



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFFERSON COUNTY
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August 8, 2023

Dear County Board Supervisors:

The pandemic eased as 2022 went on and we were able to resume normal Court procedures. As we started to do the work, the extent of the back log became clear. We had a number of individual Defendants who, having not resolved cases during the pandemic, had a large number of pending cases. Those cases did not resolve until we were able to start getting them on the trial calendar. We also had a large number of cases that needed to actually go to trial. Including many of our most serious case types. I still maintain that our backlog was not as serious as those of other Counties, but it was substantial. Even as we started to try cases, the number of cases that were set on each trial date were large, only one case could go, so the others had to be re-set and the amount of money spent from our budget on subpoena fees was substantial. As was the stress on the staff system-wide. Thankfully we had all continued to be flexible and work across departments to handle the workload.

We have had some anticipated retirements in our Department. We are working hard on succession planning to make sure that we stay stable during this time of transition. It's been difficult to train new people as we are in such a time of stress, but we have hired some amazing people who are meeting the challenge with the assistance of our experienced, supportive, staff.

The Courts have continued to use technology as we have worked on the backlog. The construction project is coming at a wonderful time as those electronic

systems need updating. We still use Zoom, which continues to allow access to the system for defendants and victims alike. We are also using the screens and speakers a lot to present evidence to juries.

The number of new case referrals and charges went down slightly in 2022, when compared to 2020 and 2021. However, there should be no mistake that the District Attorney's Office was not less busy. The backlog from the pandemic has kept us racing at near break-neck speeds.

Jefferson County continues to employ evidence-based practices in our criminal justice system through our Drug and Alcohol Treatment Courts, and the First Offender Program. We saw a marked decrease in the number of participants in these programs during the pandemic, but those numbers are going back up. We have started compiling data and evidence-based tools so we can evaluate our First Offender Program and make sure we are using best practices to reduce the stress on the system and reduce recidivism. We are working on finding the right person to replace our former director.

In 2022 we laid the groundwork to support individuals in the County who want to get their driver's licenses through a driver's license restoration program. We are sending information about that program to individuals who are charged with driver's license-related crimes. We do not have statistics yet, however, preliminarily we are anecdotally seeing individuals using the program and getting validly licensed.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received from the County as we have had an unpredictable budget. We also appreciate the County providing the funds to hire an Assistant District Attorney to cover the military leave of one of our assistants. That coverage allowed us to keep moving through the backlog. It also allowed us to seamlessly hire that Assistant District Attorney full time when another Assistant retired.

Sincerely,



Monica J. Hall
Jefferson County District Attorney

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
JEFFERSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



SUMMARY

The office of the District Attorney is created under Chapter 978 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The District Attorney's Office represents the people of the State of Wisconsin and County of Jefferson in circuit court. The District Attorney and Assistant District Attorneys prosecute state criminal matters, forfeiture actions, state and county traffic code and ordinance violations, Department of Natural Resources violations and juvenile cases. The District Attorney also provides education to law enforcement through yearly in-service training.

The District Attorney oversees the First Offender Program, which diverts defendants out of the formal court process. The First Offender Program Director meets with individual offenders and develops a personalized contract. The length and conditions of the contract depend on the nature and seriousness of the offense, his or her adjustment, treatment needs and need for supervision. The First Offender Program Director then monitors the offender to ensure that he or she is following through on their contract conditions.

The District Attorney also operates the Victim/Witness Program, which provides statutory and constitutionally mandated support to victims and witnesses of crime. The primary purpose of the Victim/Witness program is to provide information, referral and support to citizens and law enforcement officers who have been victims or witnesses to crimes, and to ensure that the services mandated under Chapter 950, Wis. Stats., are made available to them.

The District Attorney's office consists of one District Attorney and five Assistant District Attorneys, all of whom are state employees. County employees include the Office Manager, Justice Computer Specialist, five Legal Secretaries, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Paralegal and First Offender Program Director.

REFERRALS RECEIVED FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Felonies	1368	1544	1407
Misdemeanors	2773	3113	2932
Delinquencies/JIPS (Juvenile in Need of Protection or services)	236	320	358
Juvenile FO's	87	102	112
Criminal Traffic	760	954	914
Forfeitures	103	100	72
Civil Traffic	1683	914	589
Civil	6	2	8

Domestic Referrals Received from Law Enforcement

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Misdemeanor	450	428	400
Felony	71	92	83

OWI Referrals Received from Law Enforcement

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Forfeiture OWI	89	112	151
Misdemeanor OWI (criminal traffic)	109	120	192
Felony OWI	48	57	17

Drug Referrals Received from Law Enforcement

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Misdemeanor	402	418	331
Felony	319	304	205

ALCOHOL TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANTS

(By acceptance date)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
OWI 3 rd	13	14	22
OWI 3 rd with minor	0	0	0
OWI 4 th *	15	20	30
OWI 5 th	5	4	
OWI 6 th	3	2	2

*All OWI 4th offenses are now felonies

DRUG TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANTS*

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Possession of Narcotics	14	15
Burglary	1	1
Theft	2	3
OMWOC	2	2
Possession of Cocaine	0	1
Possession of THC	0	1
Possession of Methamphetamine	3	7
Hit and Run	1	1
Possession w/intent to deliver	2	2
Felony Theft	0	2
Poss. with intent to abuse hazardous substance	1	3
OWI – 2 nd drugs	0	1

CASES FILED WITH THE COURTS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Felonies	528	594	557
Misdemeanors	445	379	384
Criminal Traffic	602	676	619
Traffic Forfeiture	1326	906	536
Traffic FO	111	102	55
Civil	1	1	0
Delinquencies & JIPS	30	29	39
Juvenile Forfeitures	16	3	1

CASES OPEN IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

(INCLUDES THOSE FILED WITH THE COURT AND THOSE UNDER REVIEW FOR POSSIBLE CHARGES)

	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
Felonies	402	1084	2040
Misdemeanors	324	1706	1863
Criminal Traffic	285	456	704
Forfeiture Traffic	176	41	76
Civil Traffic	11	45	13
Civil	0	0	6
Delinquencies & JIPS	20	1	15
Juvenile Forfeitures	3	1	1
TOTAL OPEN CASES	1221	2856	4836

HOMICIDES
(By referral date)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Homicide	3	1	0
Reckless Homicide	0	0	2
Reckless Homicide drug related	3	7	0
OWI alcohol related	1	0	1
OWI drugs related	1	0	0
Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle	0	0	1
Domestic Related	0	0	0

FIRST OFFENDER PROGRAM

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Persons Accepted in current year*	82	68	13
Persons in program as of end of year**	70	70	78
Persons who completed program***	91	71	63
Fees collected	\$24,833.22	\$21,155.00	\$25,172.00

*This number is only those participants who were new to the program in the current year.

**This number includes all participants who have not completed the program at the end of the current year regardless of year accepted.

***These participants may have been accepted into the program in a year other than the current year.

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
All Contacts	2885	3454	2954
Witness Cancellations	712	879	1348
Officer Cancellations	2033	1998	2663
Writs to transport witnesses from custody	7	3	12

Officer and witness cancellations result in less overtime paid by departments and witness fees paid by the county.