

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN AUGUST 2013

WELCOME JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN



Photo courtesy of Judge John J. Lohn

Judge Kevin W. Dunn took his seat on the bench for the first time August 5, 2013 as Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge, a spot he's been aspiring toward since he was six years old.

He grew up in Medina with his sister Lisa, his father, a parks and recreation supervisor, and his mother, a junior high English teacher, before his family moved to New London his senior year.

"It was great," he said. "I went from a high school with about 300 kids to a class of 68 or so."

Dunn credits the New London community for being so involved with their youth and shaping him into the person he is today.

"All students had to take turns at the fair and if I had a shift at 11:00 a.m., someone would be knocking on my door at 8:30 a.m. making sure I was awake and ready to go," he said. "Or if you had a college you were interested in attending, someone in town who went to that school would take you out to lunch to talk about it and answer any questions."

Dunn said he didn't anticipate attending Miami University after

high school until three New London teachers convinced him. He joined the Theta Chi fraternity and later earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1987.

It was during his freshman year of college, when the Dunn family returned to Medina, that Dunn began to focus on his career path. While home for summer breaks, his dad would line up odd jobs for him, including cleaning sewers, garbage truck duty, painting lines on the street and even helping with cemetery burials.

"My dad would push me to do these every summer because he said it would make me work hard at school to get the job I really wanted in the future," he said.

Judge Dunn comes from a family of judges and attorneys, so earning his Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law in 1990 seemed like the natural path he would take.

After graduation, Dunn went to work for Bob Tinkl in Brunswick as a law clerk and associate, following the footsteps of his predecessor Judge John Lohn and Medina Common Pleas Judge Christopher Collier. After passing the bar in 1991, he stayed with Tinkl for six months before going into private practice and taking on corporate/business law, probate and estate planning and criminal cases.

In 2006, Dunn ran in the election for Domestic Relations Judge but was unsuccessful and remained in private practice. Seven years later, following the announcement of Judge Lohn's retirement, Governor John Kasich appointed Dunn as Judge to fill the seat in Probate and Juvenile Court.

"The biggest difference between being a judge and an attorney is that instead of preparing for a case, I'm now observing and issuing decisions," Dunn said. "It can be a little frustrating because I

have to sit by and I'm just waiting for these attorneys to grab their opportunities and submit details, but I can't present the case for them."

Dunn is also taking time to observe community collaborations and operations of the Court to decide if any changes are necessary.

"I have a business background and I would like to apply that to help expand programs, but our coalitions with the community are great and I don't see any dramatic changes," he said. "I have to thank Judge Lohn for his foresight."

Dunn said one downside to the job is witnessing the fights over estates or money, as well as juveniles getting into trouble.

"You hope kids will grow out of that rebellious stage, but sometimes they don't, they just grow up and end up with an adult felony case," he said. "But the programs we have in place are great. The goal is to get them to follow the rules and become a decent neighbor."

Although Dunn said he would like to look into revamping some local rules and work with the Bar Association to make the Court more streamlined and responsive to the community, any changes are at least three months away.

"The ship is running well," he said. "I'm not looking to reinvent the wheel, just a little fine tuning."

The Dunn Family

Judge Dunn currently lives in Westfield Center with his wife Lisa, two teenage daughters, Emily and Megan, a 17-year old cat named Oreo, and Molly, a seven year old yellow lab.

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JOINING MEDINA COUNTY HISTORY

1852-1855



**Calvin B.
Prentiss**

Prentiss, originally from Massachusetts, was elected Medina County's first probate judge serving one term. He was admitted to the bar in 1855 and went on to become a successful lawyer.

1855-1861



**Henry
Warner**

Dr. Warner was born in New York and moved to Spencer, Ohio in the fall of 1841. He continued to practice medicine until his death, except when serving as Probate Court Judge for six years. He died from pneumonia in 1872.

1861-1867



**Samuel G.
Barnard**

Barnard was born in 1828 and was admitted to the bar in 1852. He practiced law in Medina County after holding office as probate judge for two terms.

1885-1891



**John T.
Graves**

Graves was elected prosecuting attorney in 1876 and served two terms. He continued to practice law in Seville before becoming probate judge in 1885.

1891-1897



**Fremont O.
Phillips**

Phillips moved to Medina in 1873 and attended Medina High School. He served as mayor from 1886-1890 and became probate judge in 1892.

1897-1903



**George A.
Richards**

Richards was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1879. He went into private practice and formed a partnership with ex-Judge Barnard before being elected probate judge in 1897.

1924-1933



**Fremont O.
Phillips**

Phillips returned as probate and juvenile judge of Medina County in 1924. He was reelected and served until 1933. He died February 21, 1936 and is now buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

1933-1941



**George M.
Denton**

Denton was editor of the Medina Sentinel and the first director for The Board of Trade Band in 1915. Ten years later, he was elected Mayor of Medina and held office until 1929 before becoming probate judge in 1933.

1941-1945



**Windsor E.
Kellogg**

Kellogg was elected probate judge in 1941, but resigned in 1945 to become an attorney for the Cleveland office of the Veterans Administration. He returned as acting judge in October 1964 and again in March 1968.

1985-1996



**L. Thomas
Skidmore**

Elected as Juvenile and Probate Judge in 1985, Skidmore passed away while in office in 1996.

1996-2003



**Jill R.
Heck**

Heck was a former county prosecutor and appointed to the bench in 1996 to complete the term of Judge Skidmore. She was then elected and served one term, after which she returned to private practice.

2003-2013



**John J.
Lohn**

Lohn was elected to office as Probate and Juvenile Court Judge in 2003. Prior, he served as city prosecutor and law director for Medina City. Lohn's judicial term wasn't to end until February 2015, however, he announced his early retirement in April 2013.

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AS THE JUVENILE, PROBATE JUDGE

1867-1873



**George W.
Lewis**

Lewis was captain of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1862 and lost his left arm at the battle of Nashville. He was later commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel before coming to Medina in October 1865. He was elected probate judge in 1866.

1873-1879



**Charles G.
Coddling**

Born in Granger, Ohio in 1829, he was admitted to the bar in 1860. Coddling became prosecuting attorney in 1865 before being elected probate judge in 1872. He continued to practice law full time after serving two terms as judge.

1879-1885



**Albert
Munson**

Munson was admitted to the bar in 1873, later taking office as probate judge. Munson went into private practice following his judgeship.

1903-1908



**Francis M.
Plank**

Plank began work as a teacher at just 17 years old, later becoming superintendent for Wadsworth schools in 1888. After holding office as judge, he served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, fuel director for Medina during the World War period and later established an insurance agency.

1908-1917



**J. R.
Kennan**

Kennan was a republican elected to the bench after defeating democrat John Owens in the 1908 election with 3,342 votes.

1917-1924



**Omar O.
Van Deusen**

Born in Hinckley, Van Deusen was a farmer and teacher until 1893 when he was elected county clerk of courts and moved to Medina. He was admitted to the bar in 1899 and practiced law until 1916 when he was elected probate judge.

1945-1964



**Cloyd W.
Derhammer**

Derhammer, originally from Doylestown, began his work as a pharmacist and enlisted in WWI, serving overseas for 14 months. He was elected clerk of courts in 1936 and appointed probate judge in 1945 by Governor Lausche.

1964-1968



**Wayne W.
Garver**

Garver, from Wadsworth, was appointed Medina County Probate and Juvenile Judge by Governor James A. Rhodes after the death of Judge Derhammer in 1964.

1968-1985



**H. Dennis
Dannley**

Dannley left his position as a State Representative when he was appointed to the bench in 1968, succeeding the late Judge Garver. He was later elected to retain the seat.

2013-present



**Kevin W.
Dunn**

Former Chairman of the Republican Party in Medina County and private practice lawyer for 22 years, Dunn was appointed by Governor John Kasich August 5, 2013 to take office for the remainder of Judge Lohn's assignment.

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ANOTHER TWELVE-WEEK GIRL'S CIRCLE PROGRAM BEGINS AT THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Girls Circle is a program that began in collaboration with Alternative Paths and the Medina County Juvenile Court in 2009. This Court ordered program provides girls from nine to 18 years of age on probation the skills to form authentic relationships, build self esteem and abstain from drug and alcohol use.

The group, which averages approximately seven to eight members at a time, began another 12-week round this month at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center, facilitated by Alternative Paths social worker, Carrie Sellers.

In this current group of five participants, the girls take turns talking and listening to one another on topics ranging from trust, friendships, body image, goals, sexuality, drugs and alcohol, competition and planning for the future during the hour and a half sessions each week.

"When they receive a consequence from the Court, many are not very appealing, whereas this is something positive and they really enjoy doing it," Sellers said. "It's a positive experience."

According to a 2007 research study with Ceres Policy Research, it was revealed that Girls Circle provided significant improvement for participants by decreasing self-harming behavior and alcohol use, while increasing attachment to school and self-worth through writing, art and

verbal communication.

"Girls Circle also improves their relationships with their parents," said Medina County Senior Probation Officer Stephanie Yockey, who currently has three female probationers in the program. "Parents always tell me at the completion ceremony how there is such an improvement in attitudes and behavior at home."

During the third week, the girls create mother, daughter collages to present to their parent at the completion ceremony.

Girls in the program also increase their skills to look beyond reputations and find commonalities with others.

"The majority of girls I order into the program are hesitant," said Probation Officer Jamie Thomas. "But usually after a few sessions they find they enjoy the interaction and realize that other girls are trying to deal with a lot of the same issues they are and their attitude toward it changes. They tell me they look forward to the group each week."

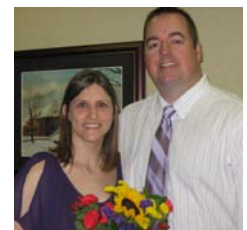
Funding for the program is provided through scholarships and grants used to buy supplies, rewards and to cover ceremony costs and the facilitator fee.

This series of Girls Circle began August 5 and will continue until the girls' completion ceremony with family October 28, 2013.

COURTHOUSE WEDDINGS

Judge Kevin Dunn performed his first wedding ceremonies as Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge August 8, 2013, marrying four couples.

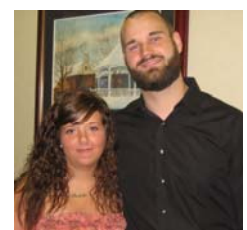
Below are photos of some of the happy newlyweds.



Kerry Williams & Raven Burford



Bryan Arbogast & Mary Flowers



Zackery Rose & Amber Johnson

JUVENILE, PROBATE COURT ASSISTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL RALLIES

At the end of summer break, Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court teams up with other community agencies and organizations for the annual back-to-school rallies providing students with new backpacks and necessary supplies for the upcoming year.

In total, 1,579 backpacks were provided for the 2013 rallies.

Local vendors at the events included Job and Family Services, Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., local police and fire departments and local libraries among others.

BACKPACKS PROVIDED PER SCHOOL DISTRICT

