Davis COUNTY

JUSTICE COURT

Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Davis County Justice Court is to provide the people with an open, fair, efficient and independent forum for the advancement of justice under the law.

Prior Year Inputs/Outputs

In 2022 the Davis County Justice Court (DCJC) processed **10,693 cases**. That is forty **percent (40%)** of the justice court work done in the county.

DCJC processed **740 criminal cases**. That is **twenty-nine percent (29%)** of the criminal justice court work done in the county.

DCJC processed **573 small claims cases**. That is **fifty-six percent (56%)** of the civil work done in the county.

DCJC processed **9,380 traffic cases.** That is forty **percent (40%) of the traffic cases** done in the county.

DCJC had **19 jury trials** scheduled that were handled with Judge Facilitated Mediation. Currently there is 1 jury trial pending.

DCJC handled **71 bench trials**. Currently there are 16 bench trials pending.

Core Functions & Services

The core function of any court, including the Davis County Justice Court, is to provide an impartial forum for dispute resolution.

This core function includes: ensuring access to the court process for all who seek to use it; managing the business of the court in a manner that promotes efficiency, transparency, fairness, timeliness for court patrons; and, working with other law enforcement entities to develop strategies that combine the interests of all three branches of government.

The core function affects Davis County and its citizens by giving them an effective and efficient forum to resolve disputes. No entity is denied access to the court's process. Because the court manages its business efficiently court users have the opportunity for fair and timely dispute resolution. Finally, working with other law enforcement entities, e.g., prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement agencies, the court has and is developing strategies that combine the interests of county and municipal government for the benefit of all citizens and visitors.

Current Year Projected Outcomes

The court does not generate income by producing "widgets." The income that the court generates is the result of fines and fees that are imposed from convictions in cases that are filed by law enforcement, e.g. local police officers, county sheriffs, highway patrol troopers, and prosecuting attorneys. Fees are also generated by the filing fees of citizens using the small claims process. A reduction in the number of cases filed *or* the inability of defendants to pay fines and fees affects the court's "bottom line." This year the number of cases is up a little from last year, i.e., approximately sixteen percent (16%), two thousand one hundred thirty-nine (2,139) cases or approximately one hundred seventy-eight (178) cases per month.

As the COVID-19 pandemic, and its after effects, continues to affect the number of cases filed *and* defendants' ability to pay, the court has been imposing fines and setting payments at rates that defendants can afford and pay given input about their income and budgets. The court has been granting extensions to pay fines and fees. We have been closely monitoring the status of existing fines and fees and only letting cases become ninety (90) days delinquent before initiating "collection processes," i.e., Orders to Show Cause or Review Hearings. (This type of "collection process" is not commonly used by many district or justice courts. Instead these courts use the Utah Office of State Debt Collection (OSDC) to collect their outstanding fines and fees. The OSDC places the collection of court fines and fees very low on its priority list and is reported to collect approximately twenty percent (20%) of any outstanding fine or fee). As always, we have a statutory obligation to substitute community service hours in lieu of fines and fees and, when necessary, are making those substitutions.

Review of the "revenue" generated by the court in 2022 shows that we are on pace to collect approximately 2.1 million dollars. The total amount that should be retained by the county will be approximately 1.2 million dollars. The remaining $900,000.00 will be divided and distributed to Farmington, Kaysville, and the State. These "revenue" figures are a little higher than last year.

Next Year Budget Initiatives

This year we have not made any budget requests that are different from previous years.

Our most pressing 2023 budgetary request is increased compensation for court staff. In an effort to make the commission and the budget committee aware of current court clerk/judicial assistant (CC/JA) compensation issues we have: 1) previously provided information about state court actions to increase CC/JC salaries, e.g., 2021 district CC/JAs received a seventeen percent (17%) increase; and, 2) we have been collecting state-wide justice CC/JA job announcements and sharing those with the county Human Relations Department (HR).

We appreciate the effort that went into creating a salary survey and understand the goal of this product. However, we were disappointed to learn that little, if any, of the information we had collected, and sent to HR, was used in assessing the justice court CC/JAs' salary needs.

Since last year, some of our CC/JAs have received multiple offers to work for other justice courts, state courts and other state and county agencies. Presently, one of our CC/JAs is a very viable candidate for two court jobs that will result in better compensation if she is selected for employment. Losing her would represent a fourteen percent (14%) reduction of our CC/JA staff. It would be the loss of four and a half (4 ½) years of training and experience. Finally, it may be the first sign of things to come if other justice CC/JAs decide that they can make more at other courts.

I appreciate the time and effort that Commissioner Elliott, Chris Bone, Rick Higby and Marina Brito have spent and made on our behalf to deal with this issue. Recently, Marina sent me notice that there would be a recommendation to increase justice court CC/JA compensation seven percent (7%) this year. I strongly encourage the commission and the budget committee, as a whole, to seriously consider and approve this recommendation. It may not be done in time to keep one of our CC/JAs from accepting another position but it should help to keep the remaining CC/JAs satisfied and continuing to do their jobs for the county justice court.

County Statistics for 2023

Total Number of Courts in Davis County (9)

Centerville
Clearfield
Clinton
Davis County
North Salt Lake
South Weber
Sunset
Syracuse
Wood Cross

Breakdown of Cases by Jurisdiction

	Criminal	Small Claims	Traffic	Total
Centerville	173 (6%)	12 (1%)	2,409 (8%)	2,594 (8%)
Clearfield	597 (22%)	133 (11%)	2,884 (10%)	3,614 (11%)
Clinton	218 (8%)	77 (6%)	759 (2%)	1,054 (3%)
Davis County	790 (29%)	642 (57%)	11,400 (42%)	12,832 (41%)
North Salt Lake	327 (12%)	19 (1%)	2,827 (10%)	3,173 (10%)
South Weber	45 (1%)	4 (.003%)	1,168 (4%)	1,217 (3%)
Sunset	199 (7%)	117 (10%)	1,717 (6%)	2,033 (6%)
Syracuse	158 (5%)	41 (3%)	1,786 (6%)	1,985 (6%)
Wood Cross	151 (5%)	77 (6%)	2,031 (7%)	2,259 (7%)
Total	**2,658**	**1,122**	**26,981**	**30,761**

Source: Statewide Justice Courts Time to Disposition Report September 2023.

County Statistics for 2022

Total Number of Courts in Davis County (9)

Centerville
Clearfield
Clinton
Davis County
North Salt Lake
South Weber
Sunset
Syracuse
Wood Cross

Breakdown of Cases by Jurisdiction

	Criminal	Small Claims	Traffic	Total
Centerville	215 (8%)	10 (.009%)	2,584 (11%)	2,809 (10%)
Clearfield	497 (19%)	93 (9%)	2,305 (9%)	2,895 (10%)
Clinton	197 (7%)	59 (5%)	564 (2%)	820 (3%)
Davis County	740 (29%)	573 (56%)	9,380 (40%)	10,693 (40%)
North Salt Lake	296 (11%)	23 (2%)	2,775 (11%)	3,094 (11%)
South Weber	36 (1%)	5 (.004%)	1,021 (4%)	1,062 (3%)
Sunset	210 (8%)	101 (9%)	1,234 (5%)	1,545 (5%)
Syracuse	205 (8%)	51 (5%)	1,321 (5%)	1,577 (5%)
Wood Cross	140 (5%)	103 (10%)	1,967 (8%)	2,210 (8%)
Total	**2,536**	**1,018**	**23,151**	**26,705**

Source: Statewide Justice Courts Time to Disposition Report September 2, 2022.

	Account Description	2023 Budget	Proposed Budget	Variance	%	Notes
Revenue	JC SMALL CLAIMS REVENUE	($100,000.00)	($100,000.00)	$0.00	0.00%	
	JUSTICE COURT	($1,020,000.00)	($1,020,000.00)	$0.00	0.00%	
	JUSTICE COURT CC FEES	($5,000.00)	($5,000.00)	$0.00	0.00%	
	FINES - TO CITIES	$310,000.00	$310,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	JC BAIL INTEREST REVENUE	($10,000.00)	($10,000.00)	$0.00	0.00%	
	SALE OF FIXED ASSETS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	SUNDRY REVENUE	($15,000.00)	($15,000.00)	$0.00	0.00%	
	Sub Total	**($840,000.00)**	**($840,000.00)**	**$0.00**	**0.00%**	
Personnel	PAYROLL	$570,137.46	$576,994.91	$6,857.45	1.20%	
	TRAVEL PAY	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	TAXABLE INCENTIVES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	OVERTIME	$0.00	$600.00	$600.00	#DIV/0!	
	BENEFITS	$2,486.42	$0.00	($2,486.42)	-100.00%	
	PAYROLL TAXES	$42,955.56	$44,186.12	$1,230.56	2.86%	
	WORKERS COMP	$7,325.70	$6,669.94	($655.76)	-8.95%	
	INSURANCE	$129,844.95	$102,683.57	($27,161.38)	-20.92%	
	RETIREMENT	$108,749.15	$111,644.86	$2,895.71	2.66%	
	Sub Total	**$861,499.24**	**$842,779.40**	**($18,719.84)**	**-2.17%**	
Operations	SUBS & MEMBERSHIPS	$1,700.00	$1,700.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	PUBLIC NOTICES	$400.00	$400.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	FOOD BUSINESS	$1,800.00	$1,800.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	CONTRIBUTIONS-INTERLOCAL	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	UNIFORMS/LINENS	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	MISC SUPPLIES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	COMPUTER EQUIP	$14,373.00	$3,200.00	($11,173.00)	-77.74%	
	EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	EXPENSE REDUCTIONS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	OFFICE SUPPLIES	$14,000.00	$15,000.00	$1,000.00	7.14%	
	TRAVEL/EDUC& TRNG	$10,383.00	$10,383.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	MILEAGE/LOCAL TRAVEL	$2,320.00	$2,320.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	PROF & TECH	$18,520.00	$23,500.00	$4,980.00	26.89%	
	OTHER PROF & TECH	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	EQUIP REP/CONTRACTS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	TELEPHONE	$450.00	$450.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	Sub Total	**$66,446.00**	**$61,253.00**	**($5,193.00)**	**-7.82%**	
Allocations	TELEPHONE ALLOCATION	$9,930.24	$8,024.28	($1,905.96)	-19.19%	
	EMAIL ALLOCATION	$1,172.61	$1,083.24	($89.37)	-7.62%	
	SECURITY CAMERA ALLOCATION	$938.00	$1,008.00	$70.00	7.46%	
	INSURANCE ALLOCATION	$5,239.00	$5,117.00	($122.00)	-2.33%	
	MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION	$16,427.00	$14,848.00	($1,579.00)	-9.61%	
	RENT ALLOCATION PARAM	$70,168.13	$70,168.13	$0.00	0.00%	
	BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	Sub Total	**$103,874.98**	**$100,248.65**	**($3,626.33)**	**-3.49%**	
Capital	BLDG IMPROVEMENTS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0.00%	
	Sub Total	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**0.00%**	