

The Supreme Court of Ohio

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Medina County Resident Graduates from National Court Management Program

Sharon M. Danko among 37 court employees from around the state to receive special certification

COLUMBUS – Medina County resident Sharon Danko was among 37 court administrators, clerks, chief probation officers, and program managers from courts throughout Ohio to receive the Certified Court Executive credential on Friday, September 27, from the Court Management Program (CMP). The program was developed by the Institute for Court Management, the educational arm of the National Center for State Courts.

Danko, who has been Court Administrator at Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court since 2004 and oversees more than 30 employees, began training for this certification in 2007. “This certification gives me the knowledge and expertise to manage our court,” she said. “The focus of the training was the purposes, goals and accessibility of the Court to the community and making sure I understand the best practices for us to run effectively.”

This is the first class of Ohio students to graduate from Level II of the national program – the only program of its kind in the United States. CMP is intended for court leaders interested in strengthening their management knowledge, skills and abilities. The program, which requires a three-year commitment, provides education in several key areas of court administration. Completion provides graduates with a certified court executive credential.

Justice William O’Neill addressed the graduates, commending them “for their efforts toward making the Ohio courts an institution in which we can all take pride.” He spoke about the purposes of courts, noting that “conflict is inevitable and we in the courts are the arbiters of those conflicts. We do not rely on conscience, or a sense of justice that is swayed by current events or public opinion. Rather, courts apply the law to the unique facts presented in each case. In order for jurists to perform their function, there must be others in the courts who work in the background to ensure that we can execute our roles effectively. Professional court leaders fulfill that function in our courts.”

The graduation ceremony on September 27 came after a two and a half day seminar. The course, *Court Community Communication*, provided students with tools to effectively communicate with the media and the public. Supreme Court of Ohio Public Information Director Chris Davey wrote the course curriculum and co-taught the course with two local court staff.

Members of the class first completed Level I of the Court Management Program, which consisted of six 2 ½ day long modules relating to the duties central to the administration of courts, such as case flow management and managing court financial resources. During both Level I and Level II of the program, participants were required to attend two courses each year for three years, for a total of six years of coursework. The six Level II modules covered topics ranging from leadership to education, training and development and visioning and strategic planning.

The National Center for State Courts, founded in 1971, is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership, research, technology, education, service and training to the state courts.