

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN FEBRUARY 2017

LEADERSHIP MEDINA COUNTY SUMMONED TO JUVENILE COURT ON MOCK FELONY CHARGE

Three members of Leadership Medina County Class of 2017 had the opportunity to experience a simulated juvenile court case, playing the roles of a troubled teen charged with a felony aggravated possession of drugs, and her concerned parents.

The morning began when Leadership Medina County Class of 2017 stopped by the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) during their annual Government Day January 11. During their visit, Judge Kevin Dunn spoke to the class about the process and programs of the Court, the Court's focus on restorative justice, as well as the unique challenges he and his staff face when dealing with juveniles.

"Juveniles are challenging," Judge Dunn said. "Many do not see the world beyond the screen of their iPhone."

Judge Dunn explained that evidence-based programming is offered to Juvenile offenders through the Court to assist with rehabilitation. Programs range from awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse through Juvenile Drug Court, to increased self-perception and appropriate boundaries in Girls Circle, even addressing parent education during Parent Project.

"We spend time addressing the family as a whole to ensure that the environment at home continues to be beneficial to their recovery," Judge Dunn said.

MCJDC Superintendent Ron Stollar added to the Judge's sentiments by explaining that protocol at the detention center encourages juveniles to make better decisions, such as a new incentive-based levels program where residents can earn their way to various rewards and levels of trust.

"We don't look at these youth as 'dead ends,'" Stollar said. "They made a mistake and there are consequences, but that doesn't mean that they can't work to get themselves back on the right path."

Later that afternoon, the Leadership class was given various scavenger hunt scenarios, all pre-planned by the Leadership



Left to right: Court Administrator Sharon Danko, Public Defender Tim Lutz, Esq., Karen Gaub, LMC '17, Judge Kevin Dunn, Amy Annico, LMC '17, George Brown, LMC '17, and Juvenile Court Intake Officer David Jenks.

Government Day Planning Committee. Three members of the class were given the task to arrive in Juvenile Court for a mock trial, a scenario organized and planned by Court Administrator Sharon Danko, LMC '05, and Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis, LMC '14, who sit on the Committee. The classmates acted out roles as an alleged delinquent child, played by Amy Annico, charged with felony aggravated possession of drugs, while the other two members played the role of parents.

The classmates met with the Juvenile Court Intake Officer and Public Defender prior to their hearing before Judge Dunn. During the mock hearing, Judge

Dunn explained the rights of an alleged juvenile offender and the possible consequences Annico may face. Those consequences include a license suspension, verbal house arrest, random toxicology screens, and a possible suspended commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

"This will have a greater impact on your future than I believe you realize," Judge Dunn said, then asking Annico if she has plans to attend college or the military. Judge Dunn explained that Annico may not be eligible for financial assistance with a felony drug conviction and it may impede enlistment in the branches of the military.

The Leadership class members boasted after the mock hearing about how interesting the experience was, and that although the court orders and protocol at the Juvenile Detention Center seem strict, they see the purpose when dealing with a juvenile population.

"The goal of Juvenile Court is to restore kids back as good citizens in our community," Judge Dunn said. "Punitive measures are not our primary focus. Poor decision making, complicated by social pressures and hormones all mixed together, makes our task a challenge. But our goal is to show them that it is possible to move forward after mistakes and we are going to help them do that."

**MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE AND JUVENILE COURT WILL BE CLOSED
FEBRUARY 20, 2017 FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY.**

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MEDINA COUNTY COURTHOUSE HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Six teams of students from Cloverleaf, Buckeye and Brecksville-Broadview Heights High Schools competed in the Medina District annual Mock Trial District Competition at the county courthouse January 20.

The students, who began preparing their case in October, argued both sides of the mock case *Pat Justice v. CAT News et al.* Each team presented the case twice throughout the day, once as plaintiff and again as defense to argue whether or not a former Governor's claim of alleged defamation by a local news station cost him re-election.

In Probate and Juvenile Court, Judge Kevin Dunn presided over the case between Brecksville-Broadview Heights and Buckeye High Schools with the assistance of local attorneys Kenneth Marco and Bradley Proudfoot. The students were scored based on their understanding of the complex legal issues in the case, their cross examination and direct examination skills, as well as their opening and closing statements.

"You all did a great job identifying documents and exhibits," Judge Dunn told the students after the mock trial. "And those of you who were expert witnesses really knew your facts and were well-prepared."

Judge Dunn told the students that he thought they did a great



A student from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School cross-examines the Buckeye High School student playing the role of former Governor Pat Justice during the Mock Trial District Competition January 20.

Pat Justice v. CAT News, et al

In this case, students must argue whether a local news station's decision to quickly publish a story cost a former Governor re-election. CAT News hastily accused former Governor Pat Justice of murdering a high school principal after a student reporter witnessed him storm out of the school official's office. While the story was quickly disproven, it did go viral. Governor Justice has now filed a civil suit against CAT News, alleging defamation.

their constitutional rights and responsibilities and to fill the void in law-related education. The program also assists students in developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

State finals for qualifying teams will be held in the Ohio Statehouse March 9-11, with the winning team advancing to the national competition.

job overall, but added that they could work on their presentation by speaking slower, louder, and pausing for responses.

"When you come into this courtroom, I want you to come in here like you own the place," Judge Dunn told the students. "Speak up and take charge."

Attorney Marco added to the Judge's recommendations by suggesting that the students work on developing a rapport in the courtroom.

"Increase your eye contact with the Judge and witnesses when you are speaking," Attorney Marco suggested. "Overall, you should all be very proud of yourselves for your presentations today."

The Medina County Mock Trial District Competition, coordinated by Attorney Andrew M. Parker, Esq., is sponsored by the Medina County Bar Association.

The goal of the mock trial program, created by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, is to better inform students about

MILLIKIN PROMOTED TO MCJDC ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center is pleased to announce the promotion of Megan C. Millikin to the position of Assistant Superintendent. Megan has been with the detention center since 2012. She first served our community as a Corrections Officer, and has moved through our ranks as both a Corporal and Sergeant during her tenure.

As Assistant Superintendent, Megan will assume more administrative responsibilities

such as staff supervision, coordination with the maintenance department for building upkeep, and she will continue to assist in supporting the mission of the Juvenile Detention Center. Superintendent Ron Stollar said Megan is a natural leader who cares about the youth while they are in the facility, as well as their future when they are released.

We look forward to having Megan in her new role.