

THE BRIEF

January 2020

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts.

As record keepers for the Circuit Court in 2019, Clerk of Court staff have attended and recorded actions for **44,498** hearings, processed **40,590** new case type filings, and scanned **313, 463** documents.

UPDATES IN THE COURTS ~

Technology continues to expand in Eau Claire County with e-Filing providing more efficient and progressive access to court related records. Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) became mandatory for eFiling effective December 15.

Digital Audio Recording (DAR) equipment was installed in most of the circuit court branches mid-December. There may be times when proceedings may be set and a court reporter (stenographer) is not available. DAR is a recognized method of taking the circuit court record. The use of a DAR machine with a monitor may be used for low transcript hearings and less complex proceedings. There will be signage when using the DAR equipment for litigants, staff, and public as reminders that the proceedings are being recorded and anything spoken may be recorded. (Please note: Microphones are always on in courtrooms with this system.)

Requests for Digital Audio Recordings may be handled through the use of the form, *Transcript/Copy Request*, for a written transcript or a CD. This form is attached to the email you received with this newsletter. Please save this for future reference. If you are unsure where to submit a request, contact Cherie Norberg (839-6215) or Laura Yohn (839-6786).

Reminder to Court Appointed Counsel ~ Hourly rate changes to \$100/per hour for work completed on or after January 1, 2020. Payment vouchers submitted should be clear as to service dates and rates. More on guidelines for court appointed counsel in the March 2020 issue.

RETIREMENTS ~

Jill McLaughlin, Branch 4 Court Reporter, retiring after 36 years of service, effective January 3, 2019. Becky Thomas, Branch 5 Court Reporter, retiring after 25 years of service, effective January 3, 2019.

Susan Schaffer and the entire Clerk of Court office staff thank you for the successes of 2019 and look forward to further improvements and increased access to the Courts in 2020.