

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN MAY/JUNE 2016

JUVENILE COURT HOSTS SECOND MEDINA CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL SHOWCASE

Eight teams of students, grades six through eight, from Medina, Black River, Wadsworth and Wellington participated in the Medina County Middle School Mock Trial Showcase May 21, hosted by the Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court. The students have been preparing for weeks to present their cases as prosecution and defense in *Oklahoma v. J. Case* based on the book *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.



Magistrate Lewis explained the importance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, restorative justice and how the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision *In Re Gault* changed due process for juveniles in the United States. Judge Dunn then related the plot of *The Outsiders* to issues still seen among young adults today.

“My hope is not that we are building lawyers from this showcase, but that these students are building confidence with public speaking and critical thinking on their feet,” said Medina County Schools’ Education Service Center Coordinator, Janice Kollar. “Those skills are going to be relevant in their every day lives.”

The students presented both sides of the case before Judge Kevin W. Dunn and the Juvenile and Probate Court magistrates, who oversaw the trials in each of their courtrooms. Judge Dunn addressed the students from A.I. Root and Black River Middle Schools in his courtroom after their first trial round concluded.

“You all did a great job,” Judge Dunn told the students. “I know you spent a lot of time preparing for this mock trial and your knowledge of the case and facts are evident.”

Judge Dunn offered the students a few tips before their second trial began, such as encouraging them to paint a picture during a trial.

“Weave your strongest points either proving or disproving the charge into your questioning,” Judge Dunn said. “Provide descriptions about what happened and develop why the defendant felt the need to stab the victim.”

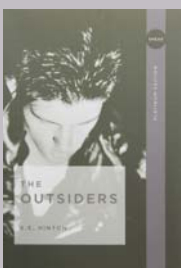
After both rounds of trials concluded, the students went to the County Administration building for awards. Judge Dunn and Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis presented the history of juvenile law and the types of cases handled in Juvenile Court.

“We still have these polarizing groups like the Greasers and the Socs in our community today,” Judge Dunn said. “I want you all to remember that even the worst kid in your class has some great characteristics if you take the time to get to know them. That kid who may seem like the jerk in the hallway may have some pretty intense issues that he or she is dealing with behind the scenes.”

Judge Dunn explained that he encounters some teens who are responsible for taking care of their families because the parents have to work multiple jobs, or due to health reasons parents can not provide adequate care.

“That is a lot of pressure to put on a young person,” Judge Dunn said. “We are a big community and how classmates treat each other at school or in social activities has a lasting affect. Please keep that in mind and do what you can to help maintain a kind and accepting community here in Medina County.”

Students pose with the awards they earned for outstanding performances during the Mock Trial competition May 21.



The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Ohio Mock Trial cases are based on popular literature written by teams of teachers and lawyers. Middle school students act as witnesses and attorneys to argue cases involving their favorite characters.

The Outsiders, written by 15-year-old S.E. Hinton and published by the time she was 18, follows two rival groups, the Greasers and the Socs, who are divided by their socioeconomic status. In the case of *Oklahoma v. J. Case*, the students must argue whether or not one of the main characters is guilty of murder.

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VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 12 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Volunteer Guardians, court personnel and donors celebrated the 12th anniversary of the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program June 9, 2016 at the Brunswick Eagles Club. The program, which began in Medina County in 2004, currently has 28 active wards—people incapable of managing their own affairs, either because of age or mental illness—and 37 active volunteer guardians.

Judge Dunn and Volunteer Guardianship Coordinator Nicki Shook recognized and thanked each



Volunteers gather to celebrate at the annual Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Picnic June 9

volunteer for their years of service, ranging from four to twelve years. They also acknowledged The

National Association of Legal Secretaries of Northeast Ohio who generously donated to the program again this year.

Other donors to the annual picnic included Medina County Home that contributed cupcakes; Dominic's Italian Restaurant contributed pizza, jo jo's, rigatoni, and chicken.

To learn more about the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program or how to become involved, visit www.MedinaProbate.org.



TAKE CONTROL: DRIVING TIPS FOR TEENS



Thanks to a joint effort between local agencies, police departments, the Medina County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, licensed Medina County teens can take a free three-hour course on advanced driving training to gain more confidence and experience in difficult driving situations.

The class, taught in the parking lot of Westfield Insurance on the third Saturday of each month, offers teen drivers increased awareness and development of driving techniques such as eye positioning and driving, shuffle steering, skid recovery, vehicle pivot

points in forward and reverse, emergency braking, and collision avoidance.

The cars used for the program are funded by the Medina County Juvenile Court. Other sponsors who help make the Take Control program possible are the Cleveland Cavaliers, Westfield Insurance, the Baldwin Wallace University's Center for Innovation and Growth, the Jessica Shaffer Memorial Fund and the Mstar Foundation.

To learn more about the Take Control teen driving program, visit www.TakeControlDriving.org.