



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

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House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Written Testimony in Support of [2021 HB 2361](#)

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Chairperson Jennings and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today to provide testimony in support of 2021 HB 2361 (HB2361). I am Amy Raymond, the director of Trial Court Programs for the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA).

One of my many responsibilities at OJA is oversight of the specialty courts across Kansas. As indicated in Chief Justice Luckert's [State of the Judiciary report](#) issued in January, the Kansas Supreme Court has identified specialty courts as a focus in its strategic goal of maximizing access to and promoting justice. Several years ago, the Kansas Supreme Court established rules related to specialty courts: [Supreme Court Rule 190](#) ("Specialty Courts") and [Rule 192](#) ("Specialty Court Standards"). Over the last year, OJA has increased its work with specialty courts by securing grant funding for a mental health summit and hosting a webinar series on veterans' treatment courts.

Additionally, the Court recently adopted [Supreme Court Rule 191](#) which establishes a standing specialty court committee, similar to its other standing committees such as Access to Justice and Language Access. This new committee will make recommendations regarding the development and administration of specialty courts in Kansas district courts. The interbranch funding committee proposed in HB 2361 would engage in work parallel to the work already underway.

HB 2361 states that OJA "may provide technical assistance to the committee." At this time, OJA believes it would be able to absorb such work with existing staff. Additionally, OJA believes it could absorb tasks associated with administering the specialty court resources fund with existing staff. However, it is possible that, based on the activity level of the committee, OJA may need to request additional staff at some point.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today. The judicial branch greatly appreciates the Legislature's continued interest in developing specialty courts within Kansas.