

40 N. Main Street  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
Phone: (586) 469-5150  
www.macombgov.org

James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge  
16th Judicial Circuit Court,  
Macomb County Probate Court,  
42nd District Courts

News



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## *For Immediate Release*

Media Contact: Lisa Ellis    lisa.ellis@macombgov.org

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# **16th Judicial Circuit Court and 42-1 District Court Grant Awards and Planned OWI Sobriety Court**

The 16th Judicial Circuit Court has been awarded \$226,500 and the 42-1 District Court Romeo \$40,000 in State grant funding for the 2021 fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. These grants are awarded by the State Court Administrative Office and are used to fund the problem-solving court programs at the respective courts.

Currently, the courts have five specialty dockets fully operational. Circuit Court has two Adult Drug Court dockets with Judge Jennifer Faunce and Judge Joseph Toia, a Veterans' Treatment Court with Judge Michael Servitto, a Mental Health Court with Judge Carl Marlinga, and a Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation docket with Judge James Maceroni. The 42-1 District Court has a hybrid Drug/Sobriety Court with Judge Denis LeDuc.

In addition to these existing programs, the Circuit Court is now starting to plan a new OWI Sobriety Court program with Judge Julie Gatti. This program will provide therapy and structured supervision to repeat OWI offenders with alcohol dependence, allowing for treatment of the root cause of the behavior while maintaining public safety. It is anticipated that this program will begin in the summer of 2021.

“We are very pleased to receive these funds so we can continue to operate these programs, which are proven to reduce recidivism and improve not only the lives of the participants, but also the community” said Chief Judge James. Biernat Jr. “We are also thankful for our Judges that volunteer to handle these special dockets and the talented and hard working teams in each of these programs.”

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