

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE DUNN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS



Presented to the  
Dunn County Board of Supervisors  
March 21, 2018  
By  
Katie M. Schalley, Clerk of Circuit Courts

# DUNN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

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## 2017 OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

The Circuit Courts, comprised of the Clerk of Court's office and Judges' office, strive to operate in an effective, efficient and professional manner. Following is a summary of our activities in 2017:

- 2017 was a year for learning and growth in the Clerk of Court's office. In April of 2017, the Clerk of Courts and Office Manager retired. Between them they had over 50 years experience in the court system. On top of having a new Clerk of Courts and Office Manager, the Clerk of Court's office had some turn over in staff members and gained one new hire for 2017. This change generated new challenges for court staff but also created new visions and goals for the court system.
- As part of the Court Initiative that was developed and approved in 2016, we have continued to develop and implement processes to improve efficiencies in the Dunn County Court System. The Clerk of Court's office was able to abstain from hiring one of its vacant Deputy Clerk positions due to the efficiencies developed with the implementation of e-filing by the State. The Clerk of Court's staff is continually cross training with one another in the office to provide better customer service to the public, and processing case types in a timely and efficient manner.
- In March of 2017, two of the courtrooms in the Judicial Center were upgraded with newer technology, including video conferencing equipment. From April of 2017 to the end of 2017, the Courts used the video conferencing equipment forty (40) times for various hearing types. We intend to use the video conferencing equipment even more in 2018 for as many hearings as video conferencing is permitted for.
- The Branch III courtroom recording equipment has been used on a weekly basis in 2017 for Treatment Court proceedings. We also use the equipment to record hearings before the Court Commissioner that are required to be on the record. Additionally, the Courts benefit by having the option to record hearings before a Circuit Court Judge in the event a court reporter is unavailable. Currently, the State of Wisconsin is facing a shortage of qualified stenographic court reporters for the Circuit Courts.
- In 2017, we were hopeful that Dunn County would receive a third Judge position. Unfortunately, no new judgeships were approved in the entire state. We are actively making connections in hopes of obtaining a third Judge for Dunn County. Caseload numbers and statewide time studies have indicated for many years that we are in need of another judge. In fact, the latest figures show Dunn County has the second highest judicial need in all of Wisconsin. We are also actively providing support for another prosecutor position in the District Attorney's office as they also have a significant need for additional staffing. Having at least one additional Assistant District Attorney would greatly benefit the court system.

Following is a distribution breakdown of the 2017 revenue:

State of Wisconsin	\$1,857,589.3	70.0%
	6	
Clerk of Courts	\$542,131.78	20.4%
Municipalities	\$113,028.96	4.30%
Sheriff's Department	\$83,386.37	3.1%
Human Services	\$54,494.18	2.1%
Treasurer	\$2871.37	.10%

The Dunn County Circuit Courts will continue to provide exceptional service to the individuals involved in the court system as well as managing the daily challenges presented to them. Members of the County Board are welcome to visit or contact us with any questions or concerns they may have.

Respectfully submitted,

**Katie M. Schalley**

Katie M. Schalley

Clerk of Courts

**James M. Peterson**

James M. Peterson

Circuit Judge, Branch I

**Rod W. Smeltzer**

Rod W. Smeltzer

Circuit Judge, Branch II

## **CLERK OF COURTS STAFF**

Katie M. Schalley	Clerk of Courts
Barb Vadnais	Office Manager
Lisa Crouse	Register in Probate/Deputy Clerk
Edye Hackbarth	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Front Counter Clerk
Erin Metcalf	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Family/Paternity Clerk
Hanna Neuberg	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Courtroom Clerk
Jewel Bergman-Kinney	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Criminal/Traffic Clerk
Kim Silvius	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Courtroom Clerk
Renee McDonald	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Small Claims Clerk
Sandra Rhead	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Juvenile Clerk
Stacey Matson	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Civil/Jury Clerk
Vickie Girard	Deputy Clerk/Dep. Register in Probate-Criminal/Traffic Clerk
Bruce Sampson	Court Security Officer

## **CIRCUIT COURT STAFF**

Honorable James M. Peterson	Branch I Judge
Joseph Detrick	Judicial Assistant/Paralegal
Sharesa Desotelle	Court Reporter
Honorable Rod W. Smeltzer	Branch II Judge
Kari Sandberg	Judicial Assistant/Paralegal
Andrea Bluedorn	Court Reporter

## **FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONER**

Brent Skinner

## **COURT COMMISSIONERS**

Brent Skinner – Judicial	Michael Moseler - Supplemental
Luke Wagner – Judicial	Charles Huff - Supplemental
Allyson Moore – Supplemental	Richard Yonko - Supplemental
James Parent – Supplemental	

<b>Funds Held in Trust as of 12/31/2016</b>	<b>206,384.55</b>
<b>Funds Collected</b>	<b>3,279,010.53</b>
<b>Revenue Disbursements</b> Revenue to State of Wisconsin, Dunn County, and other Agencies	<b>(2,659,168.02)</b>
<b>Non-Revenue Disbursements</b> Disbursements include Foreclosure Sale Proceeds, Restitution, Refunds, Passports, and etc.	<b>(489,743.95)</b>
<b>Funds Held in Trust as of 12/31/2017</b>	<b>336,483.11</b>

<b>HE STARK COLLECTION AGENCY ACTIVITY BY YEAR</b>		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT TURNED OVER</b>	<b>AMOUNT RECEIVED</b>
2011	437,523.35	31,429.31
2012	338,642.77	50,148.93
2013	341,669.24	47,671.77
2014	341,628.96	44,333.81
2015	325,723.98	52,609.05
2016	371,528.63	51,656.84
2017	30,963.96	38,884.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,187,680.89</b>	<b>316,734.06</b>

<b>TAX INTERCEPT COLLECTIONS BY YEAR</b>	
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT COLLECTED</b>
2005	94,375.60
2006	104,011.73
2007	127,482.54
2008	150,247.63
2009	167,398.30
2010	142,871.77
2011	147,088.15
2012	175,060.31
2013	164,172.52
2014	188,432.01
2015	148,377.29
2016	171,039.00
2017	171,242.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,025,338.98</b>

**2017 CASE FILINGS BY CASE TYPE**

<b>CRIMINAL CASES</b>		
Felony		509
Misdemeanors		563
Traffic		325
<b>FAMILY CASES</b>		
Divorce & Support Actions		289
Paternity		37
<b>CIVIL &amp; SMALL CLAIMS</b>		
Civil		325
Small Claims		940
<b>PROBATE CASES</b>		
Probate/Wills		89
Adoptions/Guardianships/Mental Commitments		122
<b>JUVENILE CASES</b>		
Juvenile Chips/Waiver of Parent Consent/Injunctions		94
Adoptions/Guardianships/Commitments/Delinquency		104
Termination of Parental Rights		24
<b>TOTAL CITATIONS BY TYPE/AGENCY</b>		
<b>Traffic</b>		
	State/Scale/UW-Stout	5,655
	City of Menomonie	1,659
	County	2,063
	Villages/DNR	37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,414</b>
<b>Ordinances</b>		
	State/Scale/UW-Stout	432
	City of Menomonie	824
	County	255
	Truancy/JV Ordinance	110
	Villages/DNR	90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,711</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
Jury Trials		16
Tax Warrant		99
Worker's Comp Tax Liens		9
Unemployment Comp Tax Liens		37
Construction Liens		6
Other Liens		14
Hospital Liens/Condominium Liens		1
Transcribed Judgments		52
Foreign Judgments		8
	<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>14,788</b>
Passports Issued		849