

# MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT

## NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN FEBRUARY 2015

### WELCOME NEW MAGISTRATE LISA LOUY



Judge Kevin Dunn with Magistrate Lisa Louy after being sworn in March 2.

Magistrate Lisa Louy is the newest member to join the Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court team this month. Magistrate Louy, a Medina County native and 1986 graduate of Highland High School, was sworn in by Judge Dunn March 2, 2015.

After earning her Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Bowling Green University in 1990, Louy left for Connecticut to work as a live-in nanny for three years.

"That was a lot of fun," she said. "I nannied for a newborn and three families with children between the ages of six and ten years old."

Louy said her intention was never to become a professional

nanny, but she hadn't planned on a career in law either.

"I didn't intend to go to law school," she said. "I was originally studying computer programming in college but I didn't take my classes in the right order and I fell behind schedule. When I graduated, I ended up with my degree in Business Administration based on the classes I had taken."

It was one of those classes she had taken, a business law course, and an encouraging professor who saw her knack for the field, that urged Louy to pursue law. While continuing her work as a nanny, Louy began applying to law schools and in

Louy continued on page 2...

### MEDINA GIRL SCOUTS VISIT JUDGE'S COURTROOM

Eight Medina County Daisy Girl Scouts took a group trip to Judge Kevin Dunn's courtroom February 23. The girls were here to earn their Gerri petal, a patch for Respecting Authority, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Magistrate Alicia Hathcock with the help of her Girl Scout Cadettes.

In order to earn their bright pink petal patch, the Daisies were required to visit someone in the community who has authority, such a police officer, firefighter, principal or in this case, a judge.

"They were a lot of fun and asked a lot of good questions," Judge Dunn said. "We talked about how the Court is set up, how it's important to be quiet, wait your turn, and I explained that during a Court hearing, everyone will get to have a say."

The Judge explained the types of cases heard in



Daisy Girl Scouts with their troop leaders visiting Judge Dunn's courtroom February 23.

his Courtroom, how judge's and magistrate's wear black robes over their clothes for every hearing and why the Judge and Magistrates sit higher than everyone else.

The eighth grade Girl Scout Cadettes then performed four skits for the Daisies portraying good behavior versus bad behavior in the courtroom. The Daisies were quick to recognize that chewing gum, playing on cell phones, and interrupting others was not respectful and even corrected a Cadette when she didn't acknowledge Judge

Dunn as "Judge."

"This gave the Cadette's the opportunity to serve the community but it was also nice for them to get a chance to come here and tour the Court and meet the Judge," Magistrate Hathcock said.

Daisies continued on page 2...

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### JUDGE DUNN SWEARS IN STAFF AS HIS TERM AS JUVENILE, PROBATE JUDGE OFFICIALLY BEGINS

Judge Kevin Dunn swore in his entire staff February 9, the official first day of his term as elected Judge of Medina County Common Pleas Court Probate and Juvenile Divisions.

Judge Dunn, who was appointed to the seat in August 2013, ran a successful campaign to retain the position after winning the November 2014 election.

Although the Judge has been working at the Courthouse with all his employees for over a year, he is required by statute to swear them in again, promising to uphold the duties and responsibilities of the Court, for his term as an elected official.

The Judge began the swearing-ins with Chief



Judge Dunn swears in Chief Magistrate Lewis, Magistrate Paul and Magistrate Hathcock February 9.

Magistrate Susana Lewis, Magistrate Dennis Paul, and Magistrate Alicia Hathcock. He continued with court clerks, probation and programming departments, the Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent, the Court Administrator and Court managers.

Judge Dunn oversees not only employees with the Medina County Probate and Juvenile Courts, but

also all officers, sergeants, corporals, medical staff and managers in the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. In total, Judge Dunn oversees approximately 75 employees, more than any other Judge in the county.

Louy continued...



Judge Dunn swears in Lisa Louy as the newest Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court Magistrate on March 2.

1993, she returned to Ohio to attend the University of Akron School of Law.

While attending law school, Louy worked as a docket clerk for Hallrich Inc, the corporate headquarters for Pizza Hut.

"My dad thought that was so cool that I was working there," she laughed. "He loves pizza."

After graduating law school in 1997,

Louy began working for a private practice dealing mostly with the Probate and Domestic Relations Courts in Summit County. In 2006, she moved on to Stark County to work as an attorney for Job and Family Services, handling dependency, neglect and abuse cases, experience Judge Dunn said helped her earn the position as magistrate in his Court.

"She has a lot of experience in dependency, neglect and abuse matters, as well as in civil custody matters making her well-versed on children's issues," Judge Dunn said. "Her experience will go well and help us in Juvenile Court."

Magistrate Louy will also handle juvenile misdemeanor, unruly and traffic cases and third party custody cases.

"I'm happy to become a part of the team here in Medina County," she said. "I hope that I have good ideas to offer not only the Court but to the families who go before me. I want to help get them involved in the programs and services they need to move forward."

Daisies continued...

The Judge then let the Daisies take turns sitting in his chair, trying on the black Judge's robe, and most entertaining, hitting the Judge's gavel.

"I told them I use that to quiet people down or as a way to bring order to the Court," Judge Dunn said.

After learning about respecting people with authority, the Daisies had a chance to draw the Judge.

To view some of the Daisies' interpretations of Judge Dunn, turn to page four or visit our website [www.MedinaProbate.org](http://www.MedinaProbate.org).

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JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN FEBRUARY 2015

## JUNIOR LEADERSHIP MEDINA COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN MOCK TRIAL AT JDC

The Junior Leadership Medina County class of 2015 made a stop at the juvenile detention center on their Government Day outing February 3, 2015.

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Kevin Dunn, Court Administrator Sharon Danko, Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis and MCJDC

Superintendent Ron Stollar spoke to the class of 40 about the types of cases handled in Juvenile and Probate Court, the 30-bed detention facility and about how law has changed for juveniles, shifting focus to the idea of rehabilitation instead of punishment.

"There's an evolution we have to deal with regarding juvenile crime and how we deal with it as a community," Chief Magistrate Lewis said.

In order to effectively show the class how the Court attempts to provide services to rehabilitate juveniles, Chief Magistrate Lewis conducted a mock trial with three members of the class. One student, acting as the juvenile in this matter, was dressed in a MCJDC uniform and shackles and escorted into the mock hearing by a corrections officer. His "parents," two other class members, sat beside him during the proceedings. The charge was Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a felony of the fifth degree.

Chief Magistrate Lewis explained possible orders for such a charge, including the possibility that he may have to submit a DNA sample, be fingerprinted, and his school district would be notified of his charge. Before accepting a plea of admit, Lewis explained that she would appoint an attorney to assist the juvenile in the matter.

"I want you all to leave here understanding that you have Constitutional Rights and what those rights mean," she said.

The Judge then explained to the class that the Court may offer eligible juvenile offenders Drug Court, a program which if completed



Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis presides over a mock trial with Junior Leadership Medina County students February 3.

successfully, will lead to an expunged case as if it never happened.

Danko said that a great feature of the Drug Court Program is the focus on family involvement.

"We get the parents involved to make sure we don't set these youth up for failure," she said. "We don't want the juveniles to return to a home environment that hasn't changed and

could lead them right back to the same outcome and behaviors."

The Judge added that Drug Court isn't only a great program and option to rehabilitate the juveniles and their families, but it benefits the community by preparing the youths to reintegrate back into society and the schools. Judge Dunn then offered the JLMC class the chance to return in March to observe Drug Court in action, noting that he trusts their discretion if they observe a fellow classmate's hearing. The Judge also noted how he admires the ambition of all the students in the class.

"In this room, I'm looking at future councilmen, mayors and maybe even the future Probate and Juvenile Judge," he said. "I will keep the seat warm for you."



Junior Leadership students taste meals prepared by the Medina County Jail provided to the Detention Center residents.



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## MEDINA COUNTY VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM HOSTS FIRST 2015 IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Volunteers with the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program participated in their first in-service training of the year February 5, 2015, "Aging and Developmental Disabilities," presented by Society for Handicapped Citizens. Melanie Kasten-Krause, one of our county's volunteer guardians and executive director at The Arc of Medina County, served as guest speaker for the training at Plum Creek Assisted Living in Brunswick.

Kasten-Krause spoke to members of the Volunteer Guardianship Program about types of intellectual and

developmental disabilities commonly seen with the elderly, and provided some advice for any volunteers experiencing similar situations with their wards.

Approximately 30% of the wards in the Volunteer Guardianship Program have a dual diagnosis of Dementia and Developmental Disability

Two intellectual and developmental disabilities Kasten-Krause focused on with the volunteers were Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. She also explained the effects these disabilities may have on the volunteer's wards as they age.

"These in-service training sessions are

"As volunteers you will spend time with your wards and realize certain behaviors may be their way of communicating non-verbally with you, such as hitting or yelling," Kasten-Krause explained.

so important to continue learning and stay up to date with current issues," said Therea Laffey, Volunteer Guardian and Assistant Director with Medina County Library. "I didn't think about the issues a ward may face with communication and further disability developments as they age. It's great to come to these events and learn what avenues we as guardians can take and seek the help from others in the program to find a solution for individuals who may not be able to help themselves."

**Thank you to Plum Creek Assisted Living in Brunswick for providing the host facility for this training session!**

## MEDINA GIRL SCOUT DAISIES DRAW JUDGE DUNN



The Medina County Daisy Girl Scouts had a chance to draw Judge Kevin Dunn during their visit to his Courtroom February 23. During their visit, they learned about respecting authority in order to earn their Gerri petal patch.

To view all of the girls' drawings of Judge Dunn, visit our website at [www.MedinaProbate.org](http://www.MedinaProbate.org).

