

2015 CHIEF JUDGE'S REPORT TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD

**Randy R. Koschnick, Chief Judge
Jefferson County Circuit Court**

Court System Efficiency and Public Safety

The Jefferson County Circuit Court system consistently ranks at the top of the list of Wisconsin's 72 counties for timely processing of cases as measured by the Director of State Courts Office (Annual Overall Median Age at Disposition Report). In 2015, we were ranked #1 statewide for the eighth straight year. Unlike many other Wisconsin counties, case backlogs are not a problem in Jefferson County. Our case assignment and processing system ensures that high-quality justice is consistently delivered without unnecessary delay, that public safety is maintained and that taxpayer-funded system resources are used wisely and efficiently.

Alcohol Treatment Court/CJCC

Jefferson County received grant money to create an Alcohol Treatment Court ("ATC") which began taking cases in 2014 and remains in operation. The ATC basically provides intensive, court-supervised alcohol treatment to repeat-OVI offenders who are identified as "high risk and high need." Treatment Courts around the country have demonstrated that they are effective at simultaneously reducing recidivism and lowering offender incarceration rates. Society benefits because public safety is enhanced and incarceration costs are reduced. Offenders benefit because they are provided effective tools to overcome alcohol addiction and the criminal consequences that frequently accompany said addiction. Judge Hue is the current ATC Judge. As of April, 2016 the ATC has had 28 participants and 9 graduates. A total of 2,359 jail days have been saved and none of the graduates have re-offended.

Judge Koschnick chairs the Jefferson County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (“CJCC”), which provides administrative oversight to the ATC as well as bringing together community partners to strategize effective ways to address criminal justice and public safety issues. The CJCC’s current high priority is developing a community-wide response to the heroin epidemic, including providing both drug users and the general public with information about the ready availability of heroin/other drug treatment at the Jefferson County Human Services Department. The CJCC is also currently in the early planning stages of developing a heroin/other drug treatment court, including applying for grants.

The CJCC meets monthly and welcomes public input.

Conclusion

The Jefferson County Circuit Court system continues to be a leader statewide in delivering justice and effective public protection in a timely and cost-effective manner. All four judges appreciate the fact that we couldn’t do so without the support that we receive from the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors. We look forward to continuing our positive, cooperative working relationship with you as we work hard to maintain and enhance the high quality of life that we all enjoy in Jefferson County.