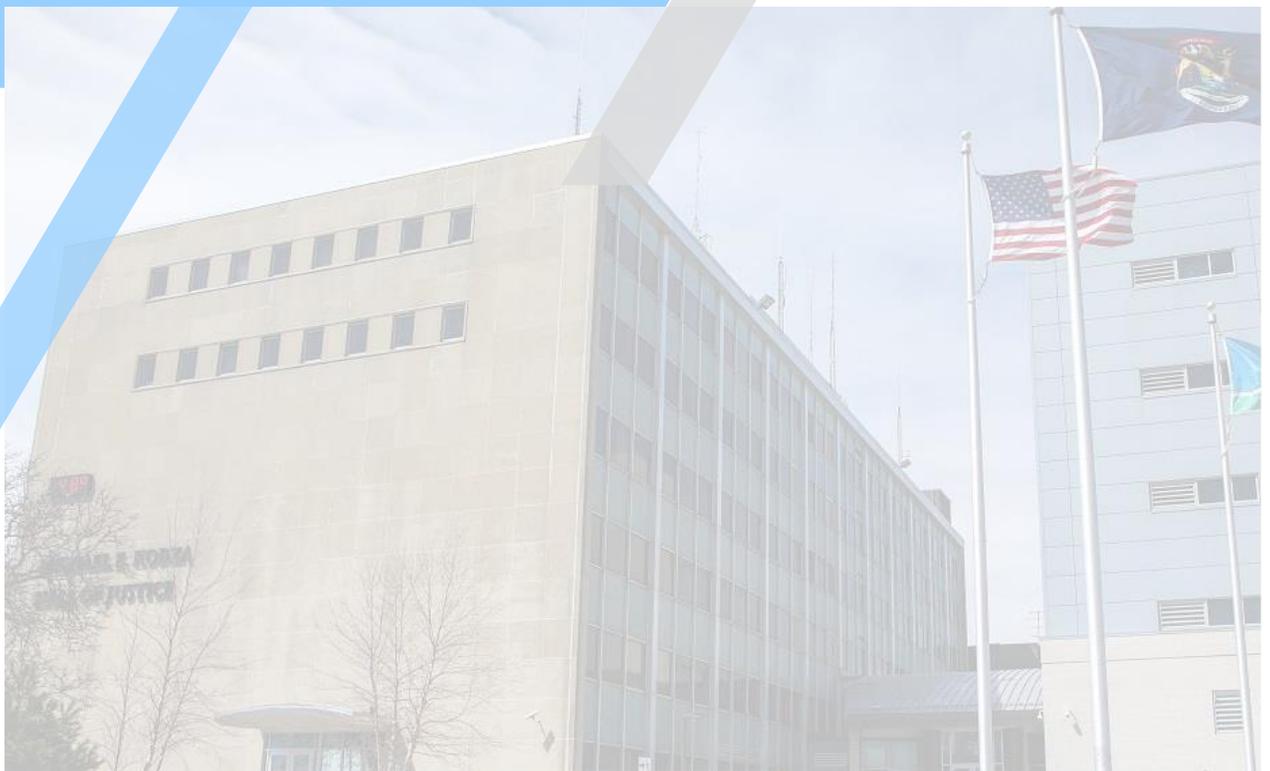


60th District Court

2023 Annual Report



60th District Court
990 Terrace St, Ste 100
Muskegon, MI 49442

Our Mission

The 60th District Court is committed to excellence in pursuit of the fair, efficient, and equal administration of justice. Our judges and staff are dedicated to serving our community and one another by diligently working to resolve disputes before the court in a manner that respects the individual parties and demonstrates our adherence to the rule of law, our obligation to protect the rights and liberties of our fellow citizens, and our fidelity to the principles of fairness and impartiality.



(from left to right)

Chief Judge Raymond Kostrzewa;
Chief Judge Pro Tempore Maria Ladas-
Hoopes; Judge Paula Baker Mathes;
and Judge Geoffrey Nolan.

The District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the following types of cases:

- Adult criminal misdemeanors punishable by up to one year's imprisonment
- Civil suits up to \$25,000
- Landlord tenant disputes
- Small claims up to \$7,000
- Land contract forfeitures
- Civil infractions

Our Court

The 60th District Court serves as the sole District Court in Muskegon County, occupying the 1st and 2nd floor of the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice in downtown Muskegon. The District Court clerks serve as a frontline position interacting with the public.

The District Court employs two full-time magistrates that are appointed by the Chief Judge. They are authorized to conduct informal hearings on traffic citations, conduct small claims hearings, arraignments, accept limited criminal pleas and issue warrants. Additionally, the magistrates are authorized to perform marriages. In 2023, the District Court performed 223 marriages. The magistrates, along with the District Court judges, provide on-call service to authorize after hours search and/or arrest warrants as needed.

In 2023, the 60th District Court processed 39,471 cases. This includes 2,927 felony cases, 11,727 misdemeanor cases, 12,088 civil cases, and 12,729 civil infractions.

The District Court handles every criminal case filed in Muskegon County. Misdemeanor cases are handled in their entirety in District Court. Of the felony cases charged in Muskegon County in 2023, 62% were resolved in the District Court.

Civil

The Civil Department handled a total of 12,088 cases. These include general civil cases, landlord tenant and small claims cases. The judges held 7 civil bench trials. In addition to providing court room support, the court clerks enter judgments for up to \$25,000, process garnishment paperwork, and eviction orders.

Criminal

All criminal cases begin in the District Court. The first hearing in a criminal case is an arraignment. This is when a defendant is advised of their charges, the maximum penalties, their rights, and a plea is entered. At each arraignment, court clerks are present in the courtroom to keep record of what transpired. In addition to the court clerk, there is often a court recorder present to ensure there is an accurate record kept of the hearing.

In 2023, the District Court handled 23 criminal jury trials and 28 criminal bench trials.

In 2023, over 110,000 misdemeanor convictions from the 60th District Court were set aside due to legislation changes. Court staff continues to work on evaluating accurate compliance with these modifications.

Probation

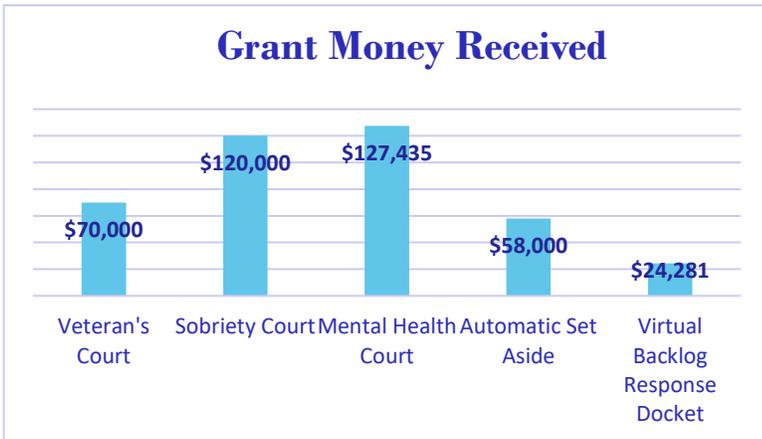
In 2023, 868 people were ordered to complete a term of probation. 999 probationers were discharged. The Probation Department facilitates three specialty courts: Mental Health Treatment Court, Sobriety Court, and Veteran's Treatment Court. These programs include regular court appearances, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, random drug/alcohol testing and community supervision.

In 2023, the 60th District Court saw 8 graduates of the Mental Health Treatment Court; 14 graduates from Sobriety Court; and 4 graduates from the Veteran's Treatment Court.

Graduates of adult drug court programs, on average, are more than 3 times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program.

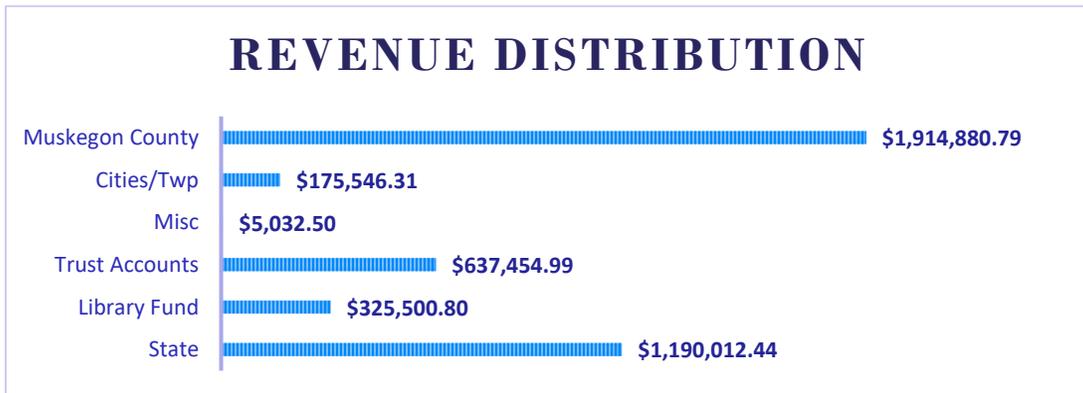
Sobriety court graduates who used an ignition device were nearly 5 times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission.

Collections



The District Court secured a total of **\$399,716** in grant money in 2023.

In 2023, the District Court collected **\$4,248,427.83**. This total was distributed to local and state entities pursuant to statute, and helped to provide funding for libraries, local law enforcement, victim services and more.



In 2023, the District Court began engaging with outside collection agencies to assist with the collection of older debt. There is approximately **5.3 million** in debt owed to the court.

Final Thoughts

The District Court saw a change of leadership with the hiring of two new administrators, Amanda Heys and Benjamin Ruby. As the court continues to grow, the staff are committed to the reorganization of the court, streamlining processes, and the implementation of electronic management software. It is our hope that this will better serve the people of Muskegon County.

Respectfully,

Amanda Heys

District Court Administrator