

FOX VALLEY COURT WATCH

QUARTERLY REPORT



Eye on the Domestic Violence Courts

THIRD QUARTER REPORT

JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

KANE/KENDALL COUNTY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third quarter of 2017 produced a total of 59 observations (Kane County: 32 reports; Kendall County: 27 reports). Observation outcomes breakdown as follows:

NOTE: The main obstacle to Court Watch Observers in Kane County continued to be the absence of an effective way to identify pending domestic bench and jury trials. Late in the quarter a file of pending cases was received from the County. The assignment of felony domestic cases to multiple courtrooms continues to make it more difficult for Observers.

We receive a monthly update of domestic trials from the Kendall County States Attorney's office. Continuation dates are reported by observers, so these cases can be tracked and observed when possible.

Kane County:

- 17 - cases were continued.
- 4 - cases were dismissed, mostly due to victim or witness continuing to not appear.
- 5 - cases resulted in a guilty verdict, **1 of these was pleaded down to common battery.**
- 0 - cases resulted in a not guilty verdict.
- 6 - OP requests were granted.

Kendall County:

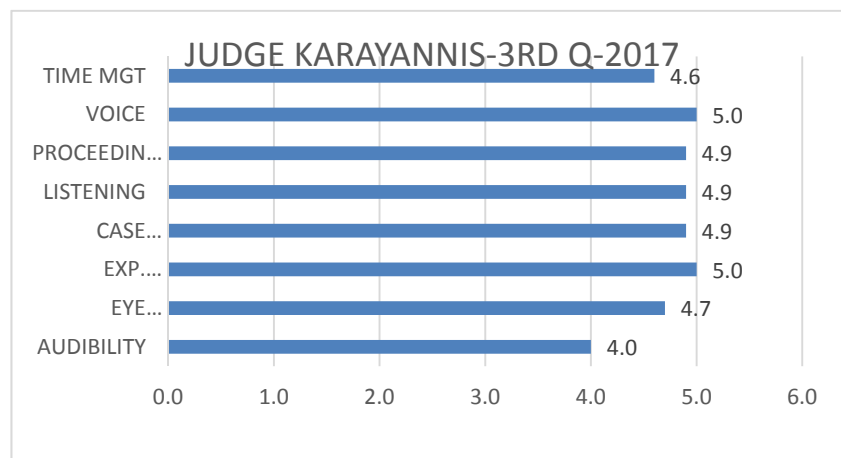
- 12 - cases were continued mostly due to victim or witness was not present.
- 4 - cases were dismissed due to victim or witness continuing to not appear.
- 8 - cases resulted in a guilty verdict, **5 of these were pleaded down to common battery.**
- 1 - case resulted in a not guilty verdict
- 2 - OP requests were granted.

The following pages display the scores given to the Judges observed and supporting comments.

The attached files display the details of the cases observed in Kane and Kendall County.

3RD Q - 2017	AUDIBILITY	EYE CONTACT	EXPLAIN CHARGES	CASE DETAILS	LISTENING SKILLS	COURT PROCEEDINGS	VOICE TONE	TIME MANAGEMENT
KARAYANNIS	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KARAYANNIS	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
KARAYANNIS	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KARAYANNIS	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KARAYANNIS	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KARAYANNIS	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
KARAYANNIS	3	4	5	4	4	4	5	4
AVERAGE	4.0	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.6

AUDIBILITY	4.0
EYE CONTACT	4.7
EXP. CHARGES	5.0
CASE DETAILS	4.9
LISTENING	4.9
PROCEEDINGS	4.9
VOICE	5.0
TIME MGT	4.6



COMMENTS:

Emphasized time mgt. to attorneys. Gave them five minutes to be ready.

47 cases on docket.

Judge told litigants to speak up, and attorneys at tables to lower voices.

Late arrival of prisoner delayed matters 34 minutes.

Kept everything moving very fast.

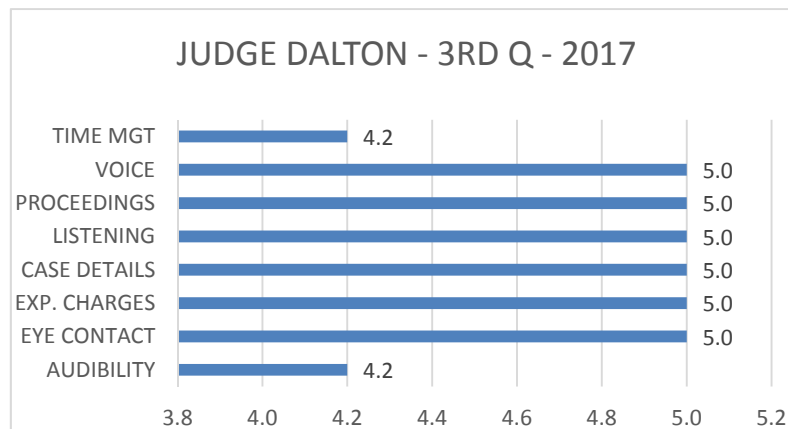
When translator is present audibility is not as good.

Took recess to review two case motions before ruling.

Delay of 10 minutes waiting for interpreter.

3rd Q - 2017	AUDIBILITY	EYE CONTACT	EXPLAIN CHARGES	CASE DETAILS	LISTENING SKILLS	COURT PROCEEDINGS	VOICE TONE	TIME MANAGEMENT
Dalton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Dalton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dalton	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Dalton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Dalton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Dalton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Dalton	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dalton	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dalton	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Average	4.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.2

AUDIBILITY	4.2
EYE CONTACT	5.0
EXP. CHARGES	5.0
CASE DETAILS	5.0
LISTENING	5.0
PROCEEDINGS	5.0
VOICE	5.0



COMMENTS:

Added humor with attorneys as they approached the bench.

Gave directions to attorneys to expedite the proceedings.

29 cases on docket. 9 cases dismissed due to no shows.

Judge remained calm as he was being spoken over.

21 cases on docket, 6 were no shows.

Difficult to hear, Judge frequently told people to speak up.

Judge greeted everyone with a hello and how are you today.

34 minute delay due to backroom meeting between attorneys.

Judge was personal with Court Observer and attorneys during a break.

Judge recognized the presence of our Observer.

Overheard Attorney Michael Mellic say that he hates Prairie State Legal Service.

Judge highly audible, but attorneys are not.

Loud speaking interpreters make it hard to hear proceedings.

Prairie State attorney thanked me for attending. Said my presence created a better performance by the Judge. Encouraged me to return.

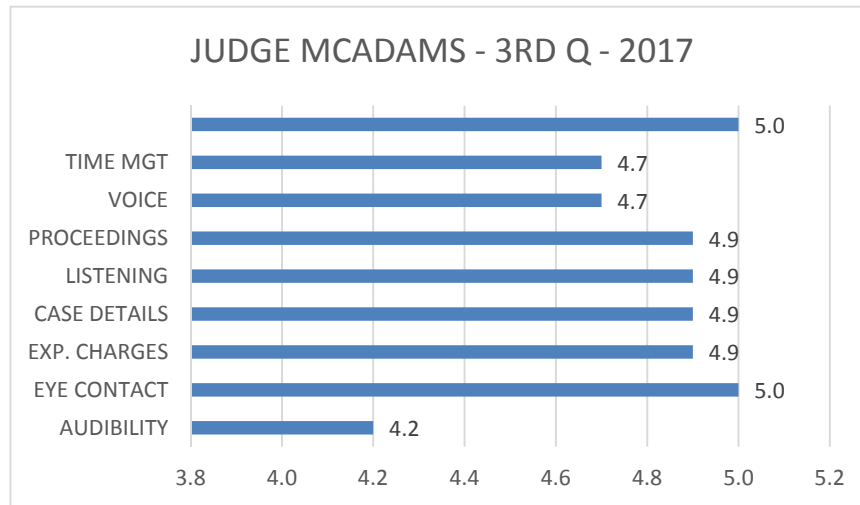
Extremely loud today due to attorneys talking with clients in court.

Bailiff suggested I set in front row so I could hear better.

25 cases on docket today. 8 OP cases, 8 OP's granted, no OP's rejected. 3 no shows.

3RD Q - 2017	AUDIBILITY	EYE CONTACT	EXPLAIN CHARGES	CASE DETAILS	LISTENING SKILLS	COURT PROCEEDINGS	VOICE TONE	TIME MANAGEMENT
McAdams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	3	5	4	4	4	4	5	5
McAdams	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	3	5	5	5	5	5	3	5
McAdams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
McAdams	3	5	5	5	5	3	4	5
AVG SCORE	4.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7	5.0

AUDIBILITY	4.2
EYE CONTACT	5.0
EXP. CHARGES	4.9
CASE DETAILS	4.9
LISTENING	4.9
PROCEEDINGS	4.9
VOICE	4.7
TIME MGT	4.7
	5.0



COMMENTS:

Audibility was a slight issue.

Could not hear ASA's response to why the case was not being called.

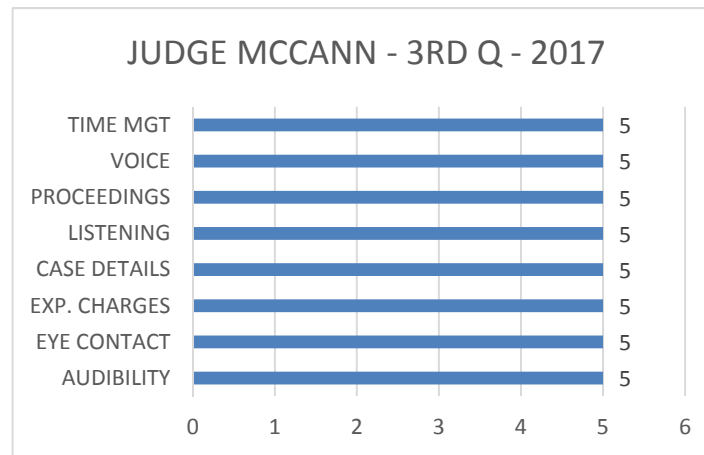
Could not hear much of today's proceedings. ASA needs to speak up.

Judge was very efficient and thorough today.

Could not hear most of the proceedings, attorneys need to speak up.

3RD Q - 2017	AUDIBILITY	EYE CONTACT	EXPLAIN CHARGES	CASE DETAILS	LISTENING SKILLS	COURT PROCEEDINGS	VOICE TONE	TIME MANAGEMENT
MCCANN	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MCCANN	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MCCANN	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
MCCANN	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
AVERAGE	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

AUDIBILITY	5
EYE CONTACT	5
EXP. CHARGES	5
CASE DETAILS	5
LISTENING	5
PROCEEDINGS	5
VOICE	5
TIME MGT	5



COMMENTS:

Excellent use of time.

Judge was very efficient and thorough today.

Judge uses microphone. Everyone on courtroom can hear.

Sometimes hard to hear what all participants say.