

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Highlights and Goals

Court Administration

FY2012 Highlights

- Judges Kevin Costello and Joel Berg were sworn in as new associated judges granted by the Illinois Supreme Court due the population growth shown in the 2010 census for McHenry County.
- In December of 2011, the Twenty Second Circuit Court Drug Court program was successfully implemented after 2 years of planning. The program was developed in coordination with the National Drug Court Institute and targets “high risk, high needs” offenders who are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The program is a collaborative effort between the Twenty Second Judicial Circuit, McHenry County State's Attorney Office, McHenry County Public Defender's Office, McHenry County Department of Probation and Court Services, McHenry County Sheriff's Office and various treatment providers. The basis of the program is intensive probation, intensive treatment with frequent judicial oversight.
- The Twenty Second Judicial Circuit evaluated jury practices and made significant changes to when and the number of jurors that are summoned to appear for jury service. The court reviewed data which indicated the statistical probability that a jury trial would begin later in the week was greatly diminished. Therefore, the court no longer schedules jury trials on Wednesday, Thursday or Fridays.
- In January of 2012, the Twenty Second Judicial Circuit hosted a day long case management training seminar. The seminar facilitated by the National Center for State Courts brought together judges, prosecutors, state's attorney's, public defenders and private attorneys in an attempt to identify current practices and attempt to make changes that will positively influence how case before the court are managed.

FY2013 Goals

- Strengthen relationships between the other branches of government and departments within McHenry County.
- Establish new and innovative budget practices in order to reduce costs while increasing efficiencies in the court.
- Continue to review current judicial assignments and make necessary changes to meet the demands placed on the court.
- Evaluate changes to case management and ensure that the desired effects are achieved.
- Continue to develop the Twenty Second Judicial Circuit Continuity of Operations Plan and participate in a “table top” exercise with other collaborative departments and agencies in order to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of the plan.
- Establish a domestic violence treatment court.