

Medina County Common Pleas Court

PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

July 23, 2015

Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court Receives Technology Grant Funds for Improvements and Upgrades

Nearly \$31,000 in grant funds will be used to purchase and offset the costs of improvements and upgrades to Court software and technology



Network Administrator Mike Stiles and Judge Kevin Dunn holding Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court's new Storage Area Network device.

MEDINA – The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court will continue to progress and utilize current technology thanks to approval from the Supreme Court of Ohio for approximately \$31,000 from the Technology Grant Fund.

These funds, available under the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative, will be used to help offset the costs of new digital audio recording equipment and software upgrades, as well as to purchase a Storage Area Network (SAN) device, allowing the Court to save digital images, digital audio recordings and to scan old paper records to digital images.

“We’ve had the ability to import scanned digital images into our database for years, but storage space is a barrier,” said Network Administrator Mike Stiles. “A SAN device will allow us the space to store more information as we move to become a paperless Court.”

Stiles said the SAN device will not only provide additional digital storage space, it will also free-up physical space in the Court’s vaults and will help reduce costs of purchasing office supplies, such as paper and printer ink.

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To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our website at www.MedinaProbate.org.

In addition to a SAN device, the technology grant funds will also be used to help offset the cost of upgrading the Court's software for the Digital Court Recording system, which was installed in 2006.

"Our recording system does not work well with our current software," Stiles said. "Sometimes older software is not compatible with today's operating systems. This incompatibility could cause our system to crash and that increases the possibility for loss of recordings. This software upgrade will be more reliable with immediate and quick accessibility."

Judge Kevin Dunn said the risk of losing recordings is not an option in his Court.

"We have an obligation at the Court to provide transcripts of hearings," he said. "Because our current software isn't reliable, we have to hire a court reporter at a tremendous cost. These funds will provide dramatic savings."

A portion of the grant funds will also be used to purchase additional digital audio recording equipment for use in the Court's video teleconferencing and hearing room – a newly-designated room for daily juvenile detention hearings, eliminating the need to take over a magistrate's courtroom for an hour or more each day.

Judge Dunn said the video teleconferencing and hearing room will also provide a local location in Medina County for necessary training sessions for community members who assist with Court programs.

"This new equipment will allow us to have video-linked trainings for members of our community who help with our various programs," Judge Dunn said. "For example, members of our Volunteer Guardianship Program may be able to come to the courthouse for upcoming training sessions rather than the hassle of driving to Columbus."

Judge Dunn added how thankful he is to the Supreme Court for approving the grant applications.

"It's more than just buying new gadgets," Judge Dunn said. "These upgrades will do great things for the Court and I'm grateful that the Supreme Court looked positively on our applications. I'm eager to get the new equipment up and running."

The process to purchase, upgrade and install all of the software and equipment will begin immediately with an expected completion of July 2015.