

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 13, 2022
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: George Christenson, Clerk of Circuit Court
Subject: Request to Create Positions
File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Clerk of Circuit Court requests to create the following positions:

7 FTE Deputy Court Clerks, pay grade 25k
5 Clerical Specialists, pay grade 05P

POLICY

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Wisconsin State Statutes: | Wis Stats 59.17 |
| Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances: | MCGO 17.05(1) |
| Specific Adopted Budget: | 2022 Adopted Budget |

BACKGROUND

In March of 2020, jury trials and statutory speedy trial rights were suspended due to the onset of the COVID-10 pandemic. This led to a growing backlog of cases.

Court stakeholders, supported by County Executive David Crowley's recovery team, acted early and aggressively to restart jury trials and in person proceedings as quickly and safely as possible. The county expended Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) dollars to upgrade technology in the courtroom and provide necessary PPE to keep litigants, jurors, staff, and others safe as the courts opened, and remained open, even when the virus was at its worst. In addition, the Office of State Courts, provided videoconferencing resources to help the courts shift to remote proceedings where appropriate.

As of January, Milwaukee County faced a backlog of approximately 2,600 misdemeanors, 1,700 felonies, and 925 criminal traffic cases. Milwaukee County anticipates it will take between 2 and 3 years to clear the identified backlog and resume

resolving cases within the state and national time standard. Milwaukee County was awarded ARPA funds to expand court operations to reduce the backlog. To accomplish that, the proposal is to add: 3 judges to the felony division, 1 judge to the misdemeanor division, and 1 judge to the domestic violence courts. To support this expansion by the judiciary, additional support staff are needed and funded by the ARPA grant.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Related File No's: | 22-478 |
| Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets): | |
| Previous Action Date(s): | |

FISCAL EFFECT

County Board resolution 22-478 authorized the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance to process appropriation transfers to recognize and increase revenues and expenditures by \$14,719,000 to Org Unit 2000 – Combined Court Related Operations. The positions will be paid for by ARPA funding.

POSITION INFORMATION

| Action | FTE | Title | Pay Range | Annual Salary Range |
|--------|-----|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Create | 7 | Deputy Court Clerk | 25k | \$48,880 - \$60,341 |
| Create | 5 | Clerical Specialist | 05P | \$36,296 - \$46,527 |

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

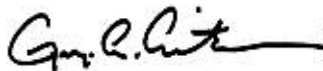
George Christenson
 Mary Triggiano
 Brenda Ottesen
 Tammy Kruczynski
 Donya Saffold

PREPARED BY:

Brenda Ottesen
 Chief Deputy Clerk

APPROVED BY:

George Christenson
 Clerk of Circuit Court



George Christenson

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
 Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk