

# Circuit Court Judiciary

## Proposed FY 2018 Budget Highlights

February 7, 2017

- Proposed budget totals \$1.1M
  - An 8% increase from FY 2017 due to:
    - 0.5 FTE for the reclassification of a part-time administrative assistant to a full-time probation officer
    - Standard personnel increases
    - Non-personnel decreases due to:
      - Adjustments to the annual expense for the maintenance and replacement of a county vehicle.
- Total FTEs: 10.30
  - a net increase of 0.5 FTE from FY 2017
    - Reclassified a part-time administrative assistant to a full-time probation officer. This service was previously provided in-kind from the state.

## **Court Operations**

- High Performance Court Framework and Weighted Caseload
  - Continue Working Within Performance Measures
  - Continue Implementing Strategic Plan
- Comprehensive Court Improvement Plan
  - Caseflow Management Analysis and Data Integrity
  - Calendar & Docket Management Analysis
    - Continuous Judicial and Staff Training
- Court Performance and Judicial Workload
  - Calendar & Docket Management Analysis
    - Staffing Changes, Mastery in Performance Areas
    - Continuous Staff Training

- **Arlington County Drug Treatment Court**
- The Arlington County Drug Treatment Court serves adult defendants in the Circuit Court. All participants attend weekly substance abuse treatment sessions and are held accountable through intense supervision and monitoring as well as weekly court appearances and random drug screening, as often as 3-5 times per week.
- The Drug Court remained at full capacity for the entire fiscal year. This is a direct result of the Commonwealth's Attorney including those offenders who are before the court for sentencing for criminal offenses.
- Reduced incarceration provides direct savings to the County in jail days saved.
- Effective supervision in the community and improved coordination between agencies had reduced duplication of effort, provided great efficiencies and resulted in overall cost savings for all stakeholders.

## Details of Major Initiatives for FY 2018

- To maintain the quality of judicial services our community has enjoyed and should expect, the Court must continue with the Comprehensive Court Improvement Plan to be a High Performance Court. The improvement plan gives preference to aged litigation, reduces the current age of pending cases, balance court performance and judicial workloads, and transitions the Court to the model time standards. Achieving that goal can only be met by maintaining standards and training staff, and enhancing problem-solving courts, amongst other goals.
- Since 2013, the number of filing in the Court has increased substantially each year. In 2017, the Court is tasked with closing 98% of the estimated 11,151 filings to meet the court performance measures.
- With the increase of court filings and staff performance / responsibilities, the Court continues to work toward the High Performance Court designation.
- **Enhance the Arlington County Drug Treatment Court**
  - Continue to remain at full capacity for the entire fiscal year.
  - Work to provide effective supervision in the community and improve coordination between agencies that work with offenders.
  - Work to reduce the number and frequency of jail sentences imposed as sanctions, and instead impose other sanctions that will work to change the negative behavior.

# Long Term Initiatives

- Remain focused on achieving High Performance Court designation
- Continue to perfect the advanced docket management procedures to improve the Court's services.
- Create, as needed, new procedures for the proper resolution of cases.
- Improve record keeping of case statistics for regular review to determine ways the Court could decrease case aging.
- Create triage procedures and additional court services to decrease the cost and time of litigation.
- Increase funding for training and technology needs.
- Work to expand the Drug Treatment Court to include those offenders who are not Arlington County residents through a more regionalized Drug Treatment Court.