

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

COMMUNITY GATHERS TO CELEBRATE JUDGE LOHN AT RETIREMENT PICNIC

After spending ten years as Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge and overseeing more than 38,000 cases, Judge John J. Lohn retired.



Photo courtesy of Russ Huston

Judge Lohn with his wife, Linda, and their two boys, Eddie and Tim.

Approximately 220 of Judge Lohn's family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Medina Eagles Club June 30, 2013 to share their admiration, and some embarrassing stories, about the Judge on his last day before officially retiring.

"We're not here to pat him on the back," said Judge Lohn's sister, Kathy, alongside their older brother, Edward. "We're here for the roast!"

The two, who said they are not going to let the Judge retire and relax, offered up a list of possible side jobs allowing him to still wear his robe. Some ideas included joining the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or becoming a sheep herder in Tibet.

While the invitation to the event boasted the plan of a "roast," most speakers had nothing but kind words to say about Judge Lohn.

"John has been a mentor and a role model to me," said Medina City Mayor Dennis Hanwell, as he presented the Judge with a proclamation from the City of Medina. "Thank you for your work and dedication to the community."

Judge Lohn began his career as a law clerk in Medina before moving to become an Assistant County Prosecutor in the

City of Brunswick. In 2003, he assumed the role of Judge of the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court.

"It's a bittersweet day for us as judicial colleagues," said Common Pleas Judge James Kimbler. "I wish you well in retirement, but I will miss you as a colleague."

Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent Ron Stollar, who has known the Judge for more than 25 years, added how lucky Medina has been to have him.

"His integrity has remained in place," Stollar said. "He does the right thing no matter what the circumstances are. This county has been very lucky to have him in the positions he's held."

The day was also bittersweet for Sharon Danko, who has been Judge Lohn's Court Administrator for more than nine years.

"He is a visionary and embraces technology and new ideas," Danko said, as she gave him a Shutterfly photo book filled with pictures of the Judge and his staff. "It's been an incredible run."

The Judge closed the speeches with a small one of his own, commenting how rare it is to have the people you work with, your colleagues, and your family come together and the impact they've had on him.

"I'm just a reflection of the people I work with and my Court," Judge Lohn said. "It has been wonderful and now new adventures await me."

Stollar presents Judge Lohn a Correctional Officer Build-A-Bear and photo of the Medina JDC.

Photo courtesy of Magistrate Matthew Cain



NUMBER OF CASES FILED IN COURT UNDER JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN

10,439 Traffic
9,583 Marriage Licenses
9,286 Delinquency
7,057 Estates
1,700 Unruly
602 Adoptions
209 Weddings

GOVERNOR KASICH APPOINTS REPUBLICAN KEVIN DUNN AS JUDGE

Ohio Governor John Kasich announced the appointment of former Medina County Republican Party chairman Kevin Dunn as Judge of the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court July 23.

Dunn, who stepped down as chairman in order to be considered for the judgeship, will take office August 5th.

Dunn served as a part-time prosecutor for the city of Medina in the past, but has been in private practice for the past 22 years. He has also been involved with the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce, the Medina Rotary, the Medina County Law Library and the Medina County Red Cross.

Dunn's appointment to the bench will continue until what would have been the end of Judge Lohn's term. In order to retain the seat, Dunn must run in the November 2014 election.

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JUVENILE, PROBATE PROGRAMS CREATED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

Approximately 17 Court programs were created and implemented under Judge Lohn’s assignment to assist juveniles, parents and those with special needs in our community. To learn more about these programs, visit the Medina Juvenile and Probate Court website at www.MedinaJuvenile.org or www.MedinaProbate.org.

2003	ID-21 A 21-hour substance abuse intervention & educational program at the Medina Juvenile Detention Center	2004	Volunteer Guardianship A group of volunteers who manage affairs and look after the welfare of a ward in Medina County	Night Court Extended court hours until 6 p.m. once a month for juvenile traffic hearings
2004 cont.	Camp Integrity An after school program to supervise at-risk youth and improve academic performance from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	COPPER Program A program requiring parents to pay part of the cost of Court-ordered services on a juvenile case	Drug Court A drug and alcohol program to monitor, intervene, treat and provide structure to at-risk youth	
2006	Equine Therapy An experiential and cognitive behavioral therapy program with horses	Care Teams Provides service coordination and case management for high-risk youth in middle schools	Mental Health at JDC Provided in collaboration with Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.	Citizens Advisory Panel Presents court programs & services to community to solicit ideas and feedback
2007	Build-A-Bear Community Service youth provide do-it-yourself stuffed bears to special needs children every winter			
2008	Rapid Risk Assessments A state-wide tool to uniformly measure a youth’s likelihood to re-offend and their needs for programs or services			
2009	Family Resource Court A family involvement program to reduce barriers to community services	Girls Circle A group for females to develop positive peer relationships and increase self esteem		
2010	Teen Court Teens take on Court roles in minor offense cases for sentencing by a jury of a youth’s peers	Parent Project A parent workshop to teach prevention and intervention against negative behaviors	OYAS* A state-wide risk assessment system to identify a youth’s likelihood to re-offend and develop a case plan	
2012	Multi-Systemic Therapy Uses multiple community resources to monitor and treat at-risk youth in the home			

* OYAS—Ohio Youth Assessment System

MEDINA PROBATION OFFICER TAKES JOB AS WAYNE COUNTY CHIEF P.O.



Photo courtesy of Megan Alcox

Drug Court Probation Officer Misty Hanson left Medina County in July to become the Chief Probation Officer in Wayne County, Ohio.

Hanson, who began as a compliance officer in 2006, started as one of Medina’s two Drug Court Probation Officers in January of 2007.

“Compliance was a stepping stone,” she said. “Shortly after I started, there was an opening for a second Drug Court

probation officer and I applied for it.”

More recently, Hanson seized the opportunity to take another step to Wayne County.

“It’s bittersweet,” she said. “I’ve come to love everyone that I work with in Medina County and I’m

comfortable here, but going to Wayne County is exciting and will be another step up.”

Hanson attributes both her experience and her supervisors in Medina with giving her the tools necessary to earn her the job in Wayne.

“I’m only able to go there because of what I’ve learned in Medina and I will take everything I’ve learned down there,” Hanson said.

She added that she hopes to mimic some Court programs created by Judge Lohn and her supervisors, Phillip Titterington, Medina County Juvenile Director of Programming, and Tony Miller, Drug Court Coordinator, in Wayne.

“I’ve already had discussions with the Judge there about a similar Multi-Systemic Therapy Program, Drug Court and Parent Project,” she said. “I will get to help build things from the ground up. It’s exciting but I will miss Medina.”