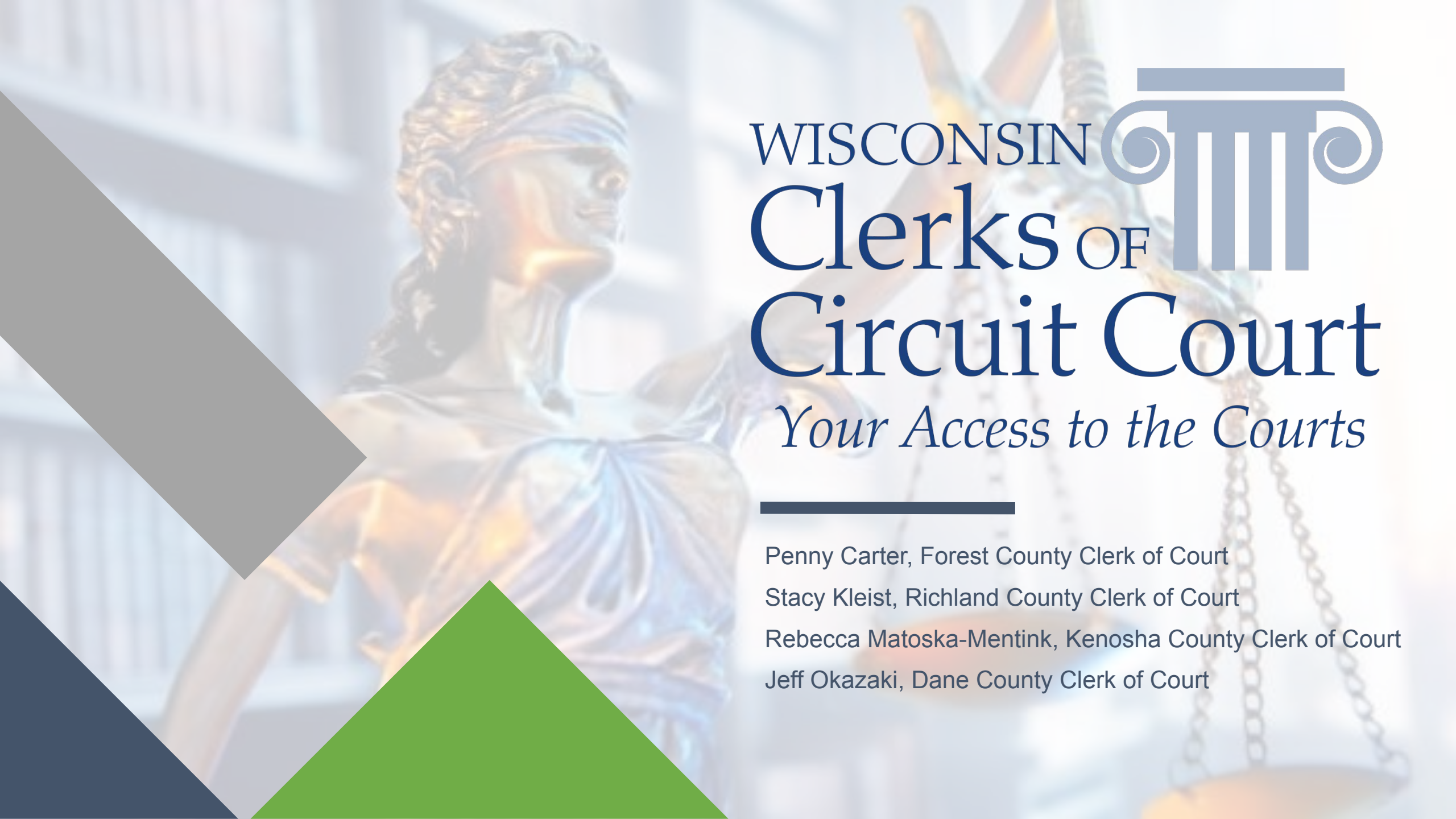


Wisconsin Counties Association
2025 ANNUAL ***GAME DAY***
CONFERENCE

8:00 – 9:00 AM

**Clerks of Circuit Court: The Backbone of
Justice**

The background of the slide features a faded image of a classical statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales of justice. Overlaid on the right side is a large, stylized blue icon of a classical building facade with four columns. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with varying font weights and styles. Decorative geometric shapes, including a grey triangle on the left and a green triangle at the bottom, add a modern touch to the design.

WISCONSIN

Clerks OF Circuit Court

Your Access to the Courts

Penny Carter, Forest County Clerk of Court

Stacy Kleist, Richland County Clerk of Court

Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Kenosha County Clerk of Court

Jeff Okazaki, Dane County Clerk of Court



Who We Are

- ❖ 72 Clerks of Court
- ❖ WI Constitutional Officer – Countywide election every four years
- ❖ Vacancies – Judge or Judges of the circuit court may appoint for remainder of term
- ❖ Duties set forth in Wisconsin statutes

What We Do

“Keep a criminal record and write in that record a history in every criminal action like the court record in civil actions and proceedings with references to the file where papers in the action can be found”

WI Statute 59.40(2)(c)



What We Do



- ❖ Statutory – Section 59.40 & 753.30
 - Appoint deputies
 - Manage court finances & collections
 - Keep the record
 - Jury management
- ❖ Supreme Court Rule – Chapter 70 & 72
- ❖ Local Court Rules
- ❖ County Ordinances & Administration
 - Administer the courthouse

What We Do - Records

- ❖ Court Hearings
 - Dockets, Minutes, Exhibits, Costs
- ❖ Financial Records
- ❖ Retention Rules
 - 2 Years to 150 Years
- ❖ Public Access

What We Do – Jury Management

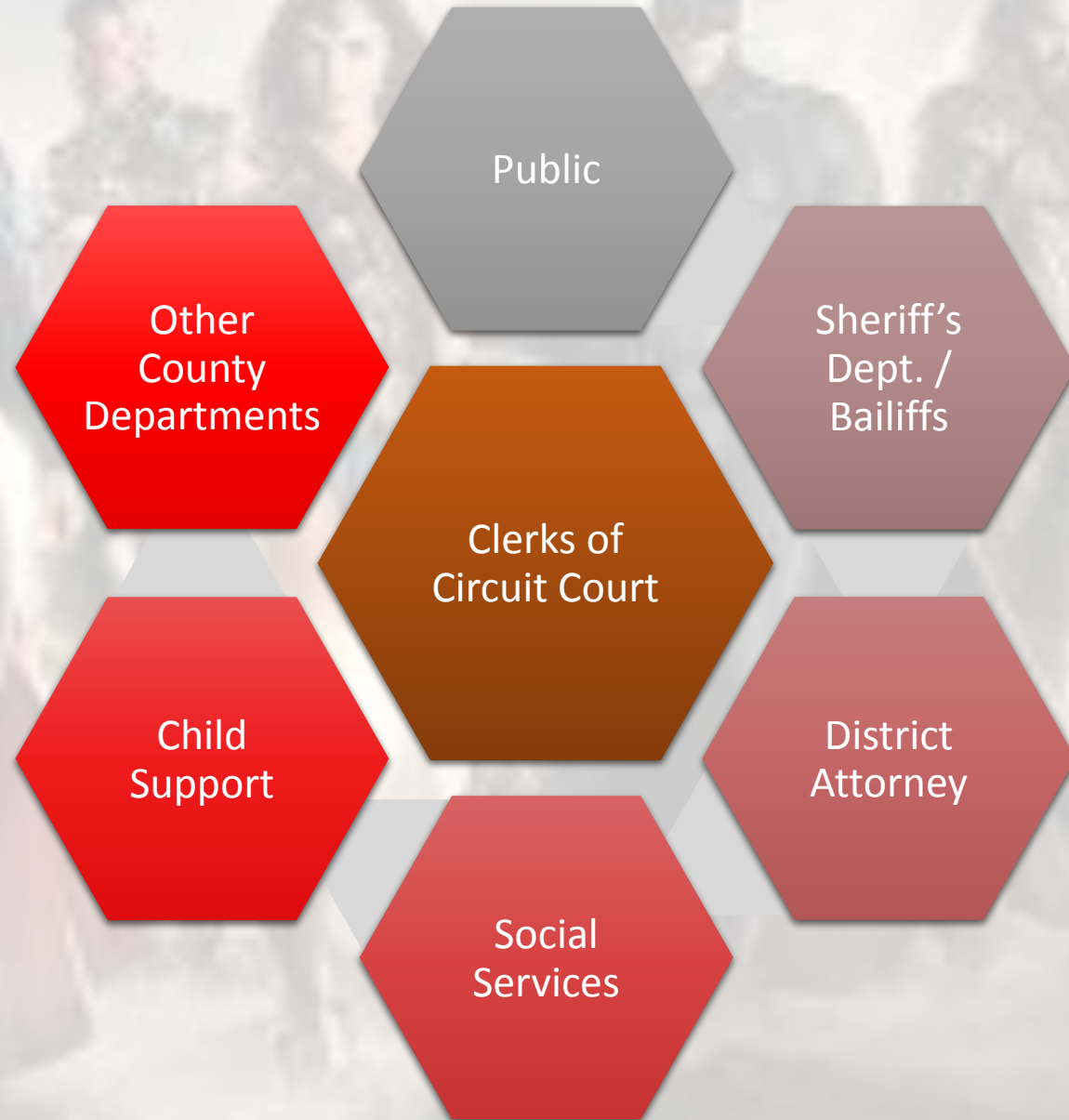
- ❖ Jury Pool
 - Department of Transportation records
 - Serve once per 4 years
- ❖ Summoning Jurors – Voir Dire
 - Far more summons than jurors
 - Manage payments, excusals, non-compliance
- ❖ Jury Selection
 - 6 or 12 persons
 - Alternates
- ❖ Trial Management
 - High Profile Trials
 - Out of County Trials

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored image of the Incredibles family. Mr. Incredible is in the center, holding a baby (likely Dash or Violet). To his left is Elastigirl, and to his right is another family member. In the foreground, there are two more characters, possibly Violet and Dash, looking forward. The overall tone is heroic and family-oriented.

What We Do – Beyond Statute

- ❖ Proper use of budget dollars & county resources
- ❖ Protection of court staff and court users
- ❖ Maximize efficiencies of court process and proceedings
- ❖ Collaborate with community
- ❖ Provide access to the justice system
- ❖ Serve the interests of the Public, County Administration, Attorneys, Law Enforcement, Judges, Victims, & Defendants

County Court Interactions

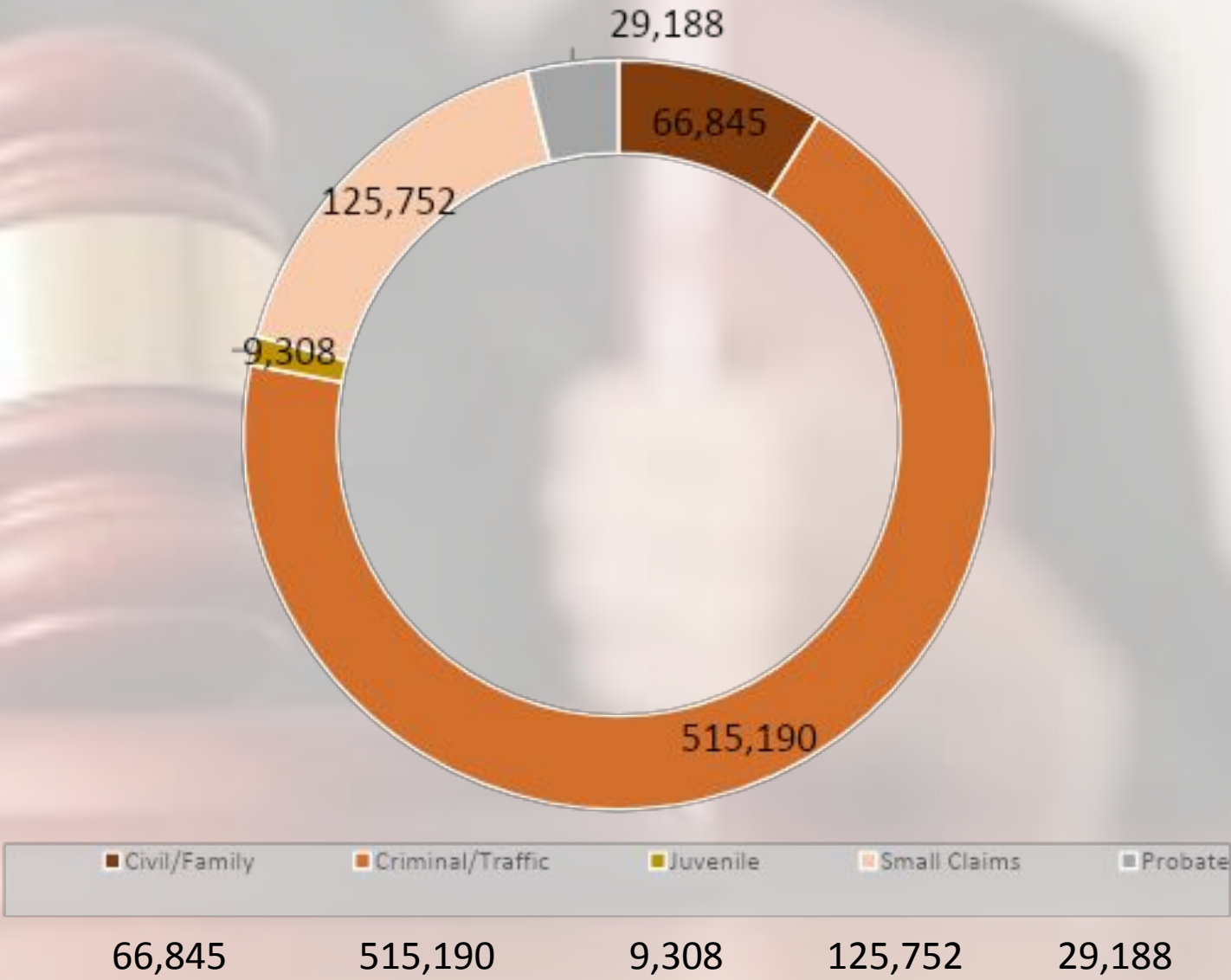


The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored version of the Wisconsin State Seal. It depicts a Native American figure, likely a woman, seated and holding a bow in her right hand and an arrow pointing downward in her left. She is wearing a red dress and a yellow necklace. The seal is encircled by a blue border with a white and red striped ribbon. The words "JUDICIAL" and "BRANCH" are visible in the background, along with the word "WISCONSIN" at the top.

County Court Partners

- ❖ County Court Staff – State
 - Judges
 - Court Reporters
 - Judicial Assistants (varies by county)
- ❖ State Partners
 - Director of State Courts
 - District Court Administrators
- ❖ Interpreters
- ❖ Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association
- ❖ Registers In Probate / Juvenile Clerks (varies by county)

Impact - 2024 Cases



County Court Challenges

- ❖ Funding
 - Required statutory costs
 - Increasing interpreter costs
- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ Security
 - Increasing violence
 - Zero state support for security
 - No statutory protection for Clerks of Court
- ❖ Intersection of State, County, Judicial, & Public Requirements and Expectations

Collaboration With WCA & Counties

◆ Advocacy WIN! – State Budget

- Additional \$10M to counties

THANK YOU

We couldn't
have done it
without WCA!

Collaboration With WCA & Counties

What We're Doing and What's Needed Next

- ❖ Advocacy – SB 333 / AB 320
 - Updates 30-40 year old court fees
 - Est. \$20M additional funding to counties

- ❖ HOW TO HELP
 - Contact your legislators to support this bill



THANK YOU for
supporting your
clerks!

<https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/circuit/clerkcontact.htm>

WISCONSIN
Clerks OF
Circuit Court
Your Access to the Courts

