February 10, 2012

Judge Rick Davis Garland County Judge

Judge Davis,

As a key component of the criminal justice system the District Court of Garland County works in coordination with law enforcement, prosecution, detention, and defense to ensure that justice is tempered with mercy. Albert Einstein stated the following in regards to justice: "in matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same." The District Court of Garland County seeks to follow Einstein's philosophy of justice by providing a prompt, courteous, accessible atmosphere that is dedicated to ensuring equal justice while promoting confidence within the judicial branch. This is demonstrated within the criminal, traffic, and civil/small claims divisions of our court as well as other services that we perform within our jurisdiction. The court seeks to provide the highest quality of competency and customer service in all levels of our agency.

The District Court began to implement several "Problem Solving Courts" in 2011. Judge David Switzer, Division I, and Judge Ralph Ohm, Division II, have in partnership with groups such as public safety, public health, and treatment providers, sought to bring together diverse groups of problem solvers in our community and address two of the root issues behind crime that is addiction/mental health. Specifically, under the innovative direction of both Judge Switzer and Judge Ohm they have created a series of Problem Solving Courts; D.W.I, Drug, Veterans, Mental Health, and Domestic Battery Court. Each of these Problem Solving Courts includes services from judicial, law enforcement, treatment, case management, and supervision. With these services justice and rehabilitation can be addressed concurrently. Accountability for ones conduct while addressing the underlying cause of the conduct will prevent a future breach of conduct. If you cure the disease you cure the symptom of the disease.

D.W.I. Courts attempt to restore participants to a clean and sober life while saving lives and reduce the occurrence of hardcore drunk driving. Drug Courts provide effective treatment, case management, and supervision of drug offenders. Veterans Courts are a hybrid of Drug and Mental Health Courts. They focus on former and current members of our Armed Forces. A significant number of veterans turn to substance abuse and or develop mental health problems, often related to their combat experience. This court will address the needs of justice involving Veterans of all service eras. Mental health courts have found that almost half of all addicted person in the justice system have a co-occurring mental illness, and over 70% of incarcerated mentally ill persons wrestle with addition. Domestic Violence Court addresses the co-occurrence in intimate partner violence along with addiction/mental health issues.

In regards to case filings in 2011 the District Court saw a 4% reduction in the number of cases that were heard. A total of 14,046 misdemeanor criminal cases were filed, an increase of 234 compared to 2010. Felony cases totaled 1,413, a decrease of 36 compared to the previous year. D.W.I cases, this includes

D.W.I. 1,2,3, Underage D.U.I, 1,2,3, and B.U.I, 1,2,3, totaled 930 in 2011 a decrease of 107. Traffic cases filed were 23,136 down approximately 1,860. Violation of city and county ordinances totaled 4,153 down 1,153 from 2010. Additionally, Game and Fish, Forestry, Civil/Small Claims, and the Ft. Lake Division of District Court totaled 3,041 down 1,060 cases. This comes to a total of 46,719 cases filed in 2011 down 1,934 cases compared to 2010. The Court also issued a total of 17,133 warrants in 2011. They included warrants for Failure to Appear, Failure to Pay, Contempt of Court, Failure to Answer Summons, and Failure to Comply with a Court Order. Additionally, the Garland County Courts Building had 107,697 people enter our facility and 20 prohibited items stopped from entering. Those items included knives, pliers, screwdrivers, .380 ammo, .22 ammo, a marijuana pipe, and one firearm.

For the total number of credits and monies collected in 2011 the District Court saw a 7.4% increase. Jail time credited totaled \$266,794.33, alternative service credit totaled \$328, 992.57, and miscellaneous credit totaled \$26,235.74, for a grand total of \$622,022.64 a 7.7% increase compared to 2010. Jail credit consisted of 6,669 days of incarceration and alternative service credit totaled 40,488 hours or 5,061 days of public service performed, the court also had a total of 55,188 hours or 6,898 days of community service completed in 2011. The Court collected a total of \$4,232,464.31 in fines/cost/assessment/fees/restitution, a total of \$103,427.50 in the Civil Division and \$31,285.01 in the Small Claim's Division. This totals to \$4,989,199.46 in monies collected and credits given.

For 2012 the District Court will continue to take an innovative and creative approach to the adjudication of cases, collection of fines/cost, and reducing the recidivism of criminal activity. The Court will continue to work in partnership with public safety, public health, and treatment providers to continue the operation of our "Problem Solving Courts"; we have found that because of this proactive approach in the judiciary we can reduce the recidivism of criminal behavior. The Court will also continue to utilize technology in the public safety sector. In 2009 under the vision of Judge David Switzer the Court began to use video arraignments in regards to persons detained in the Garland County Detention Center, we are also looking to create an environment where technology will change the landscape of the modern courtroom. Additionally, we will also continue to ensuring equal justice to all of those who appear in District Court.

Sincerely,

Judge David Switzer
District Court Judge Division I
Garland County District Court

Judge Ralph C. Ohm District Court Judge Division II Garland County District Court

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