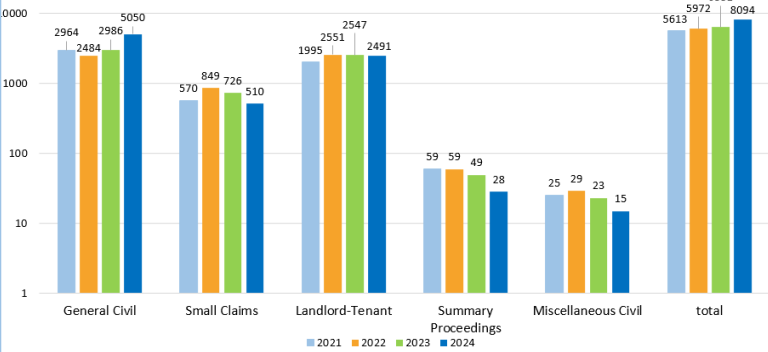
### TOTAL CASE LOAD - PAST AND PRESENT



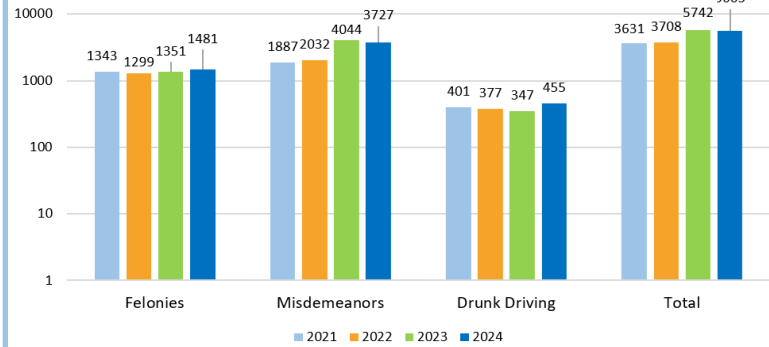
### 2024 CASE FILINGS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR



### CIVIL CASE FILINGS—YEARLY COMPARISON



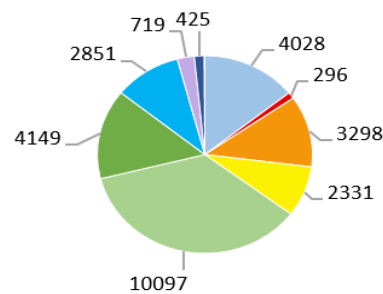
### CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED—YEARLY COMPARISON



### Breakdown of Processed Filings - Civil

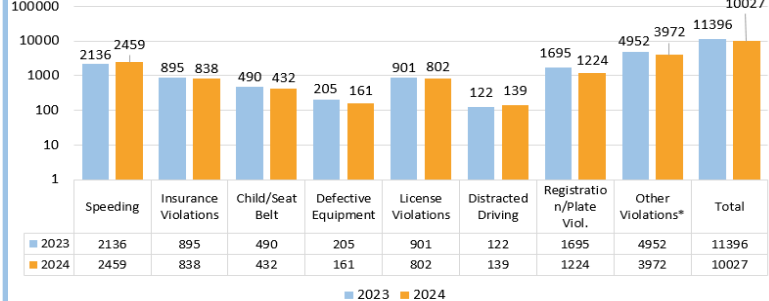
- Judgments
- Settlements
- Dismissals
- Motions/Petitions
- Garnishments
- Garnishment Disclosures
- Orders
- Writs of Eviction/Seizure of Property
- Answers

#### CIVIL SUBMISSIONS PROCESSED



### Breakdown of Processed Traffic Tickets by Offense

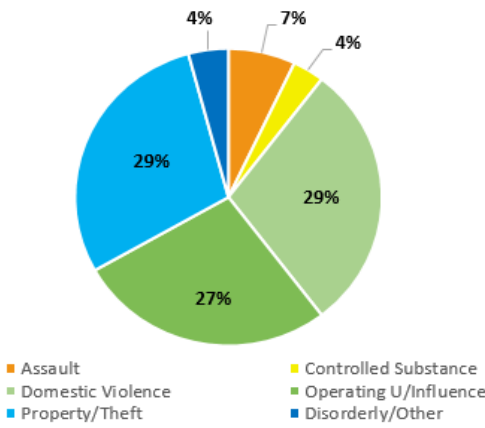
#### TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BY OFFENSE



### Offense Categories Under Supervision

The pie chart below provides a snapshot of the offense categories for offenders under the supervision of the 12th District Court Probation Officers.

#### 2024 OFFENSE CATEGORIES



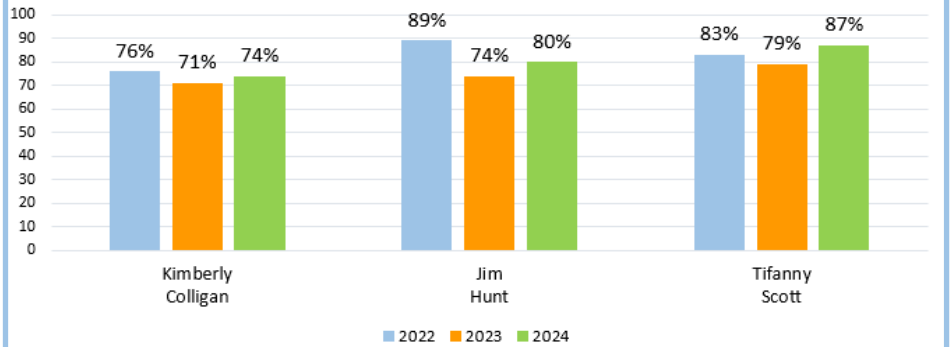
### 12th District Court Probation

The primary goal of probation is to reduce the rates of recidivism and allow offenders the opportunity to turn their lives around by remaining apart of the community. This approach focuses on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior by offering support for reintegration, rather than relying on punishment.

Probation is a vital component of any court system due to its restorative nature and the positive impact it brings to the county. In fact, probation reduces jail overcrowding, saves costs, and encourages offenders to take responsibility for their actions.

To see the success rates of the 12th District Court Probation Officers please see the chart below titled **Probation Successful Completion Percentage**.

#### SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION PERCENTAGE



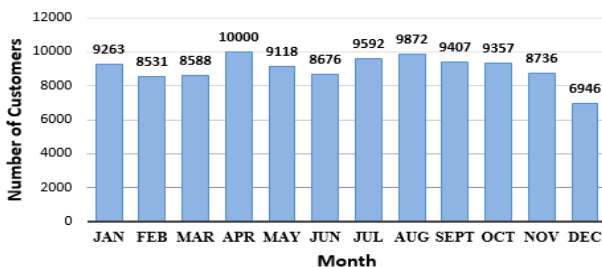
### Courthouse Security

With the collaboration of the Jackson County Security Committee and the Sherriff's Office, the 12th District Court was able to prevent the following contraband from entering the building.

Firearms	0
Ammunition	0
Sharp/Cutting Objects	362
Chemicals	309
Tools	39
Lighters	1857
Other	1288

This not only ensures the safety of the staff, but also the safety over a 100,000 community members who conduct their business at the Courthouse. See the chart below detailing community entry into the building.

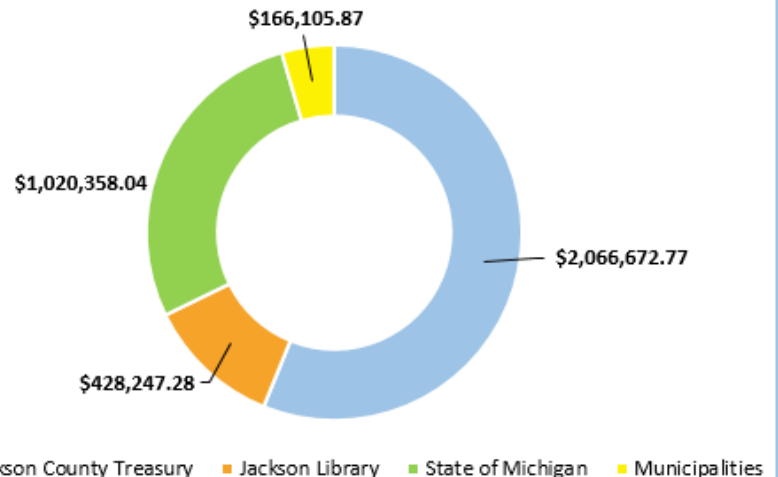
#### 2024 PUBLIC ENTERING COURTHOUSE



### Financials

Regarding the financials of the court; it is a common misconception that the court retains the money we collect; in reality, the funds are distributed to other government agencies each month, as detailed in the **Disbursement of Funds** chart below. Here is a breakdown of the total of all revenue, \$3,787,676.06, collected by the court and where the funds were allocated.

#### DISBURSEMENT OF REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE COURT



## 12TH DISTRICT COURT STAFF

### Administration



Back Row L to R: Jeremy Burns, Rich Dase  
Front Row L to R: Sarah Beadenkopf, Eva Paluck, Kelly Weeks, Jaislyn Williams

### Courtroom and Enforcement Officers



Back Row L to R: Khalil Paule, Lynn Fries, Robert Noppe, Joan Edwards  
Front Row L to R: Kelly Parucker-King, Shellie Sanders, Kamari Boomer, Julie Wartella

### Probation



Back Row L to R: Jim Hunt, Karmen Rimer, Barb Patterson, Wyatt Jorgensen, Chuck Brant  
Front Row L to R: Tiffany Scott, Kimberly Colligan, Haileigh Brinley, Jasmine Dillard

### Traffic/Criminal



Back Row L to R: Linda Chamberlin, Victoria Howard, Kelli Penrose  
Front Row L to R: LaToya Scroggins, Jamie Paksi, Mackenzie Smith, Linsey Mackey-Iyer  
Not Pictured: Robin Hampton, Emily Lappan

### Civil



Back Row L to R: Melissa Adams, Haylie Swager, Chloe Kyer, Beth Hawes  
Front Row L to R: Jade Cuff, Luanne Mehelich, Patty Jones

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Annually, the 12th District Court celebrates one employee of the year, selected by fellow employees who submit their nominations for their co-workers that highlight the 12th District Court values of professionalism, customer service, attendance/punctuality, internal/external activity participation, teamwork, and professional development.

From the start of her time with D12, Jasmine has demonstrated an amazing ability to catch on to things quickly, developing a vast understanding of the processes, procedures and flow of her division. When taking on new tasks to help others, Jasmine has created written processes to streamline her work and truly make it her own. Jasmine is the go to person for her division and often can be seen coaching and training her teammates. Additionally, the polite, kind and helpful manner shown to the public is seen daily; Jasmine routinely exercises extreme patience and empathy with all. Jasmine is also eager to answer the many questions asked daily from customers and teammates, oftentimes displaying a genuine smile and eagerness to help them. The professionalism displayed by Jasmine is witnessed by administration and co-workers routinely.



## SPARK PLUG AWARD

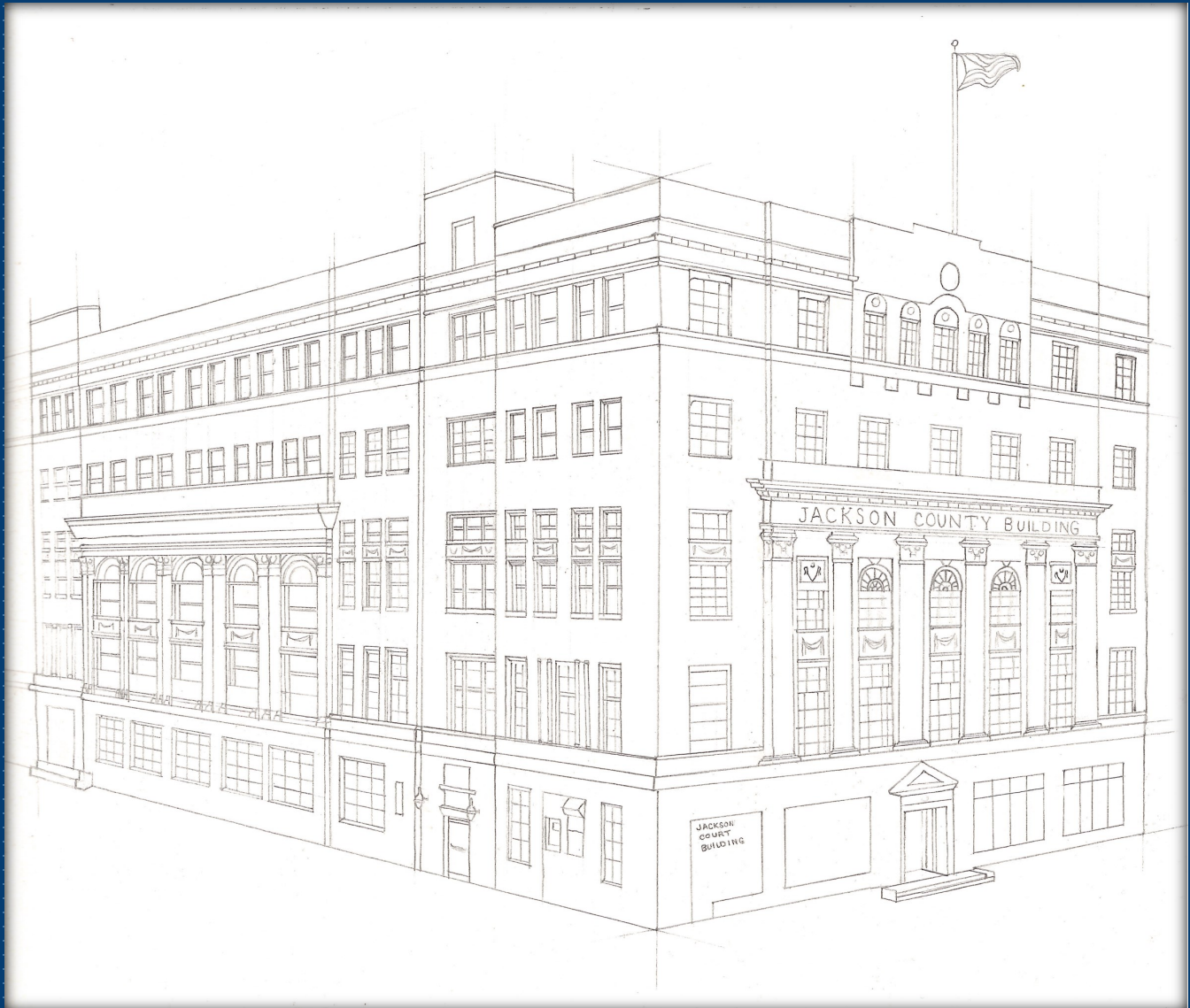
The Spark Plug award is given to the person in D12 that sends a Spark or just makes those around them better because of their attitude, personality and overall team spirit!

This year's recipient, Jade, has had the unique opportunity to work in a few different areas of D12. In each area, Jade has demonstrated an amazing attitude and desire to learn, all the while bringing each and every one that's around her up and brightening their day. Jade's managers also speak about how much of a joy and morale booster she brings to her division. Jade greets everyone with a welcoming smile and is frequently the cheerleader for her co-workers, lifting them up with encouragement and support. Jade also volunteers to cover the window, help customers at the Kiosk or step into court if her co-workers are out for the day. All the while, doing it with a smile and a spring in her step. Jade has worked the window in both the Traffic and Civil divisions and currently supports Judge Bates with her Civil Docket.





2024



## 12th Judicial District Court

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[www.d12.com](http://www.d12.com)