

STATE OF MISSOURI

TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT



2017
YEAR END REPORT



STATE OF MISSOURI

TWENTY-NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

DAVID B. MOUTON
PRESIDING JUDGE

601 SOUTH PEARL AVENUE
JOPLIN, MISSOURI 64801

ERIK T. THEIS
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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January 25, 2018

Dear Judge Mouton:

On behalf of the Circuit Clerk, Juvenile Division and Court Services, I am proud to present the Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit's 2017 Year End Report. Each year, the Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit Court processes and disposes a high volume of cases despite limited resources. Nevertheless, the judiciary strives to provide swift, fair, and effective administration of justice. We have worked strategically with key stakeholders addressing the changing trends within the criminal justice system. Procedures have been implemented to streamline operations which resulted in improved utilization of county resources. Interpretation and evaluation of data is a top priority because it gives the judicial officer information to make case management decisions to ensure the court is performing at the highest level possible. In 2017, court services and the juvenile division has aggressively sought out local, state, and federal grants to offset our operating costs incurred by the county.

In 2017, construction of the Juvenile Center commenced with a scheduled completion date in November, 2018. The future facility has caught national attention as the design and functionality is in line with the national paradigm shift to more community-based and family-involved treatment. Once constructed, the Juvenile Center will be a state of the art facility designed to help deliver cutting edge juvenile justice practices for the youth of our county.

In addition to treatment courts, Court Services has added a pre-trial release program. The purpose of the program is to provide the court with information regarding the defendant's potential risk should they be released prior to trial. The program also offers additional release options to the court including defendant monitoring. Our treatment courts continue to offer the court alternative sentencing options for defendants with substance abuse and mental illness issues. Currently we have four treatment court dockets consisting of Drug (Recovery) Court, DWI Court, Co-Occurring Disorders Court and Veteran's Court. The judiciary's involvement in these programs are paramount to achieving successful outcomes. There continues to be a strong commitment to these courts from the community, treatment providers, prosecutors and law enforcement. This commitment is a testimony to the effectiveness of these courts.

Finally, our juvenile division continues to improve programming and services designed to divert youth from detention and formal adjudication. The division utilizes objective risk assessment tools to ensure the use of detention is used only for the right kids, at the right time and for the right purpose. In addition, focus has been on evidence-based assessment of children who come under the juvenile division's jurisdiction to ensure they receive appropriate services to ensure the best outcomes for children and families.

Respectfully,

Erik T. Theis
Court Administrator

CIRCUIT COURT:

For the fiscal year 2017, there were 17,129 filings in Jasper County. The breakdown is as follows:

	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>% Change in Filed FY16</u>
Circuit Civil	401	352	509	9.9%
Domestic	2544	2383	1065	8.0%
Assoc. Civil	4189	3845	1388	21.7%
CIVIL TOTAL	7134	6580	1388	15.8%

	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>% Change in Filed FY15</u>
Probate				
Estates, MH Pet.	385	347	1843	1.0%
Simple Probate	982	967	75	-13.0%

	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>% Change in Filed FY15</u>
Juvenile	603	516	796	10.1%

	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>% Change in Filed FY15</u>
Circuit Felony	824	715	702	24.7%
Assoc. Felony	2150	2044	1702	7.2%
Misd.	1069	1169	1969	-8.9%
Traffic	3389	3004	2633	31.4%
Ordinance	587	491	380	38.4%
Mun. Trial de Novo	6	8	3	-33.3%
CRIMINAL TOTAL	8025	7431	7389	17.1%

	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>% Change in Filed FY15</u>
GRAND TOTAL	17,129	15,841	13,065	13.7%

JURY STATISTICS:

Trial Begun No Verdict		Verdict Returned		Total Jury Days	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
0	2	8	3	21	10

Despite the increased number of criminal cases filed with the court this fiscal year, due to policies implemented in 2016 by the Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Jasper County has seen a significant drop in the number of prisoner transports by the sheriff's office since 2015. This outcome is a result of policies implemented by the court where defense attorneys are required to submit a request for an inmate to be transported (typically for a motion to be taken up, plea, preliminary hearing or for trial). In addition, the use of poly-com technology is routinely used at arraignment in all criminal divisions of the circuit court.

Circuit Court at a glance:

- Polycom arraignments increased 20% from 1257 in 2016 to 1569 in 2017.
- 1335 inmates were transported to Joplin for court hearings compared to 1361 in 2016; this is a 2% decrease from 2016 (despite increased number of filings); and a 29% decrease from 2015.
- The number of inmates transported to the Carthage Courthouse decreased from 709 inmates in 2016 to 600 inmates in 2017; a decrease of 15%.

CIRCUIT CLERK:

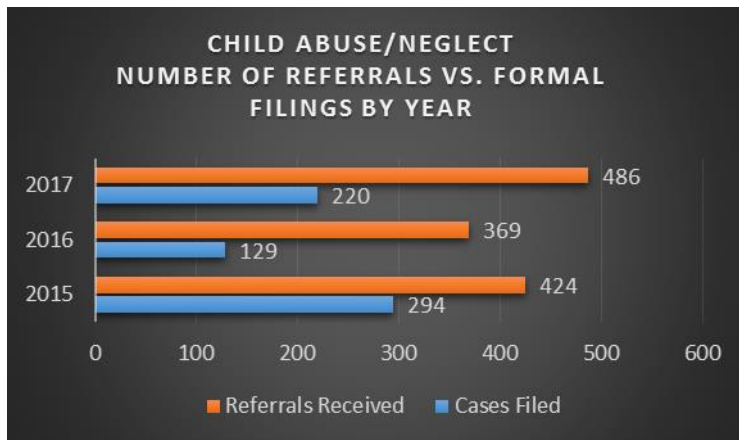
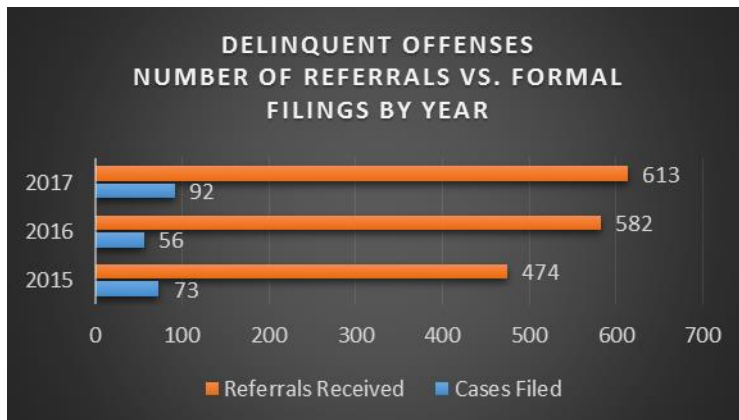
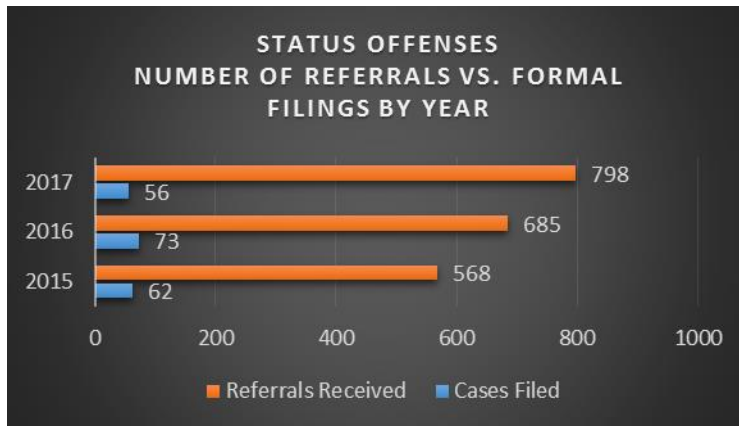
The Circuit Clerk's office continues to be the administrative backbone of the circuit. The clerk's office under the leadership of Melissa Holcomb not only performs the required statutory functions, but continues to provide outstanding public service and administrative support. The Twenty-Ninth Circuit was selected as a pilot site for Show-Me Courts. In addition, the Circuit Clerk has purchased digital signage in both court facilities. The signage will provide docket and other court information to the public, litigants, and other interested parties.

The following are highlights of accomplishments by the Clerk's Office:

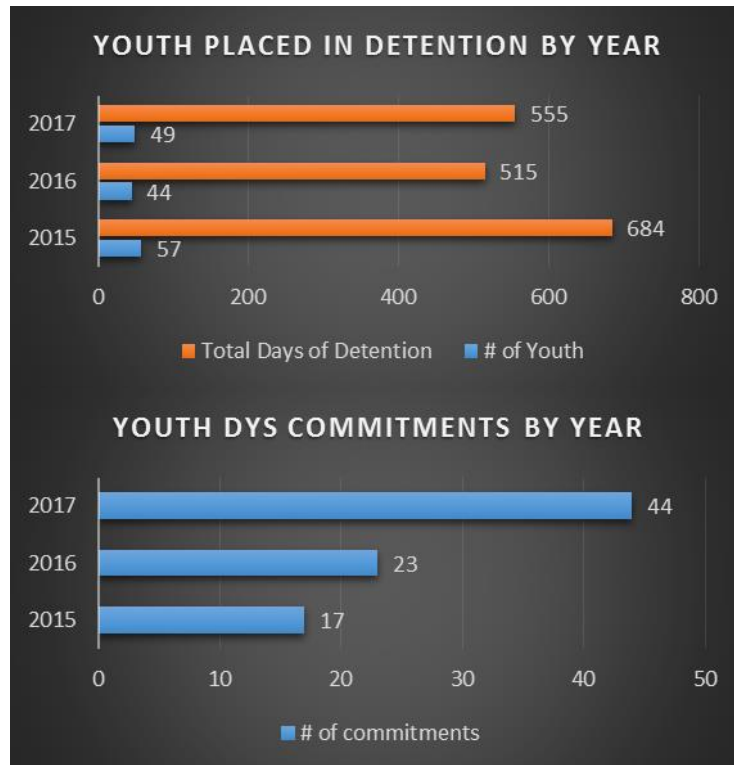
- **Provided 2 full-time positions which provide administrative support for the Court Administrator, and Treatment Court Program**
- **Received additional grant money to help with record preservation and destruction**
- **Pilot Court for Show Me Courts**
- **Continued work with the sheriff's office to streamline exparte functions**
- **Purchased digital signage to display court dockets and other court information**
- **Provided training and established docket coding for the pretrial release program**
- **Collected \$438,485 in revenue for the county (Records received by the County Treasurer)**

JUVENILE DIVISION:

The charts below show the number of formal case filings from referrals received by year:



The charts below show the number of youth detained and commitments to the Department of Youth Services by year:



2017 was a busy year for the Juvenile Division. The division saw an increase in the number of referrals for all case types (Abuse/Neglect, Status, and Delinquency) compared to 2016. Despite the increased referrals, the Juvenile Division formally filed cases on 7% of Status cases; 15% of Delinquency cases; and 45% on Child Abuse/Neglect cases. Research indicates that appropriately diverting children from formal adjudication, providing resources/treatment, and placing them in evidence-based programming shows improved outcomes.

The Juvenile Division has made it priority to collaborate with resource providers, law enforcement, and community partners to ensure quality service to youth, families, and the community. These collaborative partnerships have provided an opportunity to garner additional resources, increase training, and provide a clear understanding of the Juvenile Division's role within the justice system. Efforts have also been made to work with school districts in the county to create strategic plans to tackle youth truancy more efficiently and optimize the use of scarce resources.

Staff, officers, and supervisors have received extensive training on assessing risk, criminogenic needs, and responsivity of youth referred to the division. Not only is it important to assess the risk and needs of youth, but it is also critical to deliver treatment or programming in a manner in which the youth can respond and learn. As a result of this training, youth are carefully placed in treatment programs, counseling, educational programs, life skills training, and pro-social interest classes. Programs have also been tailored to provide gender specific services to help ensure the best outcome.

The Juvenile Division is committed to providing evidence-based programming designed to provide treatment, social and life skills development, and programming to educationally prepare youth under our jurisdiction. Youth were placed into programs in-house and with community resource providers. The following is a breakdown of the number of kids placed in each category of program:

Community Service – 117	Diversion Court – 90
Life-Skills Programming – 156	House Arrest – 78
Alternative School – 161	Educational Programs – 41
Treatment Programs – 63	Drug Court – 15
Gender Specific Programs – 41	Interest-based Programs – 74
Prevention Programs – 58	(Pro-Social Activities)
Mentor Program – 51	

The Juvenile Division's programs are as follows:

Community Service	Diversion Court
House Arrest	Mix Martial Arts
Boy's Council	Shoplifting Prevention
Time Management	Accountability
Alternative School	Girls Circle
Food and Nutrition	Substance Abuse Education
Emotional Education Group	Study Hall
Grill Masters	Cyber Safety
Therapy	Success
Tutoring	Art Feeds
Active Parenting of Teens	Bank on It
Compass	Drug Court
Guitar Lessons	Mentoring
Skills to Pay the Bills	Service Learning
Zumba	

COURT SERVICES:

Treatment Court

This program provides the judicial officer with alternatives to traditional sentencing on cases which involve substance abuse or mental health disorders. Currently there are 97 participants in DWI, Drug, Co-Occurring and Veteran's Court. These defendants are classified as "high risk/high need" offenders, or in other words, the defendants entering treatment court have a propensity for habitual involvement in the criminal justice system due to chronic substance abuse or mental health issues. According to the Missouri Department of Corrections 2016 Year End Report, there were more individuals incarcerated and on community supervision for drug offenses than any other category of crime. In 2017 in Jasper County, there were 1004 defendants charged with a felony alcohol or drug related offense. Of those 1004 cases, 50 defendants (5%) entered treatment court.

Treatment Court Highlights:

- **50 defendants were admitted into treatment court**
- **71 participants successfully graduated**
- **6368 urinalysis collected**
- **Participants completed 7118 hours of community service**
- **Graduation rate for Drug Court and Co-Occurring Disorders Court is 60%**
- **Graduation rate for Veteran's Court is 100%**
- **Graduation rate for DWI Court is 81%**
- **Recidivism rate of Drug Court is 6% after one year; 17% after two years; 20% after three years*****
- **According to the 2016 Missouri DOC Profile of the Institutional and Supervised Offender Population Report, the recidivism rate of parolees released for drug offenses for the first time is 21% after one year; 36.5% after two years; 43.1% after three years.**

*** Recidivism data is based off of treatment court participants who entered a treatment court program prior to December 31, 2014 in order to obtain three full years after exit from the programs. Since DWI court began in 2014, there is minimal data available to assess recidivism.

Pre-Trial Services

In May 2017, Jasper County launched the first ever pre-trial release program in the county. The program was designed to provide the judicial officer with an evidenced-based assessment of inmates to determine their risk of flight and danger to the community. Once released, the pre-trial officer ensures the defendant follows the conditions of bond and appears in court. The program in Jasper County is one of several around the state and is in response to the pretrial reform movement occurring within jurisdictions in Missouri and across the United States. This program is in the infancy stage and will likely evolve as Missouri Supreme Court Rules and legislation change in the future.

Pre-Trial Release Program Highlights:

- **253 risk assessments were provided to the Court (242 Felony; 11 Misdemeanor)**
- **157 Felony defendants were assigned to Pre-trial Services; 9 Misdemeanants**
- **15 defendants willfully Failed to Appear – 91% appearance rate**
- **6 defendants committed a new offense – 96% safety rate**