

2022 PRESIDING JUDGE’S REPORT TO THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD

William F. Hue, Presiding Judge
Jefferson County Circuit Court

The Jefferson County Judges appreciate the support of the Jefferson County Board and County Administrator Ben Wehmeier. We would like to recognize the hard work of Family Court Commissioner & Register in Probate Jennifer Weber, who has taken on additional workload due to restructuring in the Probate Office and resignation of her former Family Court Assistant Commissioner. Because of that effort and Mr. Wehmeier and the Board’s willingness to provide temporary magistrate help from experienced retired former Family Court Commissioners, the citizens of Jefferson County have not seen any significant reduction in services pending return of Court Commissioner staff. Jefferson County is still a leader in Family Court Administration in our Judicial District and State in that area.

The Judges additionally wish to recognize our Judicial Assistants and Clerk of Courts support staff. The Courts would have a difficult time efficiently administering justice without the foundation of support we receive from hardworking individuals who serve on the front line every day.

Thank you to the County Board for continuing to support Court initiatives, addressing issues affecting the health and safety of Court users, employees and the public at large.

The Court system was extremely challenged during COVID shutdown and post-COVID recovery. The Criminal Courts will soon be stabilized and soon will function in a more standard post-COVID operation. That takes great effort and the support of staff is critical in that regard.

There are still 25-50 felony, misdemeanor and OWI cases that must be tried to a jury before we can consider ourselves “caught up.” Our effort is ongoing and, of course, is impacted by courthouse remodeling. Nonetheless, we are optimistic that we can and will return to the efficient system Jefferson County Courts have historically maintained, soon.

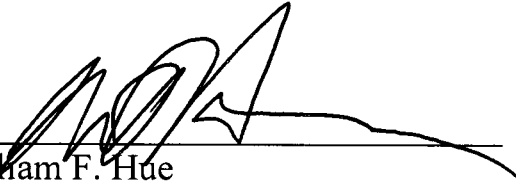
We appreciate the support and confidence the County Board has placed upon us. We are mindful of the need to keep you apprised of the current status of our operations and initiatives timely.

2022 was challenging as we faced this significant case backlog. During COVID, we learned technology could aid us in our effort to safely function but also in our effort to be more user-friendly as a standard. We are appreciative of County Administrator Ben Wehmeier’s help, guidance and

support in general but are particularly appreciative of his leadership in the area of Court safety and technology use. Judges Dehring, Brantmeier, Gruber and I appreciate the health and safety infrastructure and personnel you have provided to us in our effort.

We are fortunate to live and work in Jefferson County. Our work is supported by competent and skilled staff. We are further fully supported by the Legislative and Executive Branches of our County Government. As we engage in the significant and immense remodeling building project occurring over the next few years, the Jefferson County Judges look forward to continuing in a positive, cooperative working relationship with you. All of us strive always to maintain and enhance the high quality of life that we all enjoy in Jefferson County.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2023.



William F. Hue
Presiding Judge
Circuit Court, Branch 2