TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA ANNUAL REPORT 2020 & 2021





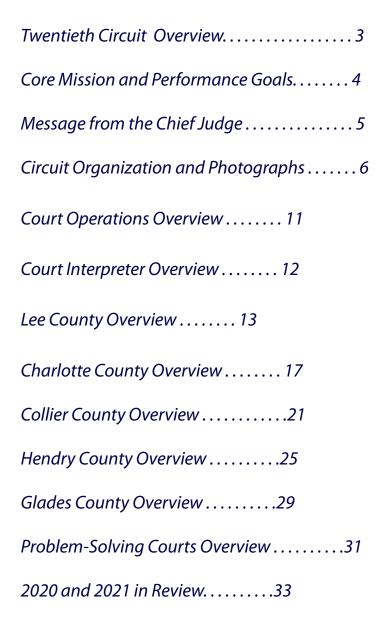


CIRCUIT COURT County Court Administrative office of the courts

SERVING FIVE COUNTIES IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA: CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Collier County, Glades County, Hendry County and Lee County

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The Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida includes five counties in Southwest Florida:

- LEE COUNTY
- CHARLOTTE COUNTY
- COLLIER COUNTY
- HENDRY COUNTY
- GLADES COUNTY

Our Mission

The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to provide the highest level of professional services with integrity, equality, and respect that supports the judiciary in their efforts to protect rights and liberties, ensure access to justice for all citizens, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes in a fair and timely manner.



20TH CIRCUIT COURT OVERVIEW

CIRCUIT COURT

Each county is served by the circuit court and the county court. The circuit court is the court of general jurisdiction and has responsibility for probate matters (wills), civil actions in which the disputed amount exceeds \$30,000, and felony criminal cases which includes cases punishable by more than one year in state prison. Circuit court also hears cases in equity such as domestic relations (divorce, child custody, and injunctions for protection), juvenile proceedings and petitions for writs. The circuit court hears appeals from county court. Circuit judges are either elected or appointed and serve six year terms. Circuit judges are assigned throughout the Circuit as needed to handle the caseloads in the respective counties.

COUNTY COURT

County court is a limited jurisdiction court which hears misdemeanors (criminal offenses punishable by up to one year in county jail), violations of county and municipal ordinances, traffic matters, civil actions in which the amount in dispute does not exceed \$30,000 and small claims disputes (small claims court hears civil disputes in which the amount in dispute is \$8,000 or less). County court also hears all landlord and tenant proceedings relating to the right of possession. County judges are elected or appointed to six year teams and serve within the county of their election. County judges can be authorized under certain circumstances to handle circuit court cases.







Our Vision

The Administrative Office of the Courts will provide professional, efficient, effective service to the Courts focusing on our core businesses:

Be fair, equitable, and conduct business with integrity. Uphold the principles of judicial independence and accountability. Be accessible, convenient, understandable and timely. Be effective. Be responsive and anticipate the needs of those we serve.

CORE MISSION AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

EXPEDITION AND TIMELINESS

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND WILL SEEK TO RESOLVE ALL CASES IN A TIMELY WAY CONSISTENT WITH STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND THE AFFORDABILITY OF JUSTICE IN ALL CASE TYPES.

INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT OF ITS PUBLIC RESOURCES AND WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO ENSURE INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES AND WILL PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, DIVERSION AND TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.

Message from the Chief Judge



THE Honorable Michael McHugh

On behalf of Florida's 20th Judicial Circuit, I am proud to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report. The information in this Report provides a look of some of our departments and programs in each of our five counties and a look at statistical data from one year to the other. Even though the pandemic years brought lockdowns, Florida's courts remained open. This Annual Report looks at the challenges we faced, how we overcame them, and what we can improve moving forward.

The pandemic caused a shift in what is normally a very slow process. However, communication from the Supreme Court was fast-moving. This included pivoting toward the use of technology. Considering the Courts are not a work-from-home organization everyone seemed to adapt to the temporary way of working while continuing to provide access to justice. We embraced the use of technology allowing hearings to be conducted via Zoom. Not only was Zoom essential for court proceedings, it also ensured everyone remained connected. Technology was also necessary to give the public access to courts. As trials resumed throughout the Circuit, live streaming was also made available for people to watch in real time.

Five new judges were welcomed to our Circuit in these two years. Circuit Judges Shannon McFee and Kyle Cohen took the bench in Collier County in 2020. In Lee County, Circuit Judge Gilberto Perez joined us as a dependency court judge. In 2021, Lee County Judge Nicole Mirra filled the seat created by the retirement of Judge James Adams. While, Lee County Judge Erik Leontiev was appointed by the Governor to fill a new Lee County Judicial vacancy. Since taking the bench, these judges have been an incredible asset to the judiciary. Each of them are highly qualified and have made an immediate positive impact on the dockets they have been assigned.

Outside of the courtroom, there are many accomplishments we made in our Circuit in spite of the pandemic. In October 2020, the Lee County Criminal Division was awarded their fifth accreditation before the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. They were the first agency to go through an accreditation via virtual means and are able to help shape future assessments. Hendry County held its first Drug Court graduation after re-implementing the program in 2018. At time of writing, we have 13 participants in the program. Also, our Collier County Drug Court was awarded as a national Mentor Court. This award, shared by only a handful of other jurisdictions in the country, will result in other drug court programs from around the United States coming to Collier County to observe and gain insight.

I'm proud of the accomplishments we have made and the changes we implemented in response to the pandemic. As a result, the way our Circuit operates has been forever changed. Please take a few moments to read over this report and learn more about the work we have done in 2020 and 2021.

Our strategic goals remain focused on improving our circuit's ability to meet our fundamental mission, most clearly outlined in the Florida Supreme Court's Long Range Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch for 2016-2021:

> To be accessible, the Florida justice system will be convenient, understandable, timely, and affordable to everyone.

To be fair, the Florida justice system will respect the dignity of every person, regardless of race, class, gender or other characteristic, apply the law appropriately to the circumstances of individual cases, and include judges and court staff who reflect the community's diversity.

To be effective, the Florida justice system will uphold the law and apply rules and procedures consistently and in a timely manner, resolve cases with finality, and provide enforceable decisions.

To be responsive, the Florida justice system will anticipate and respond to the needs of all members of society, and provide a variety of dispute resolution methods.

To be accountable, the Florida justice system will use public resources efficiently and in a way that the public can understand.

THE JUDICIARY Serving Charlotte County



SCOTT CUPP CIRCUIT JUDGE



MARY EVANS CIRCUIT JUDGE



GEOFFREY GENTILE CIRCUIT JUDGE



PETER B. BELL County Judge



PAUL ALESSANDRONI County Judge



John L. Burns County Judge



DONALD MASON CIRCUIT JUDGE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY Administrative Judge for Charlotte County

Joseph Foster Circuit Judgee Circuit Administrative Judge for Collier County

THE JUDICIARY Serving Collier County



LAUREN L. BRODIE CIRCUIT JUDGE



KYLE COHEN Circuit Judge



Shannon H. McFee Circuit Judge



HUGH D. HAYES Circuit Judge



John McGowan Circuit Judge



RAMIRO MANALICH Circuit Judge



ROB CROWN County Judge

County Administrative Judge for Collier County

ELIZABETH KRIER CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY Serving Collier County









BLAKE ADAMS County Judge MICHAEL BROWN County Judge JANEICE T. MARTIN COUNTY JUDGE

TAMARA LYNNE NICOLA COUNTY JUDGE

NOT PICTURED: COUNTY JUDGE MICHAEL J. PROVOST

THE JUDICIARY SERVING GLADES COUNTY

JACK LUNDY COUNTY JUDGE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR GLADES COUNTY





JAMES SLOAN CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING HENDRY COUNTY

James D. Sloan Circuit Judge Circuit and County Administrative Judge for Hendry County





DARRELL R. HILL County Judge

THE JUDICIARY Serving LEE COUNTY



TARA PALUCK County Judge County Administrative Judge for Lee County



J. FRANK PORTER CIRCUIT JUDGE CRIMINAL Administrative Judge for Lee County



Alane Laboda Circuit Judge CIVIL Administrative Judge for Lee County



JOHN S. CARLIN CIRCUIT JUDGE FAMILY Administrative Judge for Lee County



MICHAEL T. MCHUGH CHIEF JUDGE

ELISABETH ADAMS CIRCUIT JUDGE

ROBERT BRANNING CIRCUIT JUDGE





AMY HAWTHORNE CIRCUIT JUDGE





LEIGH F. HAYES CIRCUIT JUDGE





CAROLYN SWIFT CIRCUIT JUDGE



KEITH R.KYLE Circuit Judge



GILBERTO PEREZ CIRCUIT JUDGE



LISA S. PORTER CIRCUIT JUDGE



LEE A. SCHREIBER CIRCUIT JUDGE



MARGARET STEINBECK CIRCUIT JUDGE





NICHOLAS THOMPSON CIRCUIT JUDGE

NOT PICTURED: CIRCUIT JUDGE JAMES SHENKO



Josephine Gagliardi County Judge



ARCHIE HAYWARD County Judge



DEVIN S. GEORGE COUNTY JUDGE



Erik Leontiev County Judge



ZACHARY M. GILL COUNTY JUDGE



NICOLE LYNN MIRRA County Judge

8



MARIA E. GONZALEZ COUNTY JUDGE



H. ANDREW SWETT COUNTY JUDGE









20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF** THE COURTS

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is organized based on functional responsibilities that are rooted in judicial administration and court operations areas. Although these responsibilities are carried out across the organization, certain roles and activities are department specific.

Court Administration Functions

- Caseflow Management
- Due Process Management
- Mediation/ADR Programs Diversion/Alternative Sanctions
- Programs
- Operations/Administration (Budget, HR, Technology, Court Facility Planning and Management)
- Pretrial Release
- Probation Services
- Public Guardian
- Court Security
- Staff Attorney Services



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Adjudication

The AOC's Three Core Businesses

- The 20th Judicial Circuit will fairly and timely resolve disputes brought before it
- Due Process Services The 20th Judicial Circuit will seek and secure adequate resources to support the needs to the court

Governance

The 20th Judicial Circuit will account for the prudent and efficient use of all allocated resources

20TH CIRCUIT COURT LOCATIONS OVERVIEW



Charlotte Justice Center

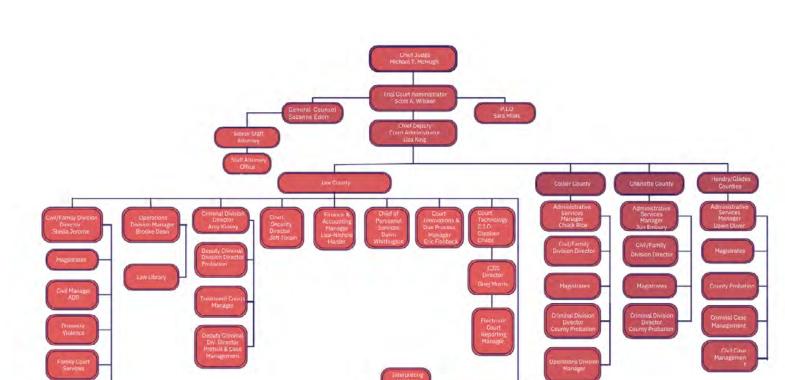
350 E. Marion Avenue Punta Gorda, FL 33950



Hendry Courthouse

25 E. Hickpochee Ave. LaBelle, FL 33935





Lee Justice Center

East Entrance 1700 Monroe Street Fort Myers, FL 33901 South Entrance 2075 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Fort Myers, FL 33901



Collier Government Complex

3315 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 34112



Glades Courthouse

Rt 27, 500 Avenue "J" Moore Haven, FL 33471

LEE COUNTY COURT OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Court Connect American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Webpage and phone line are actively used by the circuit to record ADA requests for assistance. With the everevolving challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to be mindful of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). We have strived to ensure all persons have access to the courts but providing ASL and CART services via Zoom and educating the staff and public on ADA issues during this time.



There were a total of 82 ADA Requests for Assistance in Lee County in 2020 & 2021.

Services Requested in Lee Co.	Total
C.A.R.T	8
HEARING DEVICE	5
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER	65
MAGNIFIER	0
LUMBAR CHAIR	4

Committed to Excellence

The Operations Division consists of Court Interpreter Services, Facilities Services, Senior Judge and Judicial Support Services, Judge Lynn Gerald Law Library, and Information Desks/ Volunteers devoted to the unified service of the Court.

Deposition Room Scheduling	Total
2020 - Law Library	8
2020 - 2nd Floor Annex	5
2021 - Law Library	0
2021 - 2nd Floor Annex	4

In addition to scheduling depositions for the Law Library conference room, The Operations Department has taken on scheduling of the newly renovated deposition rooms located on the 2nd floor of the Justice Center Annex.



In 2020, the old Jury Room in Lee County was transformed into the Mediation Department on the 2nd Floor of the Justice Center. No longer are our mediators and arbitrators located in a separate building. There are plenty of conference rooms, a new waiting room, and office spaces.





20TH CIRCUIT COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES

Mission Statement

We are a team of professionally trained, certified court interpreters, and support personnel. We work in conjunction with each other, to carry out our common mission which is enabling the faithful and accurate interpretation of court proceedings, and in so doing, to facilitate the mission of the judicial branch, by placing those who use our services on equal footing within the court with those that speak the English language.

Interpreting via Zoom

Following COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, at the end of March 2020, the Interpreting office started offering services via Zoom. Staff interpreters received in-house training in addition to participating in online webinars in order to learn how to use the system. Some of the contractors participated in distance training provided by the office so that they could provide interpreting services via Zoom. A couple of trials were done in the simultaneous mode in Lee County and some hearings are were also held via Zoom in Collier. Domestic violence injunctions were held in person due to the nature of the proceedings. Some trials were scheduled in Lee County and staff interpreters and contractors have been providing these services in person.



Circuit Wide Court Interpreter Services

Type of Proceeding	2019	2020	2021
Spanish	13893	9380	14124
Creole	772	431	756
Other Languages	371	349	482
American Sign Language	58	73	78

Circuit Criminal, County Criminal, Family Court - Dependency/CINS/FINS, Family Court - Delinquency, Baker/Marchman/ Guardianship, Domestic Violence Injunctions, GM/CSEHO for Family Court - All Other Title IV-D, and Other Case Types



New Office Location

On December 2021, the Interpreter Services Department moved the 6th floor of the Lee County Justice Center. Another video remote interpreting system has been added to provide remote services to Hendry and Glades County. A Library room was set up to provide a space where interpreters can work as teams to get ready for trials and other court sessions. They also have a new reception area and a room for contractors who cover some of our courtroom assignments.







LEE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION OVERVIEW

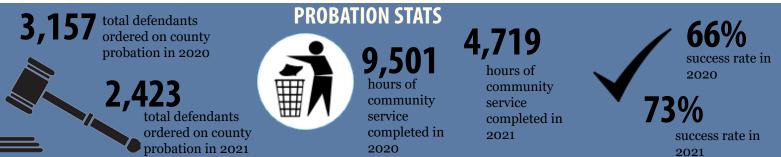
Overview and Organization

The Lee County Criminal Division, including the Pretrial Services and County Probation Departments, provides case management support to the thirteen judges in the criminal division. Both departments have unique objectives but work together collaboratively under the direction of the Trial Court Administrator and the Criminal Division Director.

AWARTAN SE THE POINT AND

County Probation

The Lee County Probation Department was established in 1975. The mission is to promote public safety by enforcing court orders, supervising probationers and motivating positive behavioral change. The vision is to be a leader by enhancing working relationships with our criminal justice partners and utilizing evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise, educate and redirect probationers to reduce recidivism. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.



Pretrial Services

The Lee County Pretrial Services Department was established in 1988. It is comprised of Intake and Investigation, Case Supervision and Case Management. The mission is to provide comprehensive case management services to the courts, from case inception through case closure, via professional staff committed to the highest standards of excellence. The vision is to be a leader within the court system by developing an empowered workforce that embodies integrity, excellence, and accountability delivering the highest quality of services. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.

2,423

defendants placed on pretrial supervision in 2020



defendants placed on pretrial supervision in 2021

PRETRIAL SERVICES NUMBERS

days was the average length of supervision in 2020

days was the average length of supervision in 2021

94%



supervised defendants were not charged with

were not charged with new offense during pretrial stage in 2020.

In 2021, that number increased by one percentage point to



LEE COUNTY **OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS**, **DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES**



Case Management: Court Performance Outcome Measures

Time to Disposition - Time to disposition measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established time frames and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20th Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.25. The goal is to resolve 90% of expedited cases within 180 days from the arrest date, standard cases within 240 days and complex cases within 360 days. According to the Lee Clerk of Court's Odyssey System, Lee County met 88% of expedited cases, 93% of standard cases and 88% of complex cases for time goals in FY 2019-20.

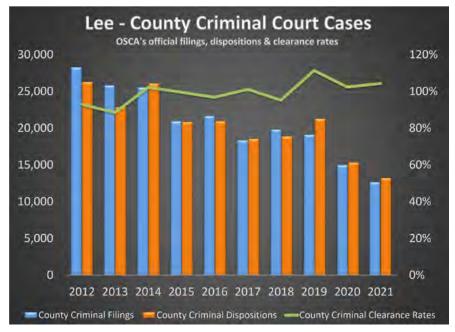
In FY 2020-21, Lee County met 88% of expedited cases, 82% of standard cases and 88% of complex cases for time goals. Due to the pandemic and Supreme Court Orders, trials and in person hearings were limited.

Circuit Criminal Cases



(This includes Capital Murder, Violent Crimes, Against Persons, Against Property, and Drug Crimes)





Alternative Dispute Resolution

LEE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION OVERVIEW

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been utilized by the Florida Court System to resolve disputes for over 25 years. It is comprised of Arbitration, Citizens Dispute Settlement, and Mediation. Arbitration is a dispute resolution process whereby a neutral third person or panel, called an arbitrator or arbitration panel, considers the facts and arguments presented by the parties and renders a decision, which may be binding or nonbinding. When people are not able to solve their own problems, the Citizen Dispute Settlement (CDS) Program offers a viable alternative to resolving the issue prior to filing a court action. Mediation is a way to settle disputes and law suits prior to or after the filing of a law suit which may avoid the need for a trial.



We honor our circuit's volunteers every year at the Annual Appreciation Dinner, thanking them for their many years of service - from 5 years to 15. Our last dinner was in March 2020. Pictured are Chief Judge McHugh and Judge Paluck with a longtime volunteer.



Teen Court and Juvenile Arbitration

Juvenile Arbitration is a program where juveniles who have committed certain relatively minor offenses can be dealt with in a speedy and informal manner without having to appear before a Judge in Juvenile Court. The Programs attempt to reduce the ever-increasing problems associated with juvenile crime by allowing the Courts to deal with crimes of a more serious nature.

Teen Court differs from Juvenile Arbitration in that the cases are heard in a Courtroom by a Jury of their Peers. Teen Court Cases are presented by Teen Court members who assume the roles of Defense Attorney, Prosecution Attorney and Clerk of Courts. A practicing Attorney serves as Judge to insure all legal proceedings are valid and in accordance with legal procedures. One specific sanction of Teen Court is that all defendants must serve as part of the Jury to better understand the law and to understand that there are consequences and implications to their actions. Other sanctions may include but are not limited to: workbooks, apology letters, or Community Service.

Civil Case Management

The Civil Case Management Program monitors all circuit civil cases with the exception of family matters. These are cases with damages in excess of \$30,000 filed by a business, individual, or other organization. Some examples of case types that fall under the circuit civil category of cases are residential foreclosures, contract disputes, malpractice matters, tort actions, and products liability.



2021 Guardianship Hearings

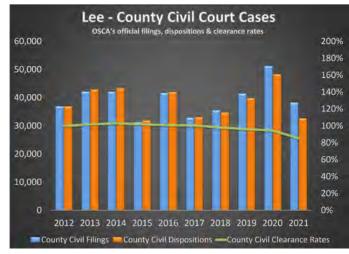
79 referrals72 hearings held and disposed

2021 Baker Act Hearings

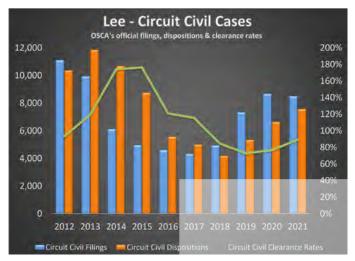
1,193 referrals 532 hearings held 661 withdrawn or

withdrawn or cancelled by facility

LEE COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CIVIL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES



2,482 petitions for Domestic Violence filed in 2021 (DV, DV w/Kids, Repeat, Sexual Dating, and Stalking)



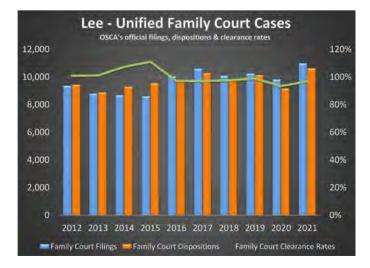
The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 77% through June 30, 2020 and 89% through June 30, 2021.



(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.) The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 94% through June 30, 2020 and 85% through June 30, 2021.

(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Total County Civil Filings: 51,218 38,233 through 06/30/2020 Total County Civil Dispositions: 48,320 through 06/30/2020 32,627 through 06/30/2021



Total number of hearings/trials referred to a Family Magistrate

4% increase from 2020

Total number of hearings/trials held by a Family Magistrate

1,381 9% increase from 2020

CHARLOTTE COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION OVERVIEW

Committed To Excellence

The Charlotte County Criminal Division consists of 16 employees devoted to the unified service of the Court as it pertains to enforcing the Court's orders while delivering fair and consistent treatment to defendants and a noticeable and positive contribution to the Charlotte County area.

Pretrial Services

The Pretrial Services Department is comprised of an Intake and Investigation Unit which works at the Charlotte County Jail, a Criminal Circuit Case Management Unit, a Diversion Unit, a Court Presenter/Pretrial Release Unit, a Specialty Court Coordinator and a Secretary. Each unit has specific core functions and work collaboratively to support the department's mission.



Pretrial Services' Mission

The mission of the Charlotte County Pretrial Services Department is to provide quality and timely information to the criminal courts, which will support the judicial decision to release or detain at the earliest feasible opportunity. Our efforts are intended to promote equitable treatment of the accused, to provide protection to the community, to assist in the fair administration of justice, to comply with Florida statutes, rules and regulations, and to reduce in-custody costs.

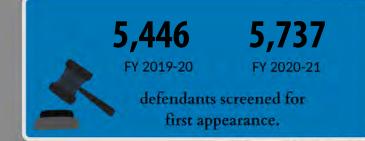
97%

FY 2020-21

of defendants did not commit a new

law violation while on supervision

PRETRIAL SERVICES NUMBERS



County Probation

The Charlotte County Probation Department is comprised of Probation Officers and Clerical Support Staff. The Probation Officers are encouraged to follow a rehabilitative supervision model while monitoring their assigned cases. The Clerical Staff plays a pivotal role in the department's ongoing progression. This process begins at intake; as the defendant enters the department for the first time. The tone is set at this juncture through an exchange of information that culminates in the preparation of the probation file. The information contained therein is constantly updated by the Probation Officer as the defendant completes their Court-ordered conditions.

Probation's Mission

95%

FY 2019-20

The mission of the Charlotte County Probation Department is to enforce the orders of the Court in supervising defendants placed on probation as part of their case adjudication. The overall goal of the department is to assist probation clients in complying with conditions set by the Court to achieve a successful probation outcome.

1,134 1,022 FY 2019-20 FY 2020-21 total number of new probation cases

PROBATION STATS







defendants completed probation succesfully

CHARLOTTE COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES

2020 & 2021 Statistics

2,615 Criminal Felony Cases filed in Charlotte County in 2020

> **2,431** Criminal Felony Cases filed in Charlotte County in 2021

55%

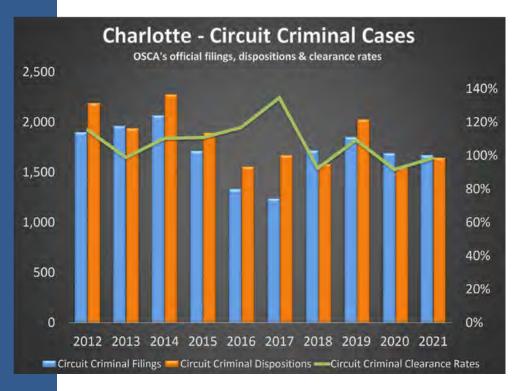
Continuance rate for cases at case management conferences in 2020

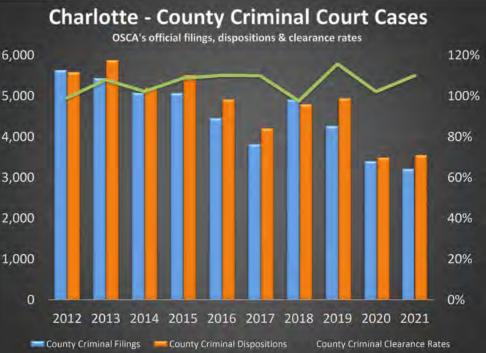
64% Continuance rate for cases

at case management conferences in 2021

47% Continuance rate for cases at pretrial conferences in 2019

Continuance rate for cases at pretrial conferences in 2019





The Charlotte County Civil/Family division consists of the Civil Division Director, 11 Full time employees dedicated to assisting the Judiciary with moving cases through the system within the time periods set through unified courts.

Total Court Ordered Mediations





Small Claims mediations were halted temporarily in 2020 due to Covid-19 but returned virtually.

Family Case Management

CHARLOTTE COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION OVERVIEW

Alternative Dispute Resolution & Court Mediation Programs

Located in the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Court Mediation Program coordinates the Citizens Dispute Settlement Program and Court Ordered Mediation services to associated litigants utilizing Certified Volunteer and Professional Mediators. Professional mediators have signed a Vendor Contract with the State of Florida and are paid at the State mandated determined rate. Although not all cases can be completely resolved through mediation, the benefit of mediation before a trial is that many of the issues HAVE BEEN resolved, cutting down on Court's time needed to determine the outcome of the unresolved issues.

Court Mediation Programs:

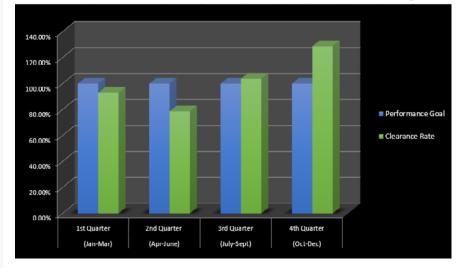
Citizens Dispute Settlement Program Small Claims Mediation Family Mediation Program Circuit and County Court Mediation

In Charlotte County, the Family Law Case Management Team provides both Self-Help services and case management for the court. The role of the case manager is to ensure that cases move quickly and efficiently to a final disposition while providing pro se litigants with the resources they need to proceed in their cases. The case managers work closely with the Family Division Judge and Magistrate.

Family Case Management 2021 Clearance Report

In 2020, 742 Family Law cases identified in the Charlotte County Civil/Family Case Management Database were opened and 738 cases in the same year were disposed. This generated a clearance rate of 99% of the cases that were managed by the Family Law Case Managers in 2020 assigned to Judge Mary Evans.

In 2021, 700 Family Law cases identified in the Charlotte County Civil/Family Case Management Database were opened and 684 cases in the same year were disposed.

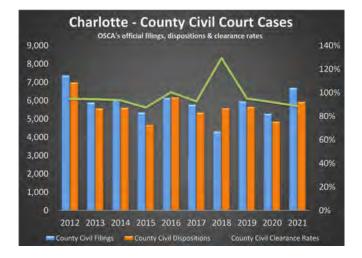


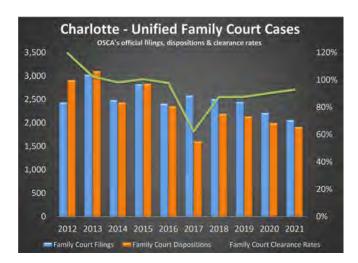
CHARLOTTE COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CIVIL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES

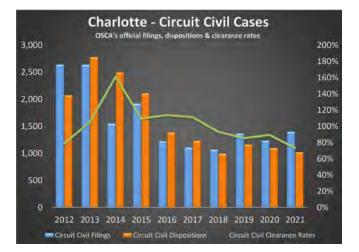
The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 89% through June 30, 2020 and 73% through June 30, 2021.



(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)







The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 92% through June 30, 2020 and 89% through June 30, 2021.

(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)



In 2021, there were 654 Domestic Violence Petitions filed, this is an increase from 625 filed in 2020. The increases were with Domestic Violence with children, Sexual, Dating and Repeat but a decrease in Domestic Violence without children. This year 2020 had a slight increase in filings due mostly to on-going pandemic. Due to the Family Judge reviewing all petitions, those not granted a temporary injunction, are usually set for a hearing.

COLLIER COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION OVERVIEW

County Probation

The mission of the Collier County Probation Department is protecting the community by intervening in the lives of the offenders, holding them accountable and serving as a catalyst for positive change. Believing in the inherent dignity of all human beings, we respect one another, our correctional clients, others whom we serve and the public. We act in collaboration with the community and other justice partners. We provide services to the courts, give victims a voice in the justice system and help strengthen families.



1,098 people were on probation in 2020

1,853 people were on probation in 2021

INCREASE ON CASES ORDERED INTO SUPERVISION

OVERALL DEPARTMENTAL GROWTH CAN BE MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES ASSIGNED.

Deferred Prosecution

The Probation Department serves as Administrator for the State Attorney's Deferred Prosecution Program; otherwise known as Diversion. The program is generally made available to first time offenders and, in most cases, takes three months for the participant to complete. When the participant completes the program successfully, the State Attorney's Office does not file the original charge with the Clerk of Court. Should the participant fail to complete their requirements; the case is brought before the Court and a Judge determines the outcome.

davs).

The deferred

5% compliance rate in 2020 77% compliance rate in

Felony Case Management

During the 2021 calendar year, a review of track goal compliance for closed cases within the division revealed...

Expedited

cases resolved within the 180 day time goal compared to 281 in 2020

Standard

Differentiated Case Management (DCM) was instituted in Collier County on July 1, 2014 to address the backlog of felony criminal cases by encouraging

meaningful court dates for all cases and goal date compliance as determined through the DCM system. Cases are split into three tracks based on projected

disposition date. Complex (360 days), Expedited (180 days) or Standard (240

resolved within the 240 day time goal compared to 780 in 2020

Complex

cases resolved within the 360 day time goal which is the same as in 2020

prosecution program averaged

IN 2020...

IN 202

cases were terminated



1,451 cases were terminated

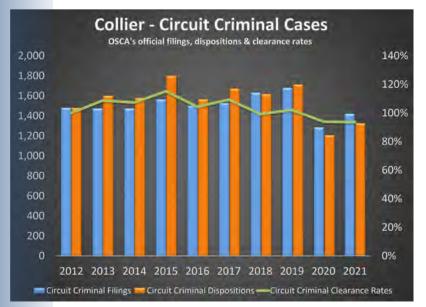
0%

of defendants

completed their conditions

of defendants completed their conditions

COLLIER COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES



A review of the Felony Criminal Division pending cases as of December 31, 2021, reflects a total number of 1148 pending cases. The age of case breakdown is as follows: 560 (49%) cases have been pending for less than 180 days, 281 (24%) cases have been pending between 181-365 days, 307 (27%) cases have been pending over 365 days.

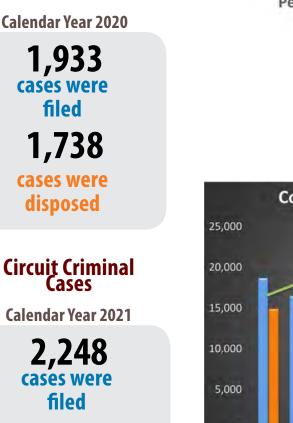
Collectively a total of 2,248 cases were filed and 2,236 cases were disposed in the Circuit Criminal Division during the CY 2021, for a combined clearance rate of 99.46%

For the year, Felony tried 24 cases and misdemeanor division tried 22 cases.



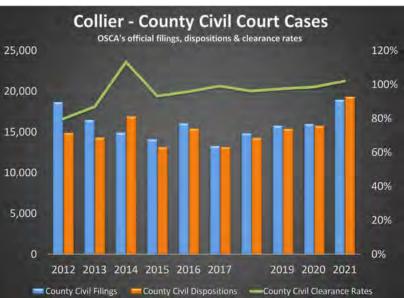
2,236

cases were disposed



Pending Divisional Cases as of 12-31-21





COLLIER COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION OVERVIEW

Unifed Family Court

Unified Family Court includes Domestic Relations, Family Law Cases, Names Changes, Adoptions, Domestic Violence Cases, Dependency Cases and Delinquency Cases.

One Family, One Judge

530 2021 JUDICIAL CASE 2,617 2021 FAMILY CASE FILINGS CONFERENCES

This is an 8% increase in filings from 2020

Court Mediation Programs

3,600

cases referred to mediation in 2021, which is an increase of 46% from the previous year.

53%

of the mediations facilitated reached settlement in 2021, which is a slight increase from 2020.

1,031

192 Family mediations were held in 2021.

Small Claims mediations were facilitated resulting in a



Overview and Organization

The Civil and Family Division recently added of the new position of Program Coordinator. This position will oversee the Unified Family Division ("UFC") along with bringing all of the Problem-Solving Courts (which now include Early Childhood Court "ECC") and Teen Court, under the umbrella of the Civil/Family Division overseen by the Division Director. In addition, the Civil/ Family Division assumed the responsibility of the Domestic Violence Court as of January 1, 2021. The caseload the division supports mostly is three Civil Circuit Judges and three Unified Family Circuit Judges. In addition, the Magistrates cover throughout the year, ALL Baker Acts and Marchman Acts which fall under the responsibility of the Duty Judge.

Court Mediation Programs:

Small Claims Mediation Family Mediation Program Dependency Mediation County Civil Mediation

The Court mediation program in Collier County continues to provide effective alternative dispute resolution to Collier County residents with one full-time Mediation Coordinator. The program empowers parties to seek resolution of their disputes without judicial intervention. Cases are referred to the Court-program by the Judiciary or by agreement of the parties to participate in mediation.

Civil Case Management

Circuit Civil cases are filed for amounts in excess of \$30,000. The Standing Order filed in all Circuit Civil Cases require the parties to file an agreed case management plan which outlines deadlines of the case and trial readiness dates. Most civil cases are on an 18 month "standard" track. The Case Managers review all the new filings on a monthly basis to ensure an Agreed Case Management Plan has been filed, if not it will be set for a Case Management Conference. Case Managers track timelines, review filings, conduct civil case management conferences as well as assist the judge in court and prepare court paperwork. The Court began utilizing Zoom video conferencing to manage the ongoing dockets. This was initially implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic. Zoom is a valuable tool getting all hearings held to get parties to trial readiness as well as a cost savings for the attorneys to travel to court.

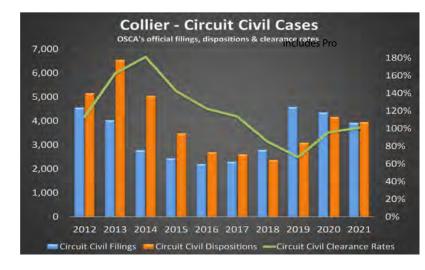
2,649 CMC's were scheduled in 2020.

2,579 CMC's were scheduled in 2021.

There was a **7%** increase in disposed cases prior to the settlement hearing in 2021 compared to

🛈 in 2020.

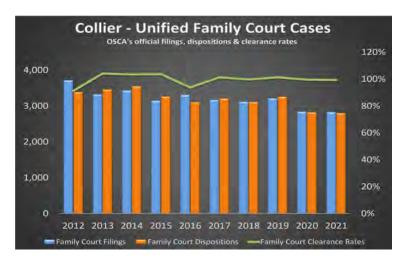
COLLIER COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CIVIL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES



The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 96% through June 30, 2020 and 101% through June 30, 2021.

	4,357 through 06/30/2020 3,923 through 06/30/2021
Total Circuit Civ	4,168 through 06/30/2020
Dispositions:	3,956 through 06/30/2021

⁽This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)



The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 99% through June 30, 2020 and 102% through June 30, 2021.

(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Total County	15,992 through 06/30/2020
Civil Filings:	18,942 through 06/30/2021
Total County Civi Disposition	15,754 through 06/30/2020 s: 19,325 through 06/30/2021

Total Judicial4Family Court Case5Management:5

Proceedings

2021

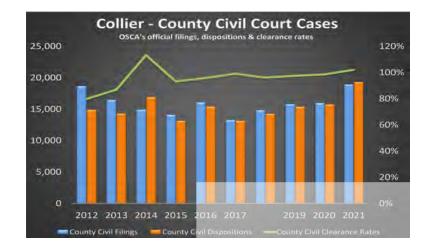
1,237

Dependency

2020

1,321





HENDRY COUNTY CRIMINAL DIVISION OVERVIEW

Felony Case Management

Hendry Circuit Criminal Court utilizes differentiated Case Management methods to monitor and track all felony cases. The Criminal Case Manager maintains detailed case notes regarding all on-going discovery issues and assists in identifying cases that could be deferred into early intervention programs. Felony cases are managed based on time goals differing depending on the case's complexity. The DCM Model of case management ensures early disposition in appropriate cases and allows for adequate time for trial preparation in the more complex cases.

Probation Department

cases.

In 2021, the average pending

Before the pandemic in January

2020, the average was 279 cases.

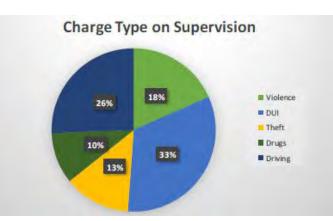
caseload for Circuit Felony

cases was 📶 🖓

The Hendry County Probation Department provides services to offenders adjudicated of misdemeanors who are court ordered to comply with conditions of probation. The Hendry County Probation Department has two locations, one office is in LaBelle and the other is in Clewiston. Due to the vast land area within Hendry County, probationers are supervised depending on where they reside. Currently, the office is comprised of two Probation Officers and a Secretary for support. One of the officers is designated as the team lead and oversees the day to day operations of the department. The Hendry County Probation Department has one Spanish-English bilingual officer.



In 2021, the average daily caseload including diversion and probation cases was approximately **174** offenders.



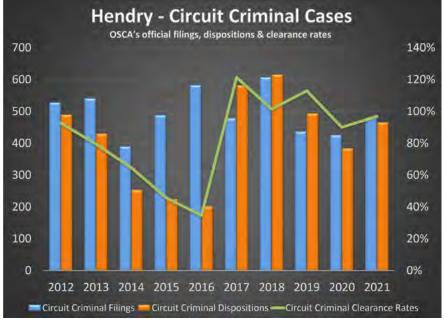
This graph describes the types of cases that were referred to probation in 2021.

Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion

Since January 2021, **244** defendants were referred to the diversion program, which was a **40.5%** increase from 2020.

The Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion Program is a voluntary deferred prosecution option that allows first time offenders charged with misdemeanors to complete conditions and if successfully completed, these cases are not prosecuted further. This cooperative effort between the State's Attorney's Office and Hendry County Probation helps to expedite cases through the judicial system while holding defendants accountable for their actions.

HENDRY COUNTY OVERVIEW OF CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES



The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Criminal cases was approximately 97% through June 30, 2021.

20
21
2020 /2021
)

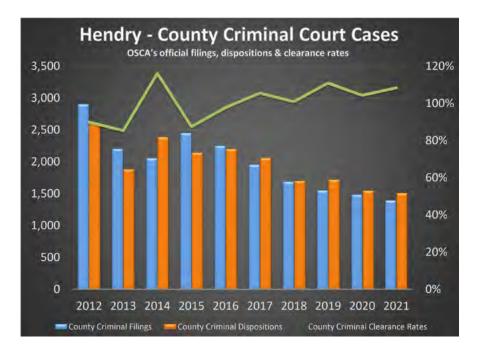
(This includes Capital Murder, Violent Crimes, Against Persons, Against Property, and Drug Crimes)

Circuit Criminal Cases

Circuit Criminal Cases



The Hendry County criminal case filings decreased again in 2021. A reduction of 8.9% was experienced in the Hendry Circuit Court felony caseload. However, the courts were able to bring a total of 651 felony cases to a disposition in 2021 creating a clearance rate of 102%. 397 felony cases were disposed of by plea and 8 cases were presented to a jury. Hendry County misdemeanor filings have experienced a significant decrease of 51% since 2019. In 2021, 669 misdemeanor cases were brought to disposition creating clearance rate of 165%. 770 misdemeanor and criminal traffic cases were disposed of by plea and 5 cases were presented to a jury. Newly filed criminal traffic infractions also experienced a decrease of 15% since 2019.



HENDRY COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Family Court Program Magistrates conducted **485** court hearings

and assisted in closing **181** newly filed cases in 2021.

increase since 2020.

Family Court Program

The Family Court Program assists the Hendry Circuit Court Judge by case managing and hearing family law cases utilizing a Magistrate. Currently the Family Court Program is case managing and active caseload of approximately 206 cases. This number does not include Department of Revenue Child Support Cases. The Family Law Magistrate is a contractor managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts and only hears cases 5 days a month at the Hendry County Courthouse.

ille down	214 Family Law cases were filed (not including child support cases) in 2021.
iere	2021.

Foreclosure Case Management

FORECLOSURE CASES WERE FILED IN 2020



The Hendry County Foreclosure Case Management Program diligently works to reduce the number of pending foreclosure cases. The program's main focus is on disposing cases 18 months and older. These cases are heard by a Senior Judge every other month.

Senior Judge time has been allocated to the Hendry County Court to manage the foreclosure caseloads, the dependency docket, as well as some felony hearings to control the jail population. These hours are also utilized to case manage civil cases pending over 10 months without activity.

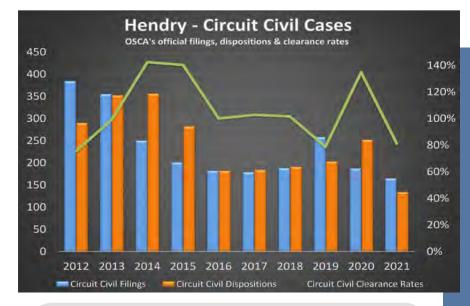
County Civil Mediation Program

In 2015, the Hendry County Court began offering a dispute resolution option for County Civil and Small Claims cases. The Mediation Program affords all parties the opportunity to reach an agreement without a trial. The Hendry Small Claims Mediation Program currently has three Florida Supreme Court Certified Volunteer County Court Mediators that assist in resolving disputes, free of charge. **446** SMALL CLAIMS CASES WERE FILED IN 2021, WHICH IS A 29% INCREASE SINCE 2020.

95 mediation was provided

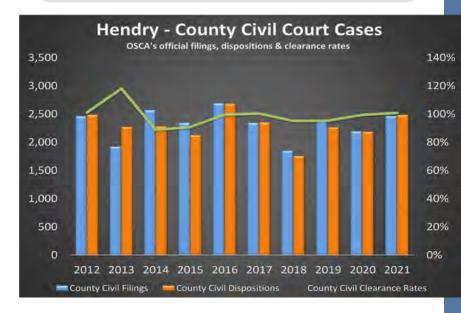
resolved prior to trial

HENDRY COUNTY **OVERVIEW OF CIVIL CASE FILINGS**, **DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES**



The Hendry County and Circuit Courts Civil Division processed over 1779 cases in 2021, which was an increase of 30% since 2020. In July of 2021, the Hendry County Courts Civil Divisions began case managing the active caseloads pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC20-23(Amendment 12), and Administrative Order 1.13 (as amended) entered by the Chief Judge of this Circuit. This new process is an innovative means to further improve the fair, predictable, efficient, and timely disposition of civil cases.

The largest Circuit Civil caseload is the Family Law caseload. This caseload makes up an estimated 27% of all civil cases.



2020 & 2021 statistics

Circuit Civil cases filed 187 through June 2020 in Hendry County Circuit Civil cases filed through June 2021 in Hendry County

Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts

134

Circuit Civil cases disposed of through June 2021 in Hendry County, while in 2020 there were **252** cases disposed in Circuit Civil.

clearance rate though June 2020 in Hendry

County Civil case County

County Civil case County Civil case clearance rate though June 2021 in Hendry County

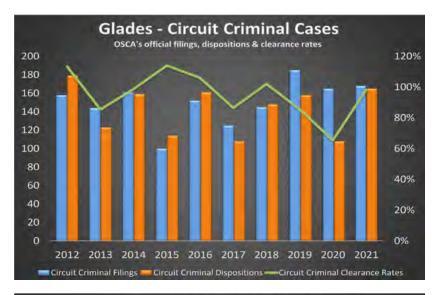
> (This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infrac-

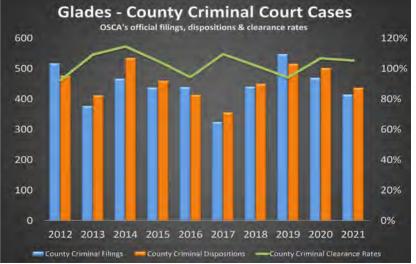
GLADES COUNTY CRIMINAL OVERVIEW

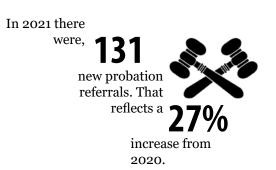
Probation Department

The Glades County Probation Department provides services to offenders adjudicated of misdemeanors who are ordered to comply with conditions of probation. The Glades County Probation Department also provides supervision for defendants ordered to comply with pretrial diversion, a deferred prosecution option offered by the court. The Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion Program is a voluntary deferred prosecution option that allows first time offenders charged with misdemeanors to complete conditions and if successfully completed, these cases are not prosecuted further. This cooperative effort between the State's Attorney's Office and the Glades County Probation Department helps to expedite cases through the judicial system while holding defendants accountable for their actions.

CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES







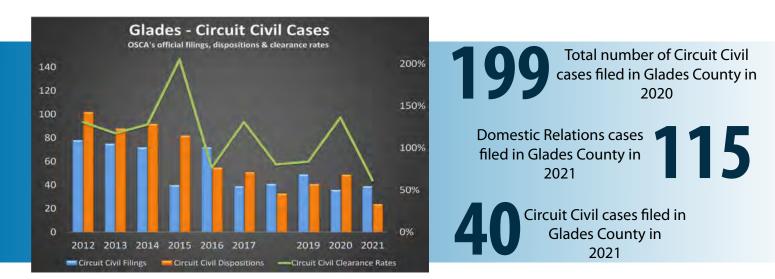


In April of 2021, the Glades County Circuit Criminal Court was able to conduct a capital murder case which took four weeks to resolve while adhering to the pandemic health and safety guidelines. Judge Sloan presided over the case.





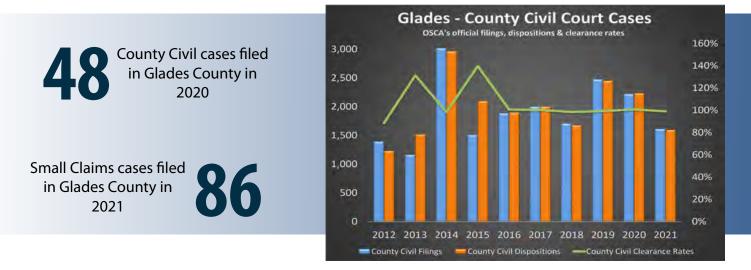
GLADES COUNTY CIVIL CASE FILINGS, DISPOSITION & CLEARANCE RATES



Glades County Circuit Civil filings experienced a 12% increase from 2020. The total number of Circuit Civil filings for 2021 were 227 cases. The filings for family law cases experienced a 10% increase from 2020, which includes child support, dissolutions, and paternity cases. Dispositions were reached in 25 circuit civil cases creating clearance rate of 63%.

The Glades County Court Civil filings have experienced a 28% increase from 2020. Small Claims had an increase of 52% increase since 2019. County Civil resolved 77 cases with a 117% clearance rate.

In July of 2021, the Glades County Courts Civil Divisions began case managing the active caseloads pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC20-23(Amendment 12), and Administrative Order 1.13 (as amended) entered by the Chief Judge of this Circuit. This new process is an innovative means to further improve the fair, predictable, efficient, and timely disposition of civil cases.



PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS DRUG COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT, VETERANS COURT

Problem-solving courts address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a nonadversarial approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby improving public safety, reducing recidivism, restoring lives, and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

> safety rate for the Charlotte County Adult Drug Court Program for FY 2020-21. Up from 89% in FY 19-20.

Safety rate= percentage of defendants who do not commit a new law violation while on supervision

89% Charlotte County Mental Health Court Fiscal Year 2019-20.

completion rate for

completion rate for 79% Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Average overall number of days in the program for 2019 to 2021 is 257

participants successfully

participants successfully graduated from the **Collier County Drug** Court Program in 2021. This represents a **67%** success

> 73% Success fate for County Adult Drug Court sucess rate for Charlotte Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Average overall number of days in the program 319

The Hendry County Drug Court had its first Drug Court Graduation on



with **TWO** graduates sucessfully completing the program.

2019-20.

The average number of participants in the program on average each month in FY 2020-21 was

In 2021,

participants were offered the opportunity to gain treatment through the Hendry County Felony Drug Court Program.

> graduated from the **Collier County Drug** Court Program in 2021.

This represents a **82%** compliance.

In Lee County... There were **S** graduates from the Veterans **Treatment Court in 2020-21 with** no unsuccessful terminations resulting in a

success rate and increasing the overall average success rate since program inception (2015) to 78%



participants successfully graduated from the Collier County Veteran's Court Program in 2020.

The overall success rate for Lee County **Mental Health Court** since program inception in 2020 is

participants graduated from the Lee County Felony Drug Court Program in Fiscal year

2020 AND 2021 IN REVIEW

IN MEMORY OF...



On July 8, 2021, Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judge Daniel R. Monaco passed away. Judge Monaco received his BA from Russell Sage University and his JD from the University of Miami, School of Law. He graduated in 1967 and practiced law as a member of the firm of Monaco, Cardillo and Keith until his election to the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in 1996. He retired in 2008 when he turned 70 and then served as a Senior Judge. Based in Collier County, Judge Monaco presided over truancy court, juvenile court, omestic relations court, and was instrumental in the county's juvenile drug court, drug court, and mental health court . In 2008, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Italian American Bar Association. He was recognized in 2015 by the American Inns of Court of Collier County for exceptional service in the administration of Collier County's residential foreclosure docket.

On July 16, 2021, Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judge Ted Brousseau passed away. Judge Brousseau Jr. was born in 1944 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He graduated from Stetson University where he earned a major in economics and a minor in engineering. He also earned his law degree from Stetson University. Judge Brousseau won the election for Circuit Judge in 1978 and served on the bench for 27 years. Before his time on the bench, he served as President of the Collier County Bar Association and City Attorney for the city of Everglades. He also served as Faculty for Florida Judicial College and National Judicial College and fueled the creation of the Citizen's Foster Care Review Board mission. He was also a certified private pilot and was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is the most prestigious the FAA issues to certified pilots.





On January 4, 2022, Twentieth Judicial Circuit Judge Larry Martin passed away. Judge Martin was born in 1943 in Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from the University of Virginia and earned his law degree from the University of Florida, College of Law, aided by the U.S. Army, ROTC. He was appointed as a County Court Judge in 1998 and in 2003 was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge until his retirement in 2009. He had the distinct honor of swearing in his daughter, Judge Janeice Martin to the Collier County bench. During his time on the bench, President of the Board during a formative period for what is today the David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health, spent many years with the East Naples Civic Association and Naples Rotary (Sunset Club), and volunteered with Angel Flight to assist persons with transport for medical purposes.

JUDGES WHO RETIRED



Circuit Judge Christine Greider

2006-2020

Circuit Judge G. Keith Cary

1989-2020





Circuit Judge George Richards

2009-2020

Lee County Judge James Adams

1993-2021

JUDGES WHO JOINED THE BENCH

Circuit Judge Shannon McFee took the bench February 3, 2020.





Circuit Judge Kyle Cohen began his service on July 9, 2020.

Circuit Judge Gilberto Perez assumed office on October 5, 2020.





Lee County Judge Nicole Mirra was appointed to the court on July 12, 2021.

Lee County Judge Erik Leontiev took the bench October 8, 2021.











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STAY SAFE THANK YOU FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

6 PIES

CUIDESE

GRACIAS POR RESPECTAR EL DISTANCIAMIENTO FISICO





























2020-21 TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ANNUAL REPORT

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