

Employee Spotlight: Brandy Johnson, Prosecutor's Office



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Brandy Johnson, and I've worked for the County for almost 18 years. I have an amazing husband, Andy, and two beautiful little girls named Teagan (9) and Tenley (6). My family and I are constantly on the move, whether that means traveling for youth sports, spending time with family, or doing house projects. I enjoy Michigan summers, boating, and hanging out with family and friends.

What is your position at the county, and what individuals/customers do you work with?

I am the Administrator at the Prosecutor's Office. I consider my customers to be both the clients that we serve whether defendants, victims, or witnesses as well as our attorneys and support staff within the office. I often assist staff with customer/client complaints/concerns and I spend a lot of time assisting prosecutor staff with daily hurdles associated with our workload. A large portion of my role focuses on budget and personnel and a...

majority of my calls involve criminal history discrepancies.

What are two or three things that staff should know about your role?

- There are never two days alike, which is why I love it so much.
- My role mainly involves problem-solving, communicating, and coming up with solutions and/or compromises to everyday scenarios that our office faces.
- I view my responsibility as providing staff with the resources and tools needed to get their job done while also balancing spending taxpayer dollars and budgetary constraints. Our attorneys, support staff, and victim advocates are truly the engineers that keep our train on the tracks and without the proper tools to do so, our agency wouldn't be able to do the great things that it accomplishes day in and day out.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? What is the most challenging?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the hard work that our employees continue to provide to the general public on a regular basis even when things get hard. As government workers, we don't always have the highest salaries compared to the private industry, particularly for our attorneys, but we definitely have a passion for what we do. That passion is what drives us to do what we do and do it well. Many times in society we hear jokes about how government workers aren't always the hardest working individuals. I always chuckle and think to myself, "that's not true." Most of the clients that we serve are not always excited to see us. Many of the clients we serve have experienced the worst day of their lives and as a result need to cooperate with our office. To be able to receive even one "thank you" every day or every week is one step closer to showing that government employees can be great people and can do great things.

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The most challenging part of my job is to not become engulfed in the negative thoughts and cynicism that comes with the work that we do. Unfortunately, we always see the “bad” in many of the people that flow through our office. To continue to stay positive and not assume the worst in everyone is very difficult. It’s like the watching the news where everything is negative. Our world is the news every day and trying to remember that there is still good in the world is sometimes very hard.



Do you have any funny stories about working in your department?

When I first started at the county in the Friend of the Court office, I had only been there a few months when I brought leftovers for lunch one day. At lunchtime, I opened the refrigerator and realized my Styrofoam container was gone. There was one that looked similar, but it definitely didn’t contain what I had packed. Convinced my lunch had been taken, I promptly sent a department-wide email asking if anyone had mistakenly grabbed it. The mystery wasn’t solved until later that evening when I got home and discovered the truth: I had grabbed the wrong Styrofoam container that morning, and the “stolen” lunch wasn’t even mine. A few years (and a few re-tellings) later, I was gifted a little “lunch thief” reminder.



One of the fun activities that our office enjoys doing is an annual chili cook-off. Our office typically gets pretty competitive when it comes to this event.



Is there anything else you want to say/talk about?

“Nothing other than to say that our office is AWESOME!”