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Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court 2017 Annual Report

GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN



I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report of the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court. The Court's staff and service providers are zealously committed to protecting children, correcting delinquent juveniles, reducing recidivism, and directing parents to their responsibilities. Further, in the Probate Court, the protection of those who cannot protect themselves is of paramount importance. In a continuing effort to provide services to the community, the Court is actively engaged in improving its programs.

The Court is grateful to a multitude of collaborative partners in the community including the members of law enforcement, schools, social services agencies, mental health agencies, healthcare and others who have assisted the court in its important mission.

Judge Kevin W. Dunn is one of the four judges of the Common Pleas Court. He began his tenure on the Bench on August 5, 2013. Judge Dunn's elected six-year term began February, 2015. The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Courts, wherein Judge Dunn presides, has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18. These cases are categorized as delinquent; traffic; unruly; and abused, neglected and dependent children. Probate matters, include but are not limited to estates, guardianships, and trusts.

* To view a copy of the annual report online, visit the downloads section of our website at www.medinaprobate.org

* Printed in-house at an estimated cost of \$0.33 per copy.

Combined Court Staff

Medina County Court of Common Pleas Probate and Juvenile Divisions employ staff that contribute valuable knowledge and work ethic to both divisions. By statute, the probate and juvenile divisions of the common pleas court in Medina County are led by one elected judge. Judge Dunn employs combined court employees to ensure the smooth and seamless operation of both divisions.



Top Left Photo: Magistrate Derek Cek, Magistrate Lisa Louy, Magistrate Alicia Hathcock, Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis

Top Right Photo: Network Administrator Michael Stiles, Paralegal/Bailiff Kim Cronenwett, Human Resources and Fiscal Manager Lynn Stover



Bottom Left Photo: Administrative Assistant and Staff Writer Kristyn Cooke, File Clerk Carrie Loyer, Administrative Assistant to the Magistrates Beth Loomis

Court Employees and Community Organizations Build Bears for Good Cause



Rotarians, court staff and juveniles performing community service spent an afternoon building bears to be donated to local children.

Through donations raised by court staff from dress down days, volunteers from the court and Medina Sunrise Rotary were able to build 55 bears from Build-A-Bear for children at the Windfall School and those in the custody of Job and Family Services.

Probate Court Update

Probate Court Pairs with County Recorder for "Good Deeds" Program

Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge Kevin W. Dunn and Medina County Recorder Colleen Swedyk premiered a deed review program at the 2017 Medina County Fair. The program, known as "Good Deeds," is a collaborative effort to assist Medina County residents to better understand the consequences of the deed that they may possess for real property and understand the issues in transferring such property through the Probate Court.

Utilizing the Good Deeds Program, Medina County residents were able to obtain a copy of their current deed through the Recorder's Office for review and identify whether the form of their current deed would require transfer through the Probate Court upon death. The program allowed property owners to consider less expensive and less time-consuming alternatives than a probate transfer. A referral was made to the Medina County Bar Association for further action.

"It is hoped that deed review, preparation, and legal planning for Medina County residents can be accomplished at a reasonable cost," Judge Dunn said. "The goal [of the program] is to have more proactive, front-loaded legal planning versus post mortem reaction."



Judge Kevin W. Dunn and Court Paralegal/Bailiff Kim Cronenwett at the 2017 Medina County Fair

Staff of Probate Court Serve Community

The Probate Court handles many different types of cases including estates, adoptions, guardianships and marriage licenses. In 2017, the probate court processed 1,911 new case filings. The Volunteer Guardianship Program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need of guardianship. There are 27 active volunteer guardians and 31 wards assigned to volunteer guardians.



Back Row: Deputy Clerks Leslie Andrews, Laura Kennedy, Brandy Long, and Court Investigator Nicki Shook
Front Row: Deputy Clerk and Special Projects Coordinator Karen Sliwinski, Deputy Clerks LeAnna Hernandez, Wendy Rennecker

Juvenile Court Programming

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 permanent improvement in a child's behavior. In 2017, 142 youth were placed on probation.



Intake/Compliance Officer Paul Fogle, Probation Officer Jamie Tropkoff, Chief Probation Officer Jodi Albertson, Senior Probation Officer Stephanie Yockey, Probation Officer Greg Hutzel

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. In 2017, three youth participated in and successfully completed the Teen Court program.

Parent Project

Parent Project is a program for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice strategies for dealing with destructive behaviors such as truancy, alcohol and drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away, violence and suicide. In 2017, 30 families participated in Parent Project.



Director of Programming and Grants Tony Miller, Drug Court Coordinator Kevin Honcharuk, Specialized Docket Probation Officer Mary Price, Drug Court Clinician Krystal DeVore, Specialized Docket Probation Officer Pamela Ruesch, Specialized Docket Probation Officer Joe Hnizdil

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. Drug Court includes three Probation Officers and therapeutic interventions. There were 28 successful graduates from the program in 2017.

Family Resource Court

Family Resource Court helps reduce the need for court intervention on unruly and truancy cases. Assessments identify individual and family barriers. Through intensive probation supervision, case management and a team approach, the Court improves community safety and helps build healthy families. Twenty families were served by the Family Resource Court in 2017 and the truancy branch of Family Resource Court admitted seven juveniles. Two juveniles successfully completed the truancy program in 2017.

Community Service

More than 5,228 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities.

Risk Screening—Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 287 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2017.



Administrative Assistant and OYAS Facilitator Maureen Klecar, Community Service Senior Supervisor Shelia Shuttera, Community Service Supervisor Nicolette Novak

Ti-180

Teen Intervention-180 (Ti-180) is a program for first time offenders who receive an alcohol or other drug related charge. During the 3 1/2 hour course facilitated by a licensed clinician, the youth and at least one parent or guardian are provided education on early intervention for substance abuse and learn to identify the warning signs. In 2017, 72 youth participated in the program.



Juvenile Court Deputy Clerks: Sharon Wright, Terri Mahin, Sue Blair, Arlene Getto

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 2017. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court.

Juvenile Court	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, 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	635	540	86	86	1	1	26	0	0	0	17
Cases Terminated	712	550	92	82	3	1	49	12	0	0	16

Probate Court	Estate	Guardianship—Minor	Guardianship—Incompetent	Conservatorships	Civil Actions	Adoptions	Minor Settlements	Wrongful Death	Change of Name	Marriage Applications
New Cases Filed	592	45	77	2	32	46	18	8	91	N/A
Cases Terminated	522	46	66	0	22	36	13	8	85	856

Jennifer Moore, Esq. Sworn In As Court Administrator

On August 28, 2017, Jennifer Moore, Esq. was sworn in by Judge Kevin W. Dunn as Court Administrator for the Medina County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions. Moore earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Political Science from Elmira College in New York in 2001. Moore graduated from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 2006. She worked three years as a staff attorney for the City of Parma and seven years as a staff attorney with the Medina County Job and Family Services (MCJFS).



Working as a staff attorney for MCJFS, Moore handled abuse, neglect, and dependency cases filed with Medina County Juvenile Court, as well as adult protective services cases handled through the Probate Court.

"I have developed a relationship with the Court staff over the years," she said. "The staff here knows my work ethic and knows that I truly care for this community."

As Court Administrator, Moore will handle various aspects of the Court involving human resources, fiscal planning, and programming.

Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Implements Innovative Programming for Residents

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center hosted its first art show September 28, 2017 to showcase pieces created by youth during their detainment, raising nearly \$1,050 from silent auctions and donations. Money raised from this event will be used to continue art therapy in the facility.



According to MCJDC Superintendent Ronald Stollar, "[The] juvenile detention center works in concert with our juvenile court, doing our best to guide troubled youth into their best future. Our philosophy is to help them as opposed to just housing them. We are privileged, and proud, of the work we do."

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

- Juvenile Staff
- Probate Staff
- Programming Staff
- Michael R. Stiles
- Juvenile Probation
- Medina County JDC

COURT COLLECTIONS

Court costs assessed by the Juvenile Court are distributed to state, county and local governments. The COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program was created to recoup part of the cost of court services.

	COPPER Program	Court Costs (Including COPPER)	Fines
Total	\$36,922.64	\$214,693.28	\$28,241.15