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Medina County Juvenile Court 2009 Annual Report

Judge John J. Lohn is one of four judges of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lohn began his tenure on the bench in February 2003.

The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as delinquent, traffic offenders, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. In addition to serving as our County's Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Lohn is also the Medina County Probate Court Judge.



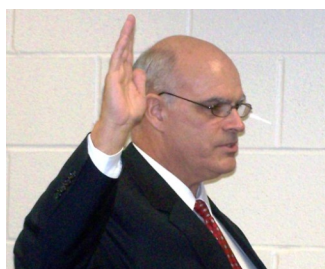
Judge John J. Lohn

Greetings From Judge Lohn

I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report of the Medina County Juvenile Court. The Court, its staff and our service providers are committed to protecting children, correcting delinquent juveniles and directing parents to their responsibilities.

This report documents the Court's efforts to enhance services and programs for the youth and families of Medina County in 2009. The Court is grateful to the many members of the law enforcement community, schools, social service agencies and others who have assisted the Court in its important mission.

Court News and Highlights



Judge Lohn Began Second Term

In 2009 Judge Lohn ran unopposed and was re-elected in November. He started his second term on February 9, 2010.

Parent Project

Parent Project is a program for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice specific strategies for destructive behaviors such as truancy, alcohol and drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away, violence and suicide. In 2009, 38 families participated.

Drug Court Case Manager

This position was implemented to improve home-based services. In 2009, 36 families were served by the Drug Court Case Manager.

Family Resource Court

In 2009 the framework for the Family Court model was constructed. Family Resource Court reduces barriers to services thereby reducing the need for court intervention. Unruly and truancy cases are targeted for Family Court. Assessments identify individual and family barriers. Through intensive probation supervision, case management and a team approach, the court improves community safety and helps to build healthy families.

Teen Court Program

The Court will implement a Teen Court program. Teen Court is an intervention program that offers first-time misdemeanor-offending youth the opportunity to be heard by a jury of their peers. Under the supervision of the Court, local teens serve as attorneys, jury members and bailiffs.



Marriage Ceremonies

In addition to annual Valentines' Day ceremonies, weddings will be performed by Judge Lohn one Friday per month beginning 2010.

Juvenile Court Programming

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP)

EAP is a rapidly growing field where horses are utilized as therapy partners to improve the emotional, behavioral and mental lives of families. In 2009, 22 youth participated in the EAP program.

Drug Court

The mission of Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordinated effort between counseling and court services. For addicted children, Drug Court is the last, best hope for sobriety and a productive life. Drug Court includes 2 Probation Officers, home-based therapy and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (see EAP). There were 44 graduates from the program in 2009.

Community Service

Approximately 6,019 service hours were performed by 215 youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities. The Build-A-Bear project, for example, benefited children either in foster care or attending the Achievement Center.

Juvenile Traffic Night Court

By hearing cases in the evening it becomes more convenient for both parents and teens to attend court. Students avoid absence from classes and extra-curricular activities by coming to Juvenile Traffic Night Court. 965 Juvenile traffic cases were handled in 2009.

COPPER Program

Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Reimbursement) program to recoup part of the cost of court services. In 2009, this program collected over \$70,000.

LISW-S

The Juvenile Detention Center has an LISW-S (Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor) who works closely with the Juvenile Court and detained youth. Mental health screenings, counseling, crisis intervention and case management services are provided daily. This individual is the essential link in obtaining appropriate service providers for a youth and their family upon release from detention. In 2009, 263 assessments were completed.

Probation Department

Probation officers investigate all aspects of the Juvenile's case and make recommendations to the court to protect public safety and to achieve a permanent improvement in a child's behavior. 127 youth were placed on probation in 2009.

Risk Screening

A risk screening is conducted on every youth charged with a delinquent or unruly offense. This risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 659 risk screenings were completed in 2009.

Community Relations

The Juvenile Court has been recognized by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission and is involved in various boards/groups in Medina County including the Medina County Police Chief's Association, Family First Council, Intersystems Community Assessment Teams (ICAT), Share Cluster, Collaborative Family Treatment Program, Medina City Schools Technology School, Medina PAL and 2-1-1 Call for Help Initiative. The Court has a Drug Court Advisory Board and a Programming Citizens Advisory Board.

Camp Integrity

Combating the idleness and lack of supervision for court-involved youth during the critical hours of 3pm to 9pm, Camp Integrity consists of academic study, physical activity, group discussions, life skills and social responsibility training. 73 youth completed the program in 2009.

ID-21

This 21-hour intensive detention program held at the Juvenile Detention Center targets parental education, drug and alcohol education, and improves family relationships. 54 juveniles completed this program in 2009.

Juvenile Detention Center



Ronald V. Stollar
Superintendent

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center is a maximum-security, 30-bed facility, which is used as a last resort for youth who have committed serious offenses or are a risk to themselves and the community. The facility has 30 individual cells, two holding cells, one special needs cell, three classrooms, dining hall, medical department, gymnasium, library, multi-purpose room, and a secured outdoor recreation area. Residents are required to attend school year round.

A total of 439 youth were detained at the JDC in 2009. During detainment, youth are provided with programming and voluntary participation in pro-social activities. Speakers from various county and other agencies provide education and information to the residents. Programming and services include; mental health, drug & alcohol, anger management, social services, religious services, and recreation.

In 2009, we secured a certified physical education instructor from Medina City Schools to run our gym classes. This individual is also certified to tutor, and substitute teaches on occasion as well. Our social worker conducted 263 mental health assessments, and spent more than 125 hours on counseling and crisis intervention on residents last year. Additionally, all detained youth are assessed for their physical condition and are monitored throughout their stay.

Ohio Department of Youth Service...

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the state agency responsible for delinquents incarcerated by local juvenile courts. Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DYS for the local treatment of youthful felony offenders. In 2009, 10 boys and 2 girls were placed at DYS.

61 felony cases were handled in 2009. Felony offenses are displayed to the right. F-1 is the most serious level of felony.

Level	Number	Percent
F-1	0	0%
F-2	11	18%
F-3	10	16%
F-4	14	23%
F-5	26	43%

Supreme Court Statistics

This statistical summary meets all of the requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before the Judge and/or Magistrate in calendar year 2009. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court.

	Delinquency	Traffic	Depend- ency, Neglect, or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion For Permanent Custody	Custody or Visitation	Support	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others
New Cases Filed	737	965	33	159	9	2	19	0	0	0	2
Cases Terminated	769	990	44	146	10	1	19	18	0	0	5

Court Collections

The Juvenile Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for similar services. Court costs are assessed against juveniles found to be delinquent, truant, traffic offenders, or unruly. The fines and costs collected by the Court are distributed to state, county and local governments.

	Judge Lohn's COPPER Program	Court Costs (Including COPPER)	Fines
Total	\$70,713.58	\$235,335.15	\$37,347.27

Probate Court Update

Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP)

In 2005 Judge Lohn initiated the VGP to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians for our elderly. We have 38 trained volunteer guardians and have served a total of 40 indigent wards since the inception of the program. Currently, 23 wards are actively being served by our guardians.

Probate Court Collections

The Probate Court assesses and collects court costs in a manner similar to the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. Court costs are assessed in all probate cases, which include estates, guardianships, adoptions and trusts. Costs collected by the Court are distributed to state, county, and local governments. In 2009, the Probate Court collected over \$207,000.



VGP Board

Top left to bottom right: Kathe Shook, Karen Bennet, Laura Toth, Judge John Lohn, Sharon Danko, Michelle Hearn, Joyce Giles
Not pictured: Gail Carmon, Lori Betz

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

- Lynn M. Stover
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- Medina County JDC



Sharon M. Danko
Court Administrator