

# Impacts of Growth

Gig Harbor Municipal Court



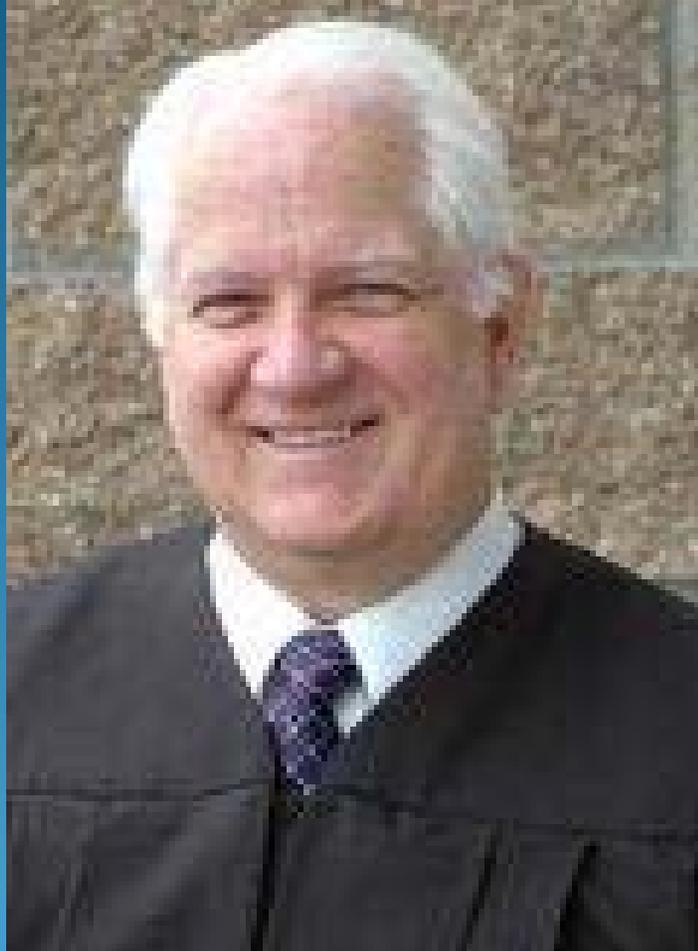
December 14, 2015

H.R. (Dick) Thurston

Our First  
Town Municipal  
Judge

(1946 -- 1967)





Michael A. Dunn

Our Current  
Municipal Judge

(1999 – Present)

# Court Mission Statement

It is our goal to meet the needs of the public through accessibility, accountability, and **quality customer service** while protecting the rights of the accused, victims, and the citizens of Gig Harbor.

# Our Philosophy

- Public Trust & Confidence in the court is dependent upon how well the courts are serving their community.
- Independence of the judiciary requires that the courts demonstrate accountability for the effective use of public resources.

# Court Priorities

Access and Fairness

Integrity of Case Files

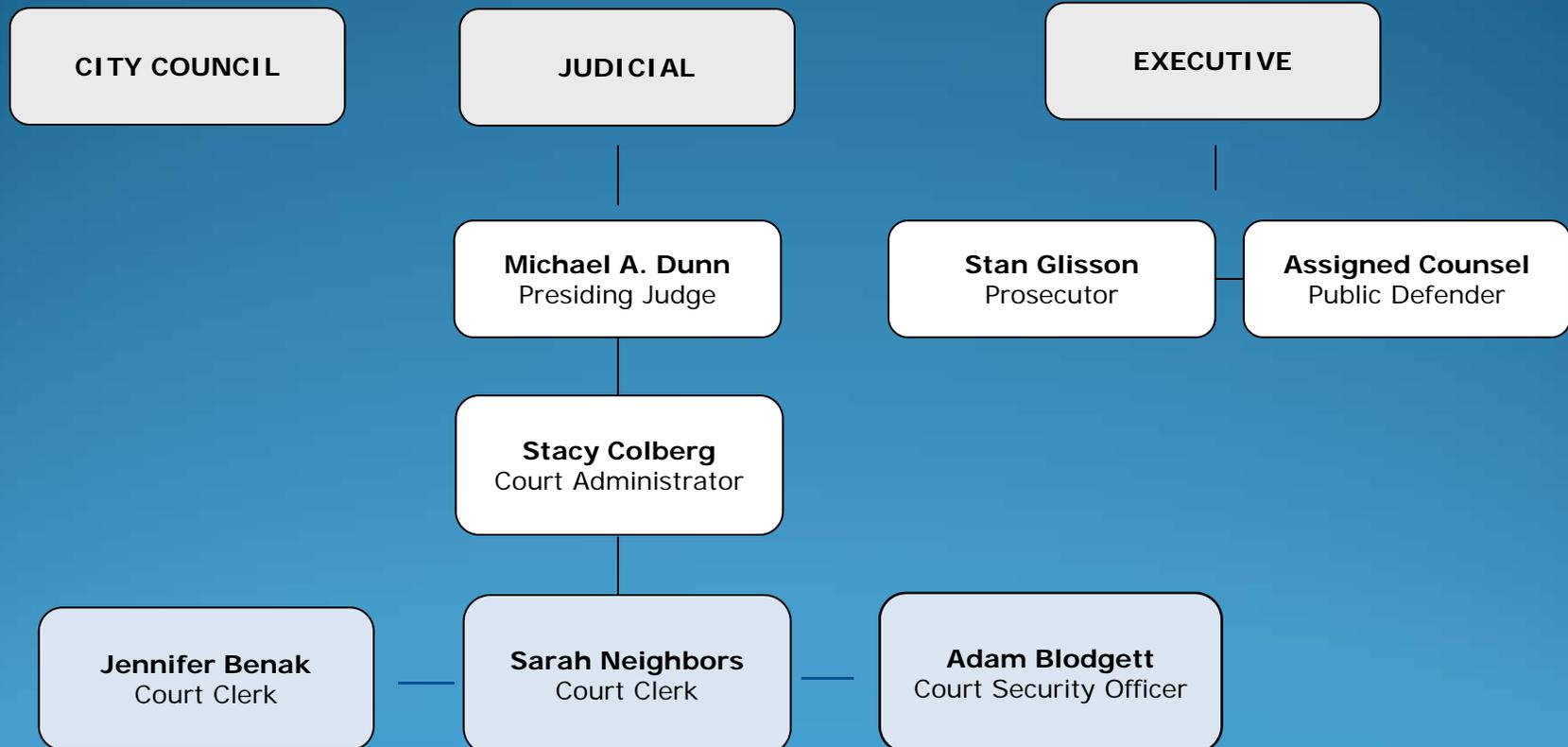
Clearance Rates

Collection of Fines

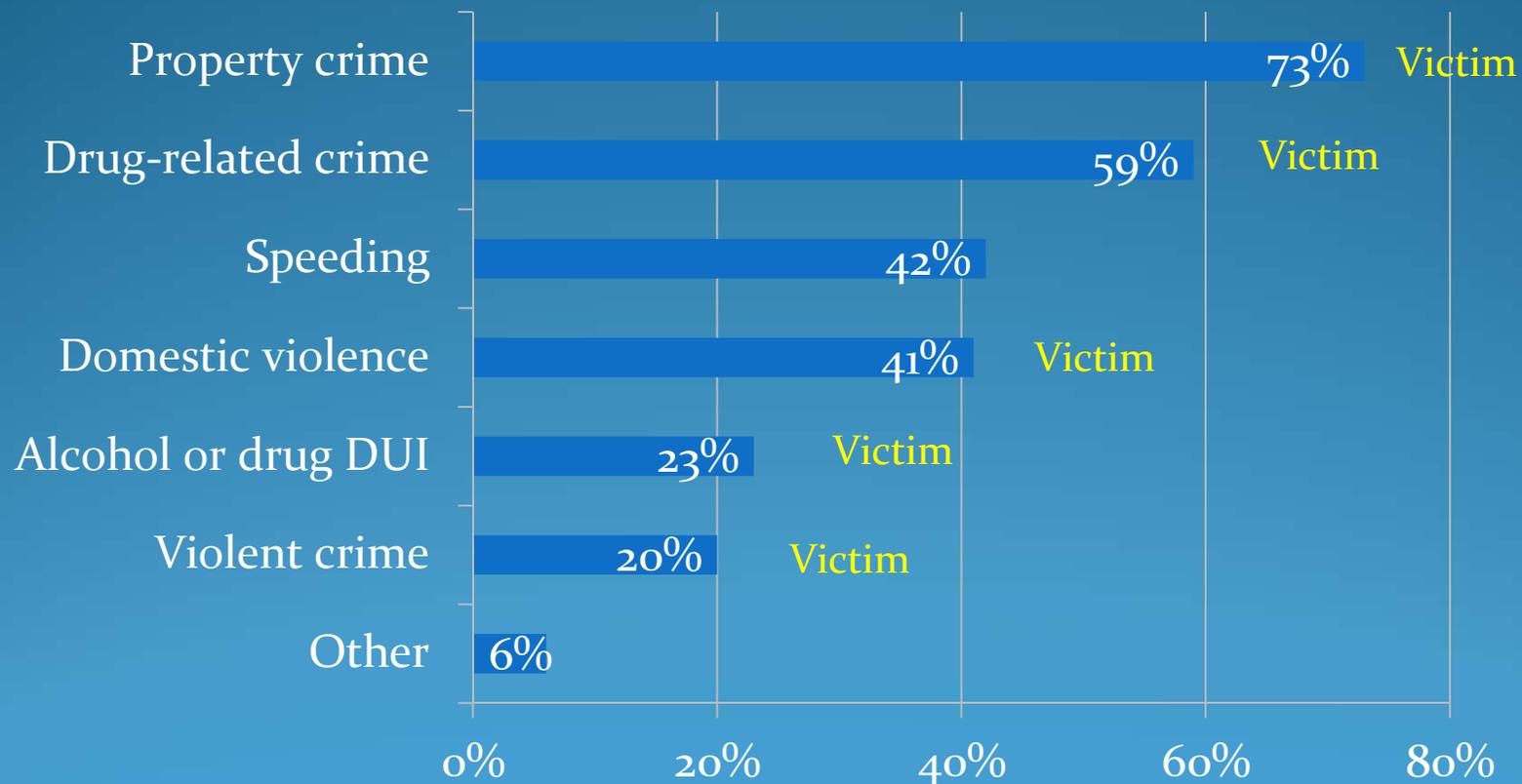
Time to Disposition

Effective Use of Jurors

# Court Staff



# WA Cities Top Criminal Justice Concerns



According to AWC State of the Cities 2012 Survey of WA Cities

# After Court Processing

## Criminal Docket

### DUI and DV cases

time for staff to process each case = 40 mins.

### Other Criminal cases

time for staff to process each case = 10 mins.

### Average #cases heard per docket

2007	= 85
2011	= 96
2015	= 120

### Average #days to process all cases heard per docket after court is over

2007	= 2 days
2011	= 2 days
2015	= 2.5 days

## Traffic Docket

### Infractions and Parking

time for staff to process each case = 5 mins

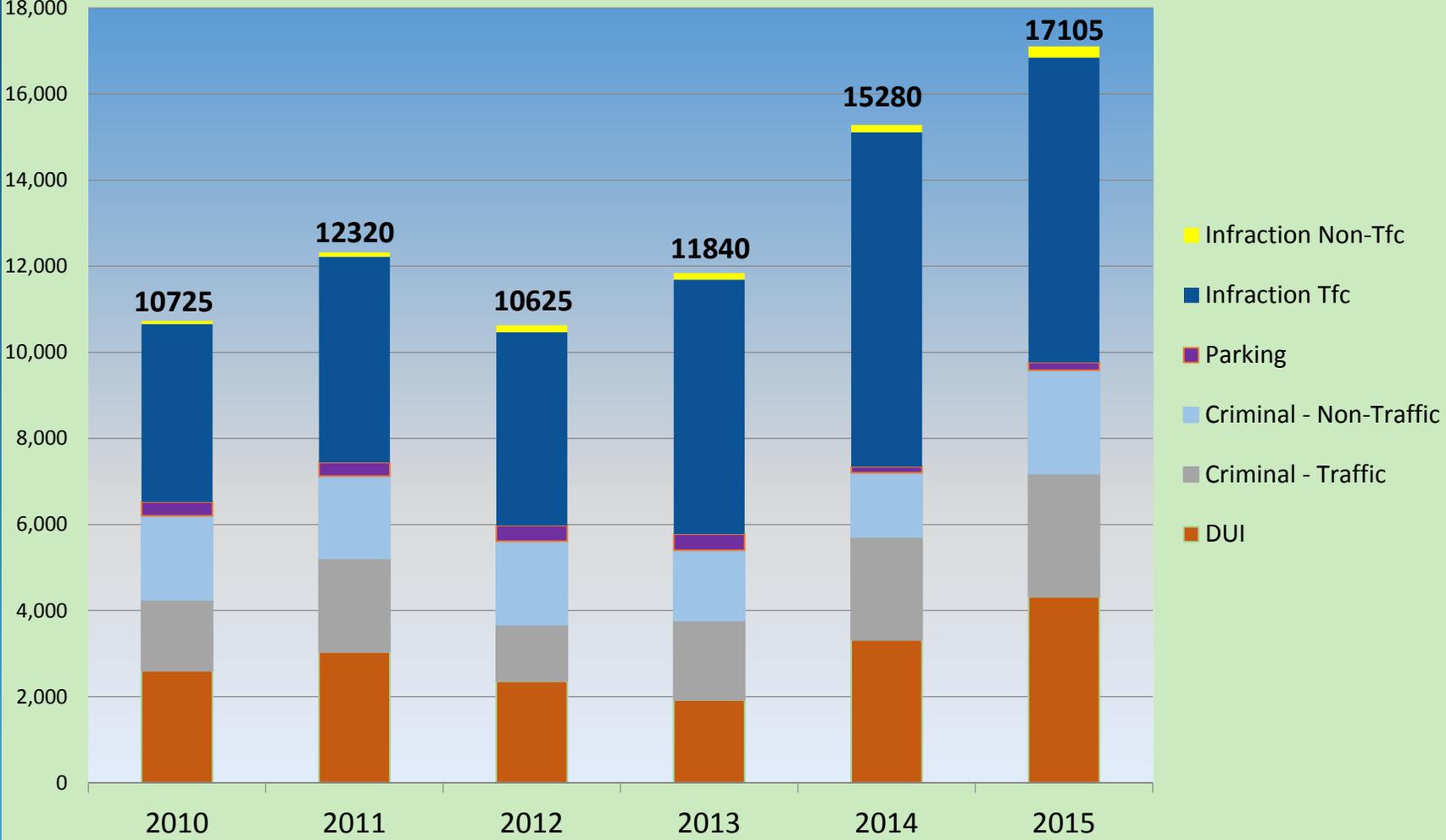
### Average #cases heard per docket

2007	= 45
2011	= 74
2015	= 60

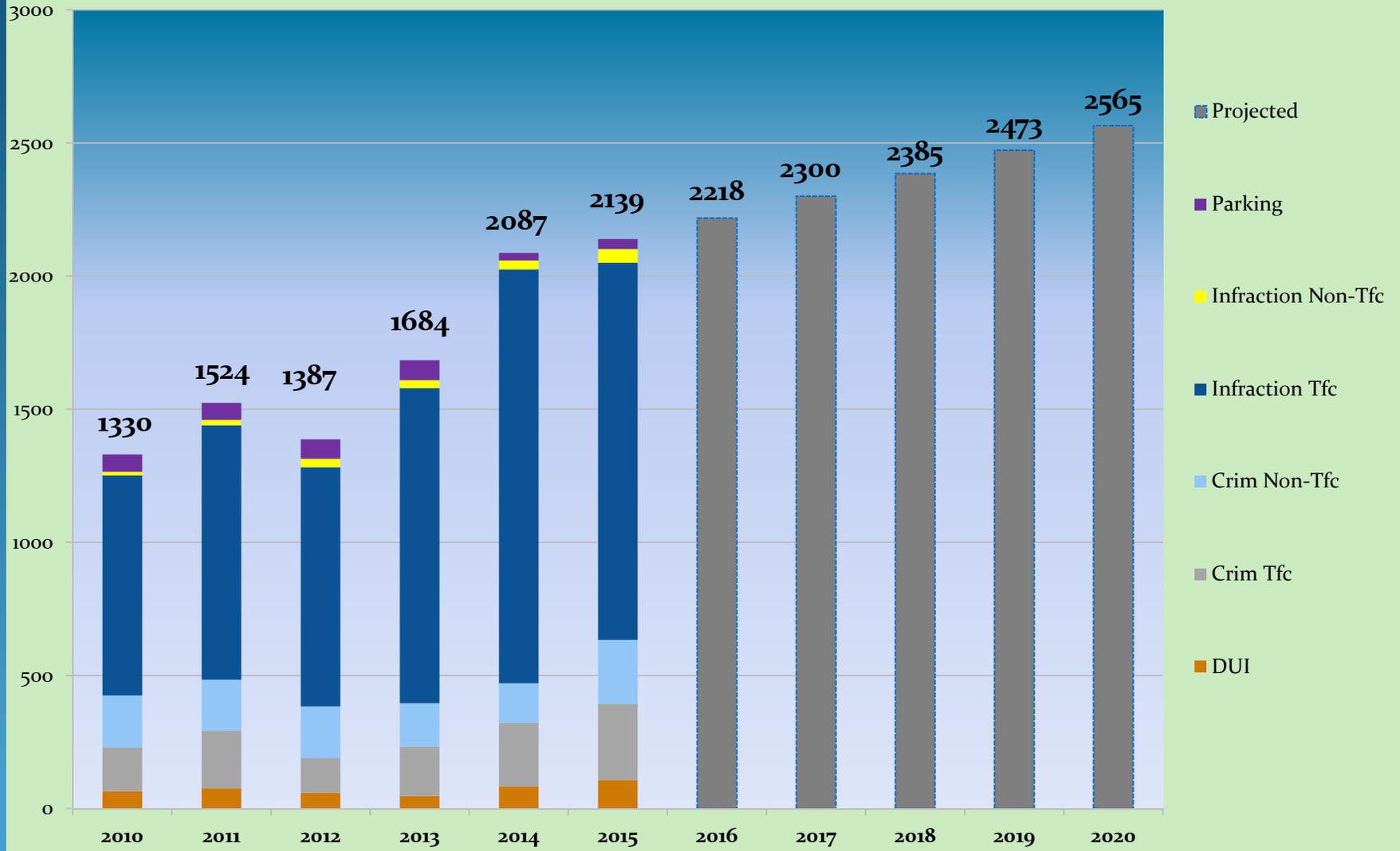
### Average #days to process all cases heard per docket after court is over

2007	= 1 days
2011	= 2 days
2015	= 1.5 days

### Case Processing Time (in minutes)



## Case Filings by Year



# Legislative Mandates

- **Indigent Defense Standards** –Supreme Court Ruling  
Courts shall require a lawyer to certify he/she meets applicable standards before appointing to a case.
- **Notification Traffic Violations** - 49 CFR 384.209  
Process and report traffic convictions to DOL within 5 days. Failure to meet federal regulations disqualifies the State from millions of dollars in grant funds.
- **Firearms Ineligibility** – RCW 9.41  
Process and report firearms restrictions to DOL by the next judicial day. Used for background checks.
- **Protection Orders** – RCW 9.41, RCW 26.50, RCW 10.99  
Process and report Protection Orders to law enforcement by the next judicial day.

# Local Court: Level of Service

## Live Phone Assistance

- No automated phone tree
- Field Calls for Other Courts
- No Waiting on Hold

## Convenience

- No Waiting in Line or Taking a Number
- Online Credit Cards and Telephone Payments Accepted - no fee
- DV Kiosk Assistance
- Calendaring Flexibility
- Easy Warrant Quash Procedures
- Hearings by Mail
- Community Service Program

## Quality

- Individualized and Personal Service
- Jury Management (free parking, quick and courteous, personal service)
- Instant Access to Public Records, no waiting

## Efficiency

- Same Day Service, Fast Response Time
- Positive Inter-agency and departmental relationships (PD, Courts, Jails)
- Fast and Accurate Case Processing Rates

# Growth Impact on Level of Service

## Live Phone Assistance

~~No automated phone tree~~  
~~Field Calls for Other Courts~~  
~~No Waiting on Hold~~

## Convenience

~~No Waiting in Line or Taking a Number~~  
Online Credit Cards and Telephone Payments Accepted - ~~no fee~~  
DV Kiosk Assistance  
~~Calendaring Flexibility~~  
Easy Warrant Quash Procedures

## Quality

~~Individualized and Personal Service~~  
Jury Management (free parking, quick and courteous, personal service)  
~~Instant Access to Public Records, no waiting~~

## Efficiency

~~Same Day Service~~  
Positive Inter-agency and departmental relationships (PD, Courts, Jails)  
~~Fast and Accurate Case Processing Rates~~

# Future Growth Needs

- Staff Increase
- Technology
- Office Space
- Training
- Additional Court Days
- Contracts (Judge, Prosecutor, Public Defender)