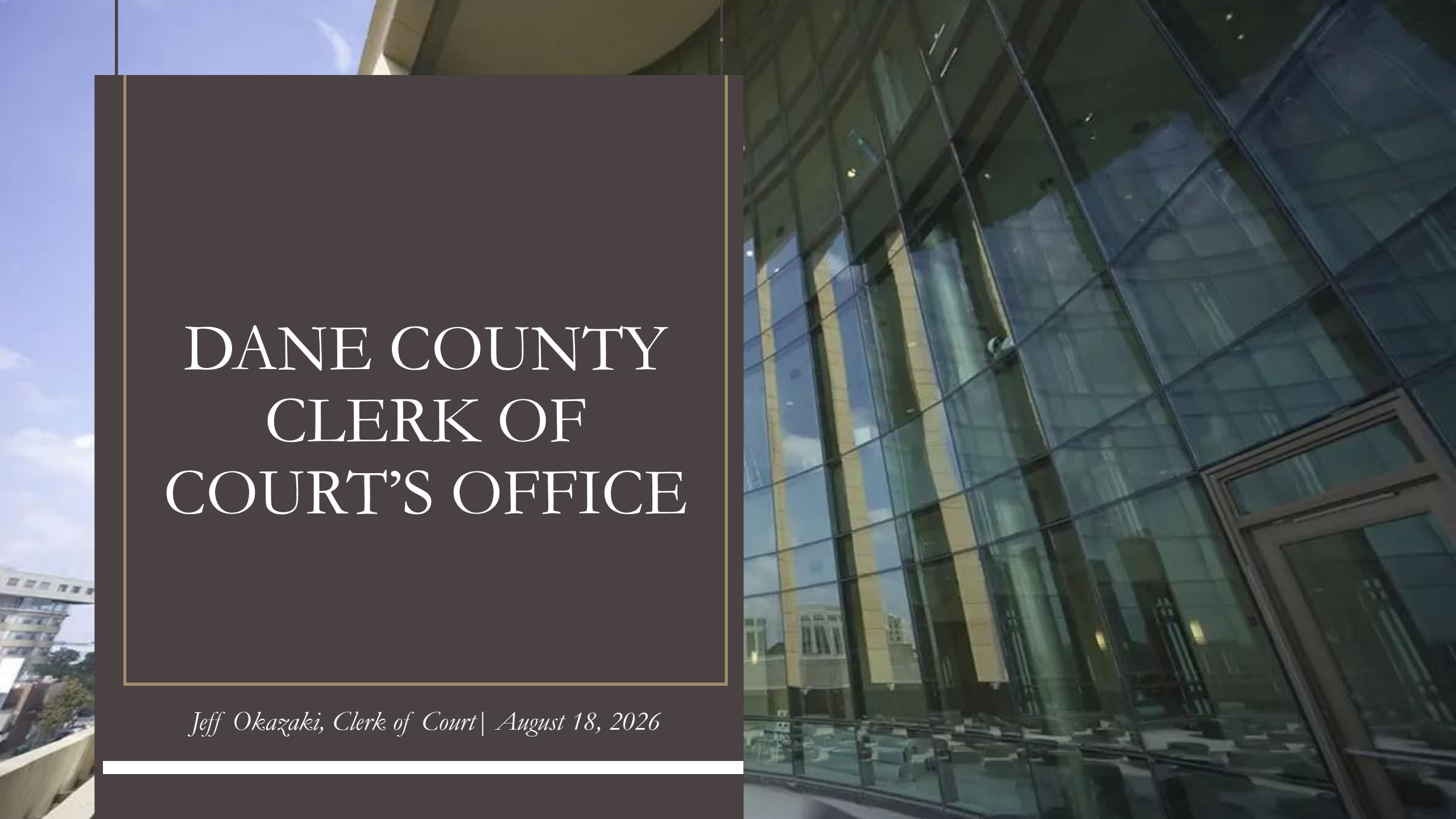




DANE COUNTY CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE

Jeff Okazaki, Clerk of Court | August 18, 2026



“Keep a criminal record and write in that record a history in every criminal action like the court record in civil actions and proceedings with references to the file where papers in the action can be found...”



CLERK OF COURT



Administer the
Courthouse



Manage Records



Oversee the
Jury System

CLERK OF COURT / REGISTER IN PROBATE



The background of the slide features several rolled-up historical documents, likely court dockets, resting on a shelf. The documents are made of aged, light-brown paper. One document at the top is clearly labeled 'DANE COUNTY COURT DOCKET' and shows the date range 'JAN 1880 TO JAN 1882' and 'VOL 2'. Another document below it is labeled 'DANE COUNTY COURT' and shows 'JAN 1882 TO JAN 1885' and 'VOL 3'. The rolls are secured with brass-colored metal bands.

BUDGET

Elected office and statutorily mandated costs make our department a little different.

- ◆ \$17.5 Million Department
- ◆ \$7.6 Million in Revenue
- ◆ \$29.8 Million Total Impact

FUNDING SOURCES



County
GPR Support
(58%)



State
Court Support
Program &
Reimbursement
(17.5%)



Federal
4D Program
Revenue
(9.0%)



Fees/Fines
Statutory &
Court Costs
(4.0%)

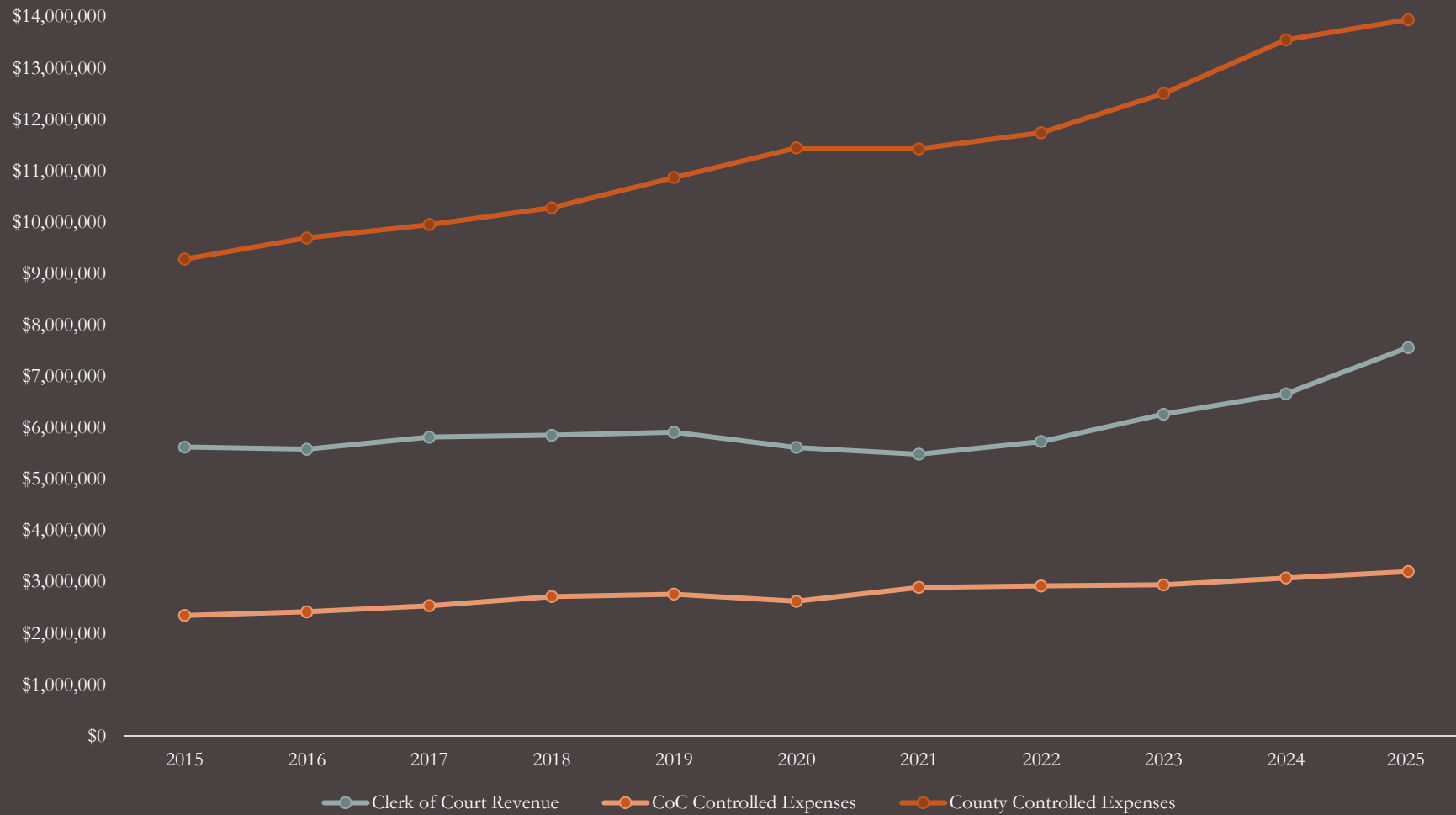


Collections
Ordered
Payment
Enforcement
(9.0%)



Client
GAL &
Counsel Fees
(2.5%)



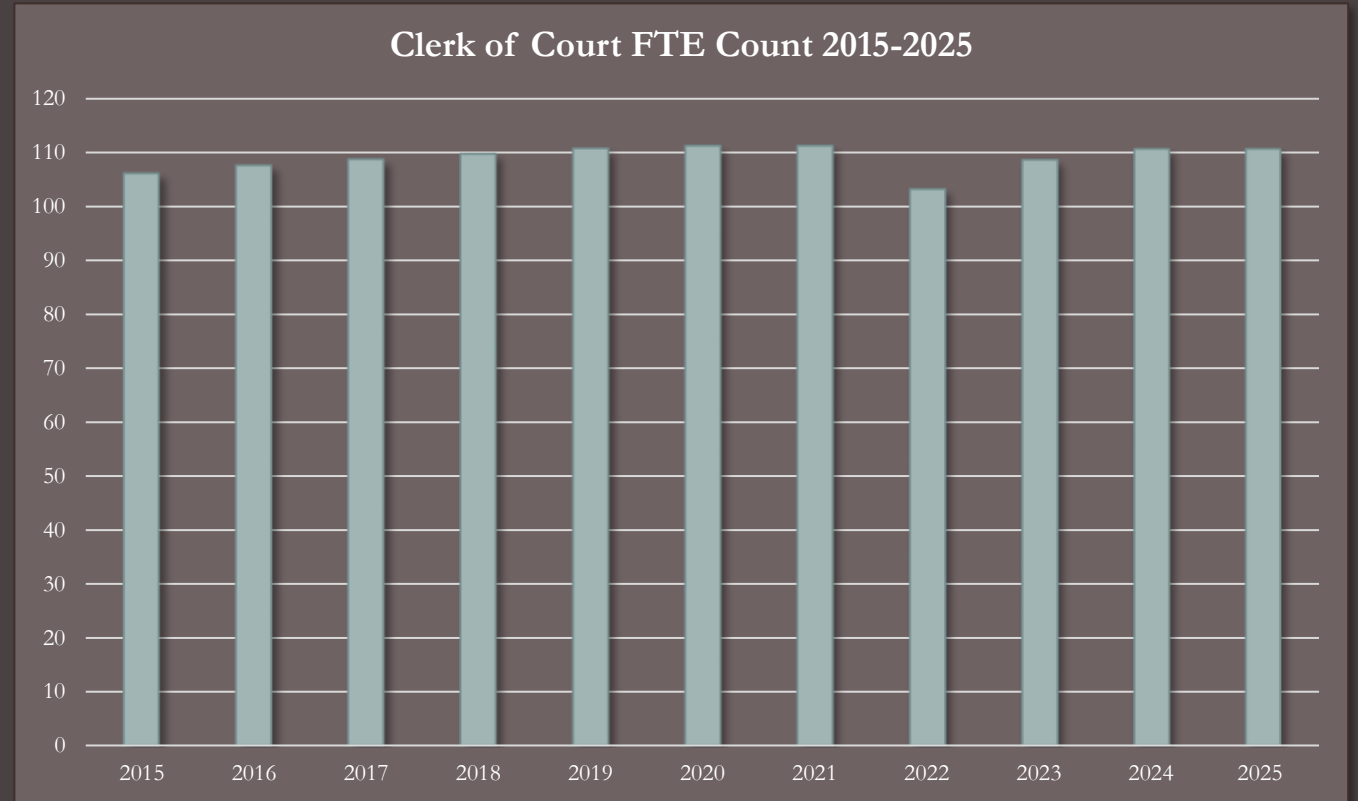


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

2015 – 2025 County Controlled Personnel
& Court Controlled Expenses vs.
Court Revenue

CLERK OF COURT POSITIONS

- 4.2% increase over 10 years.
- 2022 – PTS spun off as a new department
- 2023 – Converted LTE Law Clerks to FTE

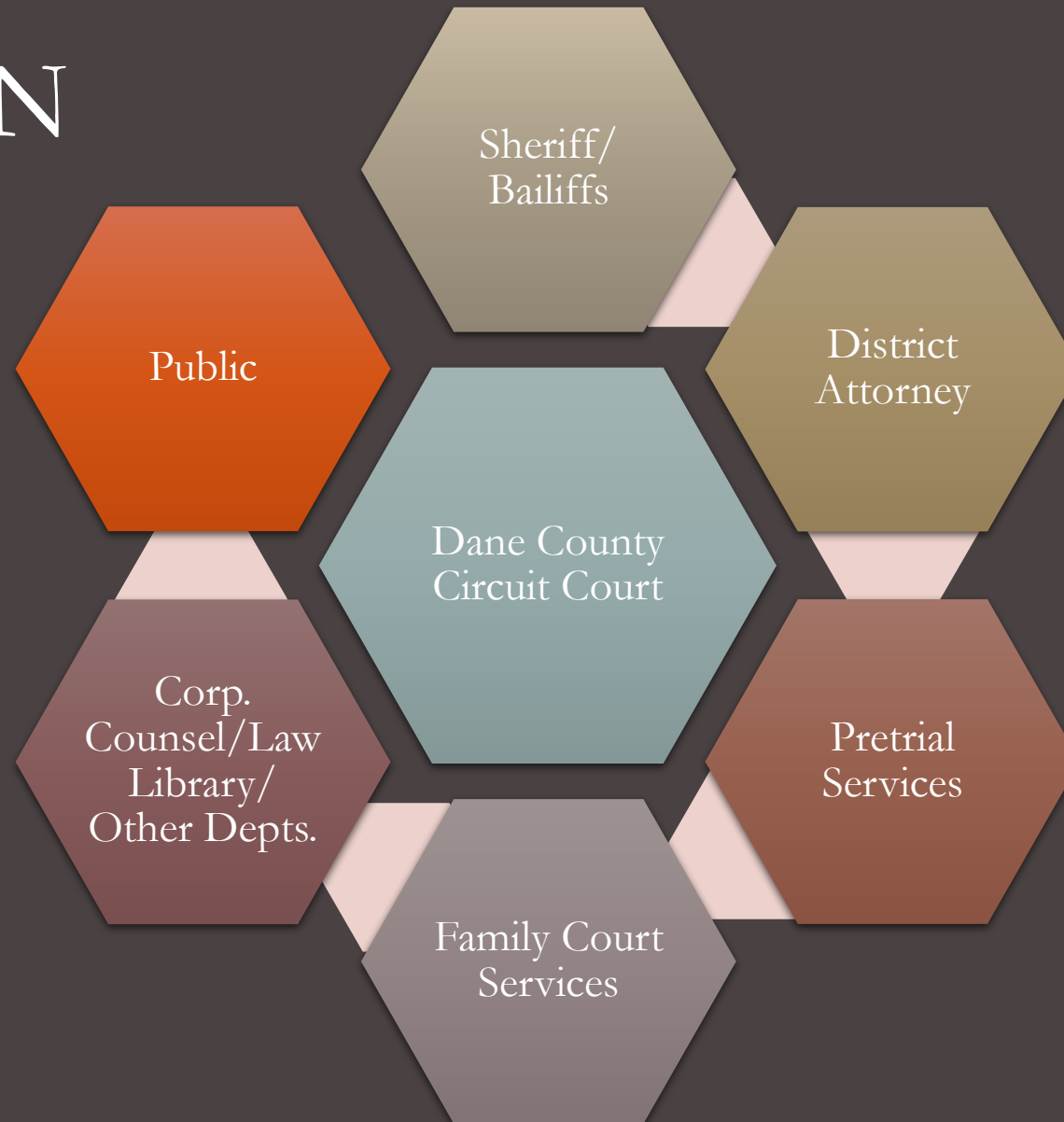


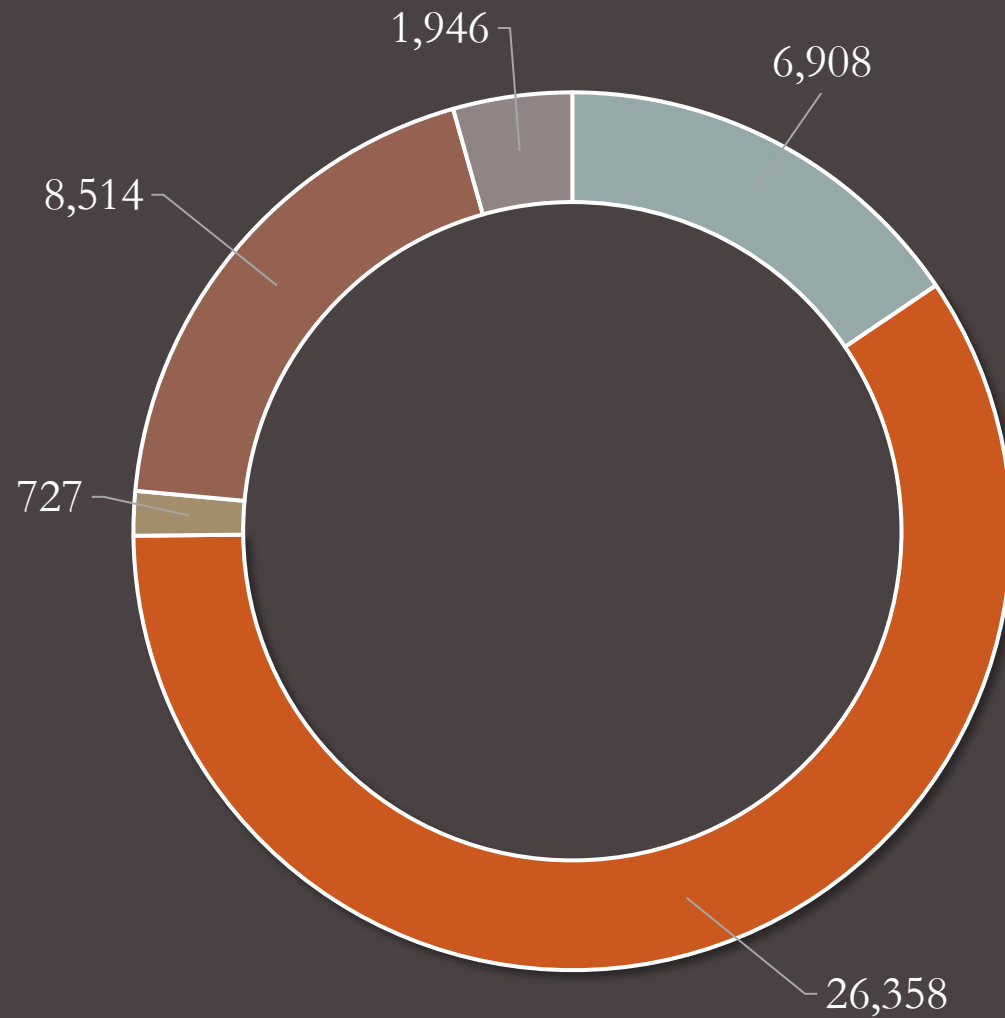


DANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

- ◆ 17 Branches & Judges
 - 8 in Criminal Rotation
 - 4 in Civil
 - 3 in Juvenile
- ◆ 11 Commissioners
- ◆ 111 Total Department Staff
 - 6th Largest Department by Staff
- ◆ 43 Bailiffs and 7 Weapon Screeners (Sheriff's Office)
- ◆ 32 State Employees (DCA, Court Reporter, Law Library)

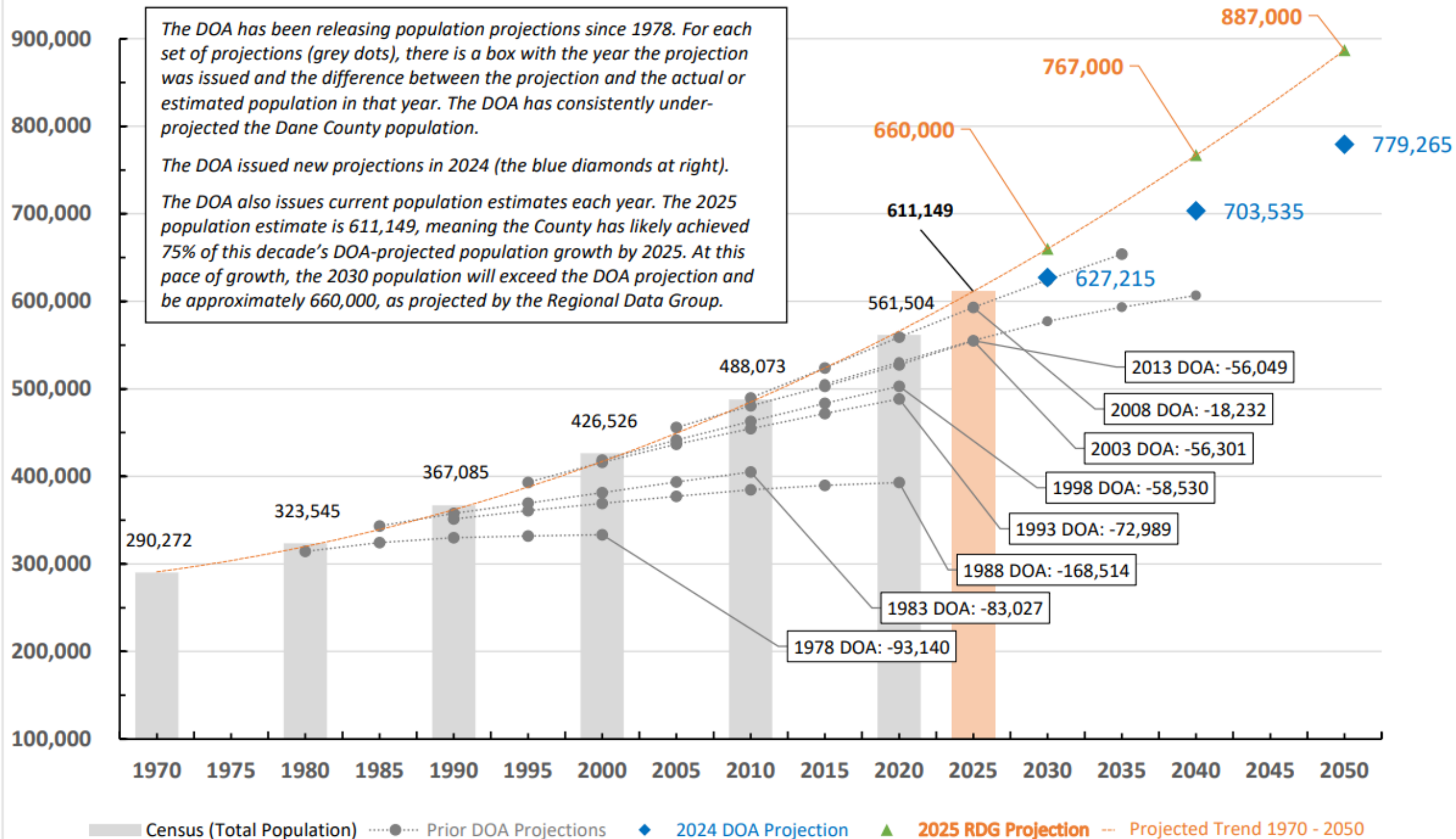
COURT INTERACTION

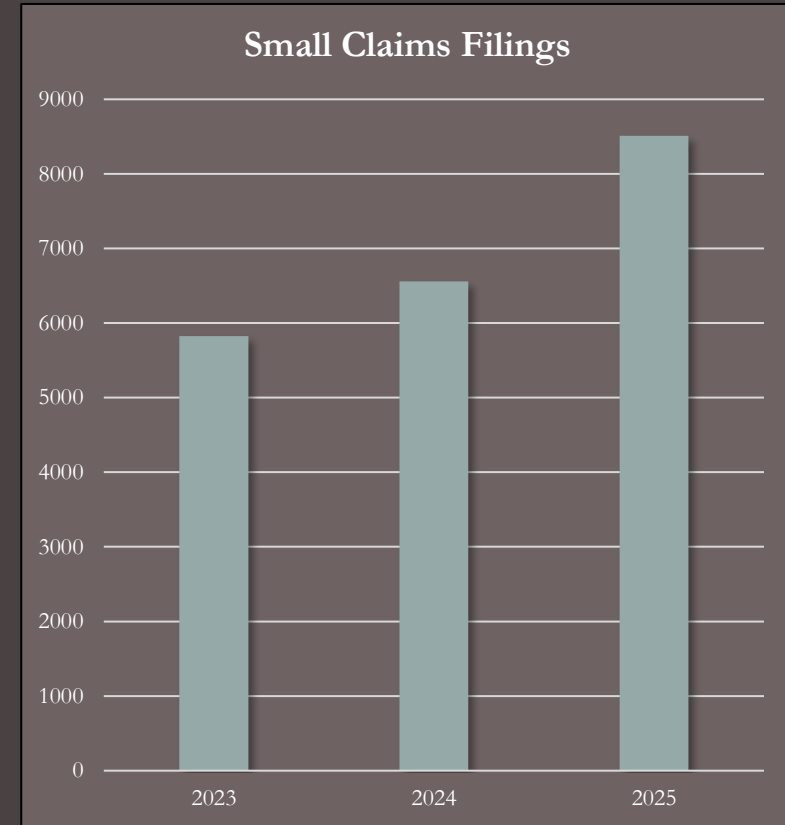
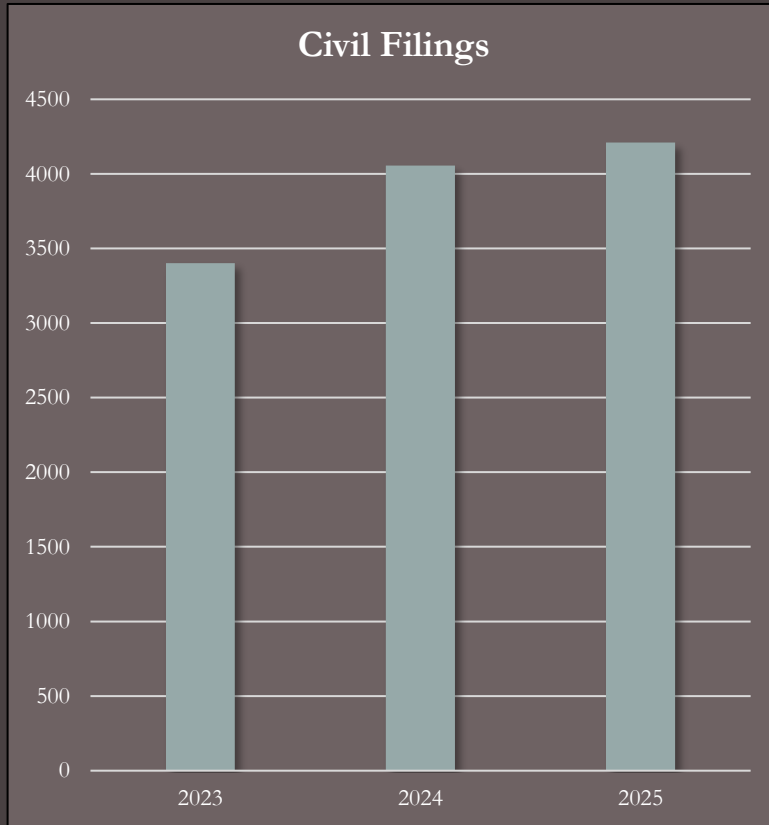




2025 CASES

Civil/Family Criminal/Traffic Juvenile Small Claims Probate





PRO SE FILING AREAS

Increases in common new case types for
Pro Se filers in Dane County

CHALLENGES: PRO SE LITIGANTS

SYSTEMIC ISSUES FACING COURTS AND THE LEGAL PROCESS

PROCEDURAL ERRORS



FAILURE TO FOLLOW COURT RULES

MISSING DEADLINES
(e.g., service, discovery)

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON CIVIL PROCEDURE

INCORRECT DOCUMENTS



DRAFTING FLAWED LEGAL DOCUMENTS

USING WRONG FORMS

OMITTING ESSENTIAL LEGAL CLAIMS

INCOMPLETE & ILLEGIBLE FORMS



REQUIRED FIELDS LEFT BLANK

POOR HANDWRITING PREVENTS REVIEW

MISSING SIGNATURES OR DATES

REQUESTS FOR LEGAL ADVICE



SEEKING PROHIBITED COUNSEL FROM CLERKS & STAFF

OVERRELIANCE ON COURT ASSISTANCE

PREMATURE OR UNCLEAR CLAIMS



FILING BEFORE EXHAUSTING ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

VAGUE COMPLAINTS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

SYSTEM RESOURCE STRAIN



INCREASED WORKLOAD FOR COURT STAFF

LONGER PROCEEDINGS & COURT DELAYS

DRAIN ON JUDICIAL RESOURCES

CHALLENGES: GENERATIVE AI & THE COURT SYSTEM

INCREASED CASE & EVIDENCE VOLUME



- **AI-Generated Filings:** Easy creation of voluminous complaints, briefs, and discovery requests.
- **Automated High-Volume Litigation** (e.g., debt collection, small claims).
- **Strains Court Resources:** Increased processing time and administrative burden.

HARD-TO-DECIPHER ERRORS & FALSE INFORMATION



- **AI Hallucinations:** Fake citations, legal precedents, and fabricated facts.
- **Sophisticated Misinformation:** Errors that look plausible and are difficult to detect quickly.
- **Risks to Procedural Fairness:** Unreliable evidence impacting case outcomes.

AUTHENTICITY & VERIFICATION CHALLENGES



- **Deepfakes and Manipulation:** Difficulty distinguishing AI-generated audio, video, and images presented as evidence.
- **Increased Authentication Burden:** Need for new protocols and forensic expertise to verify digital content.
- **Erosion of Trust:** Maintaining confidence in the reliability of courtroom exhibits.

ALGORITHMIC BIAS & ETHICAL CONCERNS



- **Perpetuating Bias:** Potential for AI tools trained on flawed data to influence judicial decisions (if implemented).
- **Attorney Competence:** Ethical duty for lawyers to understand the tools they use and supervise AI output.
- **Maintaining Public Trust:** Balancing technological efficiency with impartiality and accountability.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING ISSUES



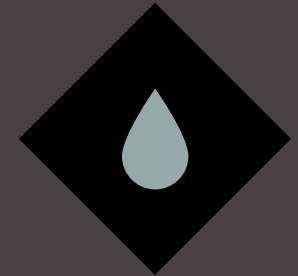
7 Entrapments
77 Elevator Work
Orders



80+ Working Temps
144 HVAC Work
Orders



Collapsed Safety
Railing



Windows Leaks
LL Water Intrusion

LANGUAGE NEEDS

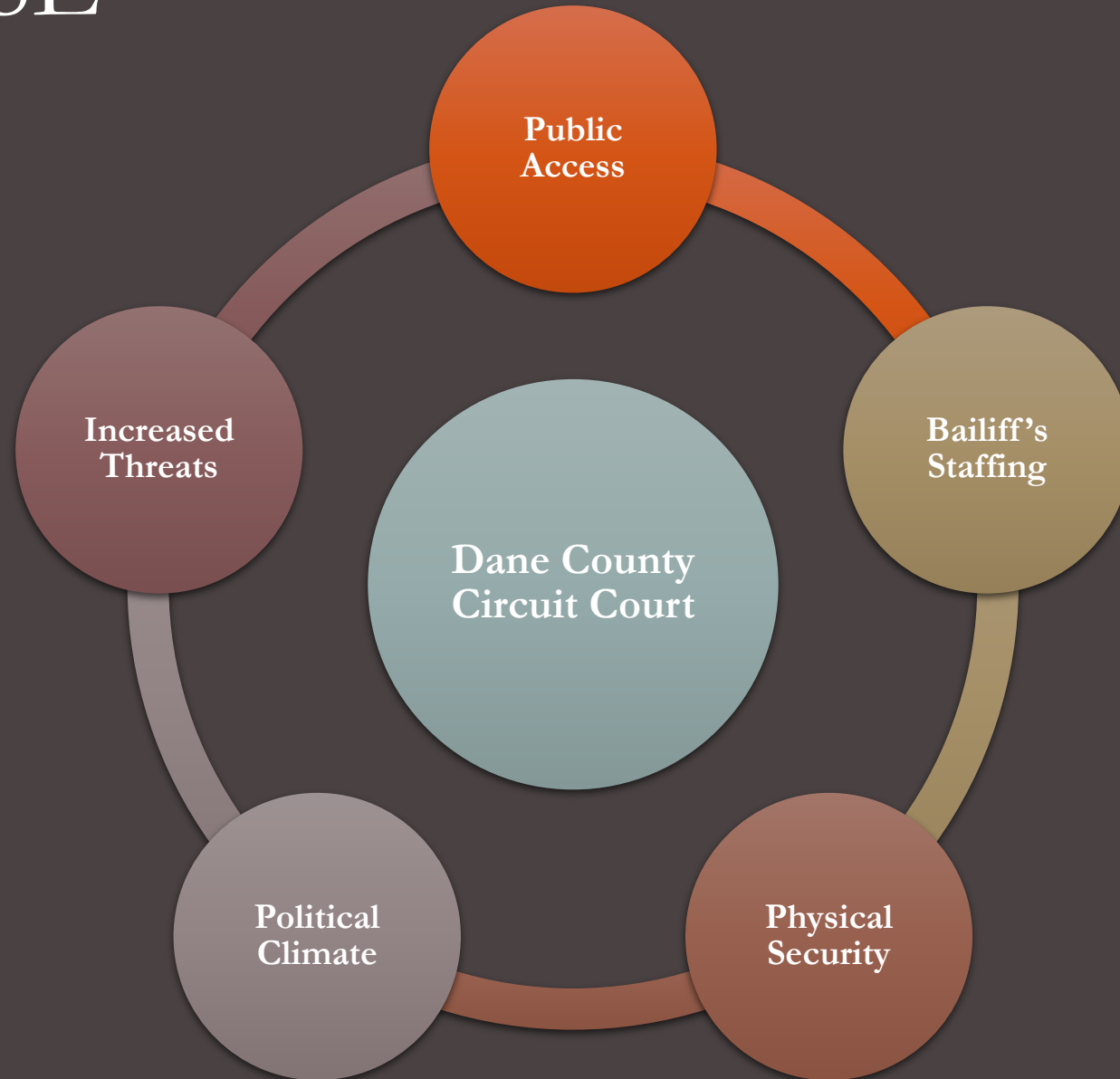
Date	Note	Event Type
2-Jan	bail question	call
2-Jan	records request	call
2-Jan 2025TR016272		front windows
2-Jan	citation question	front windows
2-Jan 21FA1663		front windows, CCC, library
5-Jan 25cf2794		call
5-Jan 25tr016702		call
5-Jan msn muni ticket		call
5-Jan 2025FA001974		call
5-Jan 25cf2794		call
5-Jan ???		call
5-Jan 24tr8793		call
5-Jan 24fa942		call
5-Jan custody issue		call
5-Jan 25CT806		CDP
6-Jan IID		call
6-Jan MSN muni (?)		call
6-Jan	delayed registration of marriage	front window then Hyland
6-Jan	CDP appeal	payment window
7-Jan 2025FA001569		call
7-Jan 21FA1663		front then CCC
7-Jan 25TR16116		front window
7-Jan	presumption of paternity	front window
7-Jan 25TR15207, 25TR15208		front window
7-Jan 25TR16517 - 25TR16521		front window
7-Jan 25TR16		front window
7-Jan 25TR16575		front window
7-Jan 25FA65		front window
7-Jan 25ct790		payment window
7-Jan	victim request	records window
7-Jan	records-custody question	records window
8-Jan 25FA1812		call
8-Jan 25pa302		call
8-Jan 25TR15220		call
8-Jan 25cf2787		call
8-Jan 25TR16614		front window

8-Jan 25FA1338	front windows
9-Jan child support number	call
9-Jan 25fa2159	family call in voicemail
9-Jan 24cm2323	front windows
9-Jan birth cert. question	front windows
9-Jan 25TR15850	front windows
9-Jan 25CT741	payment window
9-Jan 25cm2661	payment window
12-Jan 25fa479	call
12-Jan payment question	call
12-Jan 25pa302pj	call
12-Jan 26sc34	call
12-Jan IA in custody	call
12-Jan 26sc34	call
12-Jan divorce questions	call
12-Jan reschedule	call
12-Jan jury call	call
12-Jan 25fa1569	call
12-Jan 25pa454	CCC
12-Jan 25CT790	payment window
12-Jan 25CT575	payment window
13-Jan payment plan	call
13-Jan 25tr16464	call
13-Jan 14FA2177	call
13-Jan payment	call
13-Jan 2025TR015968	call
13-Jan bn906861	call
14-Jan 24tr15143	call
14-Jan in custody IA	call
14-Jan vital records change	call
14-Jan 2025CV004068	call
14-Jan MSN muni ticket	front windows
14-Jan 25fa1995	voicemail
16-Jan Columbia Cty case	call
16-Jan 25tr16394-6	call
16-Jan allpaid	call
16-Jan bail check	call
16-Jan intended filing	front windows

20-Jan IA in custody	call
20-Jan payment plan	call
20-Jan IA in custody	call
20-Jan CDP payment	call
20-Jan 21fa1663	CCC
20-Jan 25sc299	front windows
20-Jan 25tr11529+30, 26fo1	front windows
20-Jan 25CF1227	front windows
20-Jan 26sc366	front windows
20-Jan traffic expungement	front windows
20-Jan 25tr253	front windws
20-Jan required appearance?	
21-Jan 25tr10450	call
21-Jan 25cf2566	call
21-Jan mke cty: 24cm1983	call
21-Jan 24tr13246	call
21-Jan 26cm168	call
21-Jan 25TR16631 - 25TR16632	front windows
21-Jan divorce questions	front windows
21-Jan 26fa123	front windows
21-Jan 23cf3230	voicemail+callback
22-Jan **went home sick 7:55**	
23-Jan 25cm736	call
23-Jan same	call
23-Jan Jef. Cty: 24tr4634	call
23-Jan modify vit. Rec	call
23-Jan dmv question	call
23-Jan 25fa1606	call
26-Jan 19fa824	call
26-Jan 25fa1606	call
26-Jan allpaid	call
26-Jan 25fa1812	call
26-Jan 24fa942	call
26-Jan 25SC8141	front windows
26-Jan 26CV238	front windows
26-Jan 25ct806	payment window
26-Jan 2003 DUI case	records window

27-Jan 25pa487	call
27-Jan Rosana	call
27-Jan Rosana	call
27-Jan 25fa1542	call
27-Jan 2025SC008490	front windows
27-Jan marriage ?	front windows
27-Jan 26cv51	front windows
27-Jan 25fa1542	voicemail
27-Jan 2026FA000097	voicemail
27-Jan 2025FA001942	voicemail
28-Jan 22fa1595	call
28-Jan \$ fullfillment doc	call
28-Jan 25tr16122	call
28-Jan 25sc7121	call
28-Jan disposition list	front then records
28-Jan 25TR14219..25TR14222	front windows
29-Jan angry license suspended man	call
29-Jan ???	call
29-Jan 26FA94	CCC
29-Jan IA to DA	front windows
29-Jan 26tr547+48	front windows

COURTHOUSE SAFETY



A wooden gavel with a brass band is positioned diagonally across the upper right portion of the image. It rests on a pile of US dollar bills, including several \$100 bills featuring Benjamin Franklin. The bills are slightly crumpled and overlapping, creating a textured background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the wood grain of the gavel and the intricate details of the currency.

STATE ACTS

2 years of successful Clerk of Court driven advocacy for shared revenue & funding

- ◆ 2025 State Court Support
- ◆ 2026 State Court Fees
- ◆ 2027 Renewed Effort

THANK YOU



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Clerk of Circuit Court / Register in Probate



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