

# CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT



*Annual Report*

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*2017*

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

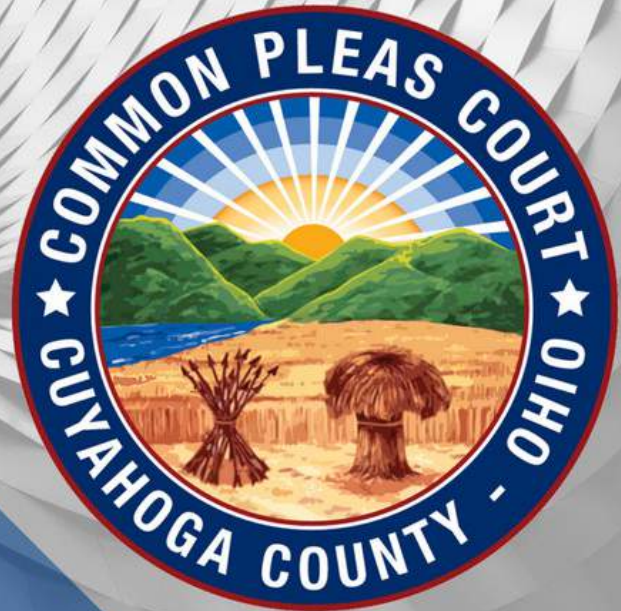
Hon. John J. Russo  
Administrative and Presiding Judge

Judge Dick Ambrose  
Judge Pamela A. Barker  
Judge Janet R. Burnside  
Judge Deena R. Calabrese  
Judge Maureen Clancy  
Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams  
Judge Brian J. Corrigan  
Judge Peter J. Corrigan  
Judge Michael P. Donnelly  
Judge Carolyn B. Friedland  
Judge Stuart A. Friedman  
Judge Nancy A. Fuerst  
Judge Steven E. Gall  
Judge Hollie L. Gallagher  
Judge Kelly A. Gallagher  
Judge Shannon M. Gallagher  
Judge Daniel Gaul  
Judge Michael E. Jackson  
Judge David T. Matia  
Judge Robert C. McClelland  
Judge Timothy P. McCormick  
Judge Nancy R. McDonnell  
Judge Sherrie M. Miday  
Judge John P. O'Donnell  
Judge Joseph D. Russo  
Judge Michael J. Russo  
Judge Nancy Margaret Russo  
Judge Shirley Strickland-Saffold  
Judge Michael P. Shaughnessy  
Judge Brendan J. Sheehan  
Judge John D. Sutula  
Judge Kathleen Ann Sutula  
Judge Joan C. Synenberg



# MISSION STATEMENT

**THE MISSION OF  
THE COURT IS TO  
PROVIDE A FORUM FOR  
THE FAIR, IMPARTIAL  
AND TIMELY  
RESOLUTION OF CIVIL  
AND CRIMINAL CASES.**



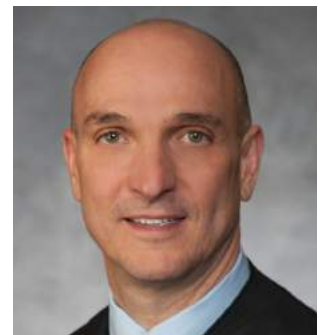
2017 was my fourth year as Administrative and Presiding Judge for the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court's General Division. It is truly an honor to serve this Court and Bench.

One of the perks of being the Administrative Judge is that I get to highlight the amazing work done by our Court. This Annual Report is simply a snapshot of the work done in the Court day in and day out. The fact we are the largest Court in Ohio is not lost on me.

If you stop to think of the volume of civil and criminal matters, and the number of Cuyahoga County citizens who pass through our doors every year, the logistics for it all to be handled smoothly can be overwhelming. But the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas is in excellent hands with its administrative team and staff.

One of my favorite phrases from 2017 is "Strive for excellence, not perfection". Perfection is not a realistic goal, but working hard to be excellent makes us all a better team.

Hon. John J. Russo  
Administrative and Presiding Judge



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# COURT ADMINISTRATION

**Court Administrator**  
Gregory M. Popovich

**Deputy Court  
Administrator/Director of  
Court Operations**  
Andrea Kinast

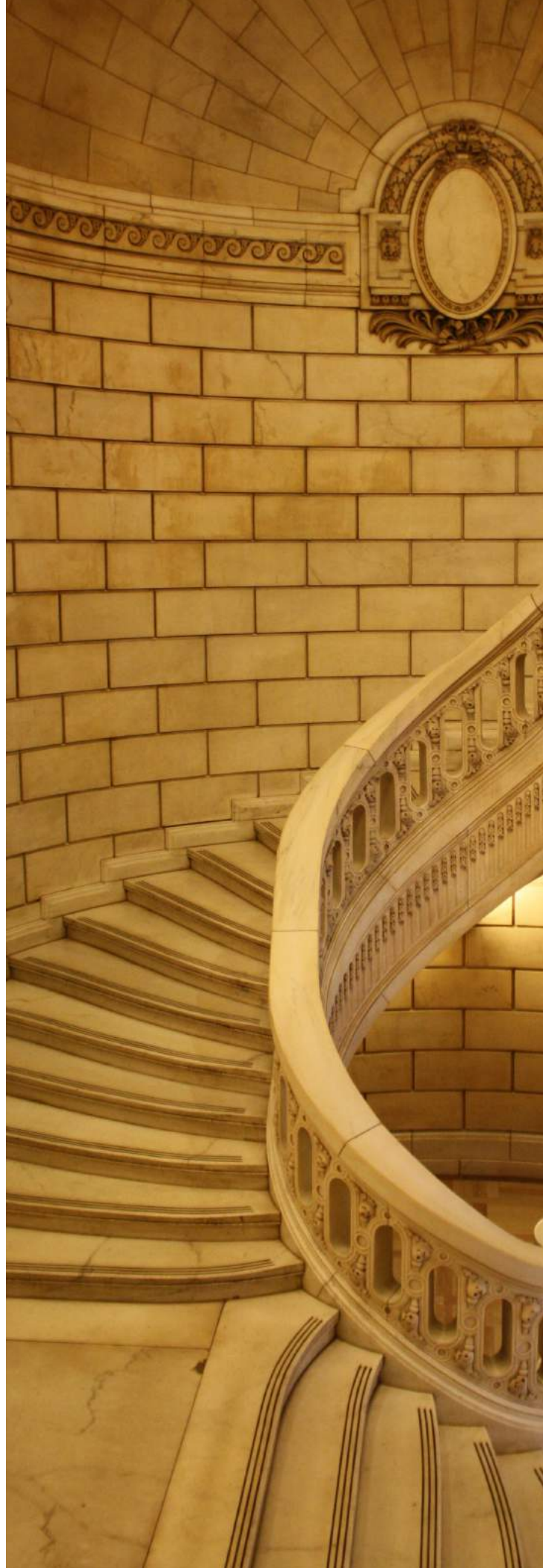
**Deputy Court  
Administrator/Director of  
Human Resources**  
Christopher Russ

**Director of Fiscal Operations**  
**Community Outreach  
Coordinator**

**Administrative  
Assistant/Payroll Officer**

**Administrative Assistants (2)**

**Administrative Aide**





The Judges and almost 500 staff of the Common Pleas Court are dedicated to providing fair, accessible and efficient justice for all persons. Cuyahoga County is unique in that it adopts a biennial budget. In 2017, similar to 2016, to assist the County with its budgetary issues, the Court experienced a reduction in its General Fund budget of about 3.76 million dollars which represents about 7.3% of its total General Fund budget. Overall, the Court's General Fund budget over the two-year budget cycle will be reduced by about 7.52 million dollars. Through the efforts of the dedicated Judges and staff, the Court finished the year with a very small surplus, while continuing to provide needed services to the citizens of Cuyahoga County and to litigants. Despite the budget reductions, the Court continued to add and maintain programs in 2017 that will benefit the community and assist with reducing costs to the General Fund for years to come.

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN 2017**

A few events in 2017 made it another unforgettable year for the Court.

Judge David T. Matia, President of the Common Pleas Judges Association in 2017, welcomed judges from all parts of the State to Cleveland for their annual Summer Conference. The judges ascended upon Cleveland to learn about new and creative programs that courts have implemented and to hear from various speakers on important topics impacting courts throughout the State of Ohio. A considerable amount of planning went into making sure the judges experienced an exceptional conference so that they would return to their respective jurisdictions with information to improve their courts and with unforgettable positive memories of Cleveland.

After years of having staff from the Probation Department, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC), the Specialized Dockets, the Corrections Planning Board and the Court's Drug Testing Laboratory housed in the Marion Building, plans were made to move them to the Police Headquarters Building, which is connected to the Justice Center. This massive project was initiated due to the sale of the Marion Building several years ago and will require the movement of 150 people and the functions of several departments critical to the Court and the community. The project will also entail the demolition and restoration of several floors in the Police Headquarters Building that will now house employee offices, areas where probationers will report and the Court's Drug Testing Laboratory. It is expected that all activities in the Marion Building will move to Police Headquarters and Courthouse Square at some point in 2018.

Courts throughout the State and the Country hire staff and invite and greet thousands of visitors each year. Many of these people may have little or no experience with courts or knowledge as to how courts work locally or nationally. Further, many people are not fully educated on the importance of courts in society and the vital role they play as one of the three branches of government. For these reasons, the Court created three training videos that will be shown during new employee orientation and will be presented to people visiting our court. The videos will also be made available to other courts in the State and throughout the country.

One of the custom features of the video series permits other courts to modify one of the segments so that they can educate people about the types of cases they handle and their local jurisdiction and culture. It is important to note that funding for this project was obtained without the need for County taxpayer monies or assistance from the General Fund. The Court successfully obtained a federal grant that funded part of the project and Court funds were used to fund the match for the grant.

The opiate epidemic continues to substantially impact the Judges and the operations of the Court. Although courts throughout the State have experienced increases in the numbers of deaths caused by opiate overdoses, Cuyahoga County continued to be one of the hardest hit areas in the State and in the country. Over 727 deaths in Cuyahoga County in 2017 were attributed to drug overdoses. To put this number in perspective, data from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office show more people died as a result of drug overdoses than car accidents in 2017.

In response, the Court continues to commit significant resources to treat the growing number of people addicted to opiates in our community. To meet this need, the Court successfully obtained State and Federal grants and started new treatment programs and drug testing procedures. The Court and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) once again collaborated on a number of different projects to expand services and treatment options. The Court thanks the ADAMHS and the County for its financial assistance with expanding treatment options for people addicted to drugs or alcohol and/or with a mental health developmental disability.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

A Court, in part, measures productivity by comparing the total number of cases filed and/or reactivated with the number of cases disposed of during the calendar year. This case management tool is referred to as the clearance rate. In 2017, a total of 19,754 civil cases were filed / reactivated. A total of 11,892 new criminal arraignments (and 1,821 reactivations) were brought for a total of 33,467 new cases/reactivations. Calendar year 2017 concluded with 14,062 cases pending.

Of the civil docket 5,145 (new filings) cases were foreclosures, a decrease of nearly 16% from 2016. In all, foreclosure cases comprised 30% of all new civil case filings.

Civil case filings once again decreased slightly in 2017, but not by as much as in previous years (5% drop in 2015-2016 in comparison to 3% in 2016-2017). Courts throughout the State continue to experience a reduction in civil case filings in 2017. It is significant to note that the number of new criminal/reactivated criminal cases actually increased again by 954 cases in 2017 in comparison to 2016 levels. For the two consecutive years, the Court has now realized an increase in criminal case filings. The Court has not experienced this trend of consecutive year increases in criminal cases for over ten years.

Additionally, legislation requires courts throughout the State to devote more time and resources to Community Control/Probation cases in order to divert more defendants from prison.



Courts must also handle more expungements and other miscellaneous matters than in the past. Also, specialized dockets, needed to address drug addiction, mental health issues, human trafficking, the re-entry of defendants into the community from prison and the handling of commercial matters, places additional responsibilities on Judges and staff and stress on limited resources.

## **THE TRIAL COURT**

In 2017, The Court's 34 Judges conducted jury trials in 258 instances, including 205 criminal cases and 53 civil jury trials, an average of 7.6 per Judge. The Judges conducted 167 bench trials in 2017. Overall, jury and bench trials were slightly up in 2017 (425) in comparison to 2016 (425). However, it should be noted that about 213 more cases were mediated in 2017 (1,696) in comparison to 2016 (1,483).

## **SPECIALIZED DOCKETS/PROGRAMS**

The Court created the Foreclosure Mediation program in 2009. The program became a model for other courts in the State and the nation. In 2017, the Court continued to allocate resources to the Foreclosure Mediation Program to respond to foreclosure filings in Cuyahoga County and to accommodate the needs of the citizens in Cuyahoga County who wish to make every effort to stay in their homes. In 2017, 1,052 Foreclosure cases were mediated.

In 2017, Judge Hollie L. Gallagher was the Chair of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court (MHDD Court). Joining Judge Gallagher on the MHDD Court are Judge Deena R. Calabrese, Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams, Judge Michael P. Donnelly and Judge Robert McClelland. The highlight for 2017 was the Mental Health Summit/Mapping event that the Court sponsored. Thanks to the efforts of Judge Hollie L. Gallagher and staff, this event brought providers and government entities in Cuyahoga County together to discuss important topics impacting people with mental illnesses and to map significant steps in the criminal justice system from charge to disposition.

Drug Court continued under Judge David T. Matia. The number of persons entering Drug Court increased again in 2017 and several graduation ceremonies for successful candidates in Drug Court were held. The Court received continued funding from a federal grant in 2017 that expands the services offered and the number of people treated. These services include Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

A second drug court, known as Recovery Court, was created in 2015 with the assistance of a federal grant. Recovery Court is presided over by Judge Joan C. Synenberg. Recovery Court was certified in record time by the Ohio Supreme Court and it focuses not only on alcohol and/or drug addiction, but also trauma related mental health issues. Recovery Court fills a critical hole in the justice system as it also focuses on serving the special needs of women. The number of people admitted into Recovery Court increased dramatically in 2017 as the project identified a larger population of people who required the special attention this specialized court docket provided. The Common Pleas Court applied for and successfully obtained a federal grant to offer expanded services and treatment to persons with

addiction and mental health issues who have been identified as victims of human trafficking.

Re-Entry Court continued to accept new people in 2017 under the leadership of Judge Nancy Margaret Russo. Re-Entry Court is recognized as an exceptional program because of its high success rate. The Court is unique in Ohio because candidates are granted Judicial Release to participate. It provides participants resources upon exiting prison to provide them opportunities to return as productive members of society. One of the major accomplishments for Re-Entry Court in 2017 was the collaboration with the community to offer a Business Summit. The Summit began in 2016 and provides local area businesses and employers information and training to encourage them to offer jobs to people with criminal records.

A Veterans Treatment Court was created in 2015 and Judge Michael E. Jackson was appointed to preside over it. This specialized docket integrates the principles of Drug Court and the MHDD Court to serve military veterans and active duty personnel. The Common Pleas Court obtained a federal grant that provides funding for the Veteran's Treatment Court. In 2017, the Court expanded services to a growing number of veterans.

#### **THE JUDGE NANCY R. McDONNELL COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Construction of the 200 bed Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community-Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) for Cuyahoga County began in 2009 and the facility opened in 2011. The project is supervised by a Facility Governing Board consisting of representatives appointed by the Court and County government. The CBCF provides a sentencing alternative to State prison. These programs provide stable housing, work release, substance abuse and mental health treatment for participants. The average length of stay is 90 days.

Throughout 2017, Judges of the Common Pleas Court referred numerous offenders to the facility. It is expected that sentencing offenders to the facility will reduce recidivism while decreasing the population of persons being sent to State prisons. It is also expected that the facility will assist with decreasing the number of offenders held in County Jail; this will positively impact the General Fund into the future.

In 2017, in cooperation with the ADAMHS and the CBCF operator, the Court once again committed resources that provided the opportunity for it to refer people with a mental health diagnosis to the CBCF. By adding psychiatrists and the ability for them to provide medication, people referred to the CBCF will be diverted from County Jail and the prison system. It is expected that this environment is much better suited for treating offenders with mental health illnesses while saving taxpayer dollars.

Cuyahoga County does not have a CBCF for women. In 2017, the Court continued to commit resources so that females can be sent to Summit County's CBCF and receive needed treatment for addiction and mental health disabilities.

In 2017, 563 offenders were placed in the CBCF, a slight decrease from 2016 (584). Also, 74 female defendants were placed in the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County, also a very minor decrease from 2016 (78).

## **ENHANCEMENTS TO THE JURY ROOM**

The Judges and staff appreciate the sacrifices and dedication of all citizens who serve as jurors in the Common Pleas Court. On behalf of the Court of Common Pleas, thank you to all jurors who served in 2017.

The Court continues to review processes and to look for ways to make jury service more convenient. In 2017, dedicated Jury Room staff reduced the time jurors served on jury duty by continuing to monitor activity in the courtrooms. In a number of instances, jurors were released after three days of jury service. The efforts of staff also allowed the Court to experience cost savings to the General Fund. In 2017, the Court hired a counseling service to provide assistance to Grand Jurors and jurors in serious or high profile criminal cases who experienced/viewed disturbing pictures or events. These counseling services are completely anonymous and jurors can contact a counselor at any time after their juror service.

A new program for jurors was created in 2014, called “Justice Fur All” which provides them an opportunity to visit with animals from the local animal shelter during the warmer months. The program’s goals were to entertain jurors as they waited to be called to a courtroom and to also give animals in the shelter a chance to be adopted. The program was expanded in 2017 to include more visits by the animals.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF CourTools**

The General Division of the Common Pleas Court has been committed to providing transparency into the performance of its operations for a number of years. The Common Pleas Court was the first in the State of Ohio to publish statistics for individual Judges, Magistrates, and for court system processes.

In 2013, in an effort to further expand transparency into its operations, the Court began implementation of a set of nationally recognized performance measures, called CourTools.

CourTools is a set of ten performance measures that were developed by the National Center for State Courts along with other court leaders and experts. These performance measures provide courts a method to collect and analyze relevant data to evaluate their own performance and compare themselves with other courts. This process provides a framework for the managing of limited resources in a way that monitors key areas of court operations to assist the Court to better serve the public.

In 2013, the Court completed work on the performance measures for Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases and Time to Disposition. In 2014, the Court completed work on three additional measures: Age of Active Pending Caseload, Trial Date Certainty and Effective Use of Jurors.

In 2017, work continued on the implementation of CourTools.

The Court added more detailed performance measures for specific civil case types. These measures provide information on time to disposition and age of active pending caseloads.

In 2017, the Court once again surveyed court users and asked them questions about their visit to the court and the level of satisfaction that they experienced. The survey results were published on the Court's web page to update the performance measure for Access and Fairness. Overall, the Court found that visitors to the court were more positive about their experience in 2017 in comparison to 2016. Throughout 2017, the Court continued to update other CourTools' performance measures.

As the Court has done in the past with other statistics, information about the ten measures and the relevant reports will be posted on the Court's web page. To our knowledge, this Court is the only one in the State and one of the few in the country to update these measures regularly and to also publish them for the public to review.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY RENOVATIONS**

Security enhancements continued to be made to the Justice Center and Lakeside Courthouse in 2017. These security improvements included the re-directing of public parking and increased security for deliveries to the Justice Center. Enhanced and secured lighting was also installed to the holding cells. Duress alarms and new x-ray and metal detector machines were added to the Lakeside Courthouse.

## **TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES**

In 2017, the Court began to plan for and implement the replacement of all personal computer hardware and software. For a large court, with well over 500 computers to replace, this is a significant project to implement and fund without the expenditure of taxpayer monies or a negative impact on the County's General Fund. It is expected that the refresh of the Court's personal computer hardware and software will be completed in 2018. The refresh also includes the replacement of monitors and printers.

The Court also selected a vendor to redesign of the Court's web page in 2017. It is expected that the Court's web page redesign will be completed in 2018. The new web page will provide the ability to better communicate with the public and the people who conduct business with the Court. The project also includes a redesign of its Intranet web page. The redesign of the Court's web page will be completed without the expenditure of taxpayer monies and will not have a negative impact on the County's General Fund.

The Court in 2017 continued working on updating the technology in the Probation Department. Probationers can now be automatically checked in and report by way of a biometric scan of their fingerprints at either the Probation Department or at a kiosk. This project was implemented by way of a grant and without the expenditure of Cuyahoga County taxpayer monies and will not have a negative impact on the County's General fund.

Work continued in 2017 to permit lower risk individuals to report to their Probation Officer and pay court ordered financial obligations by coming to a kiosk in the community and answering a few questions. It is expected that these new services for low risk offenders will enable them to report at times convenient to them so that they do not have to take time off from work and risk losing their jobs. Offenders will also realize cost savings as they can avoid the high cost of downtown parking or the need to take a bus to the courthouse. These upgrades came at no cost to Cuyahoga County's General Fund tax dollars as the Court was successful in obtaining grant monies from the State of Ohio. It is expected that the kiosks will be placed in different parts of the County in 2018.

Over a decade ago, the Court was one of the first in the State and one of the few in the country to utilize video-conferencing technology to hold court proceedings with prisons and other agencies to avoid transporting people to and from the courthouse. Judges, lawyers working for the court, and other court staff found video-conferencing technology a convenient method to obtain required CLE hours and other professional and training credit. Also, taxpayers realized a cost savings as Judges and staff reduced the amount of travel to obtain CLE hours or attend other training events. The Court also permits counsel to use the space if an expert witness is not able to travel to Cleveland for a trial. This assists the public with reducing the cost of litigation in appropriate situations. In 2016, all of the video conferencing equipment in the Court's Education Center was updated to provide a high definition signal and better sound quality. This project was completed at no cost to Cuyahoga County's General fund tax dollars as the Court successfully obtained a grant to defray some of the cost for the improvements and the remaining total was paid for with court fees.

In 2017, the Court updated video conferencing equipment in its Grand Jury rooms to provide a better picture and sound to jurors when witnesses are providing testimony from remote locations. The equipment also provides state of the art presentation capabilities.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH and COLLABORATING WITH THE BAR ASSOCIATION**

Community outreach has continued to be a focus for the Court in 2017. Court in the Classroom was first staged in 2014. Actual court cases (e.g. probation violations, plea changes, sentencings) are held in front of 8th grade students and then followed-up with explanations and a review of the Court. Students can then ask questions of the Judge, attorneys, bailiffs, and court reporters. In 2017, Court in the Classroom expanded to include more school districts throughout Cuyahoga County and it continues to generate interest from other districts as well.

In 2017, the Court continued projects under the Community Outreach umbrella including

- A monthly internal newsletter titled From The Bench;
- Memorial Mondays during the summer in which food trucks visit at lunchtime;
- Justice Fur All in which the Cleveland Animal Protective League brings dogs and cats available for adoption;
- Increased communication with local media and news releases about Court happenings;
- And connecting with other Court public information officers around the nation.

New in 2017, music was added at most of our Memorial Mondays during the lunch hour.

Mental Health training was once again offered in 2017 to local attorneys who represent persons with mental health or developmental disabilities.

Judges and staff volunteered to be presenters at a number of Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) and Ohio Judicial College courses in 2017.

Court Administration again hosted a segment of the New Lawyer Bootcamp program sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. New lawyers received valuable information and tips about practicing in the Court, received a tour of the Court's various departments and obtained their Court ID. Court Administration assisted again with the Supreme Court's Attorney Mentoring program in 2017. Judge Brendan J. Sheehan is a member of the Supreme Court's Mentoring Committee and chairs the program in Cleveland. This program links experienced attorneys with new attorneys and the Court partners with the Bar Association to hold a reception for the mentors and young attorneys. Information is provided about the Court and a tour of Court facilities are also provided at the event.

One of the most important events that the Court collaborates with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association is the Louis Stokes Scholars Program. The goal of the program is to encourage college students who are graduates of the Cleveland and East Cleveland school districts to consider a career in law by engaging them in paid summer legal internships at law firms, courts, and legal nonprofits. In addition to their work assignments, interns participated in field trips and programs to increase their understanding of the legal system, improve their writing skills and engage them in networking opportunities. In 2017, the Court once again provided interns with a mentor and designed a program internally to introduce the students to various aspects of the judiciary and the justice system. The program is named after Louis Stokes, who was a former Congressman, Cleveland Metropolitan School District graduate, civil rights advocate and distinguished attorney.

These are just a few of the various programs the Court and its Judges and staff participate in each year. Judges and staff commit hundreds of hours of their time presenting for the Ohio Supreme Court's Judicial College, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and a number of other organizations every year to educate lawyers and the public on legal topics and the judiciary.



# 2017 FISCAL REPORT

Director of Fiscal  
Operations  
Colleen Brown

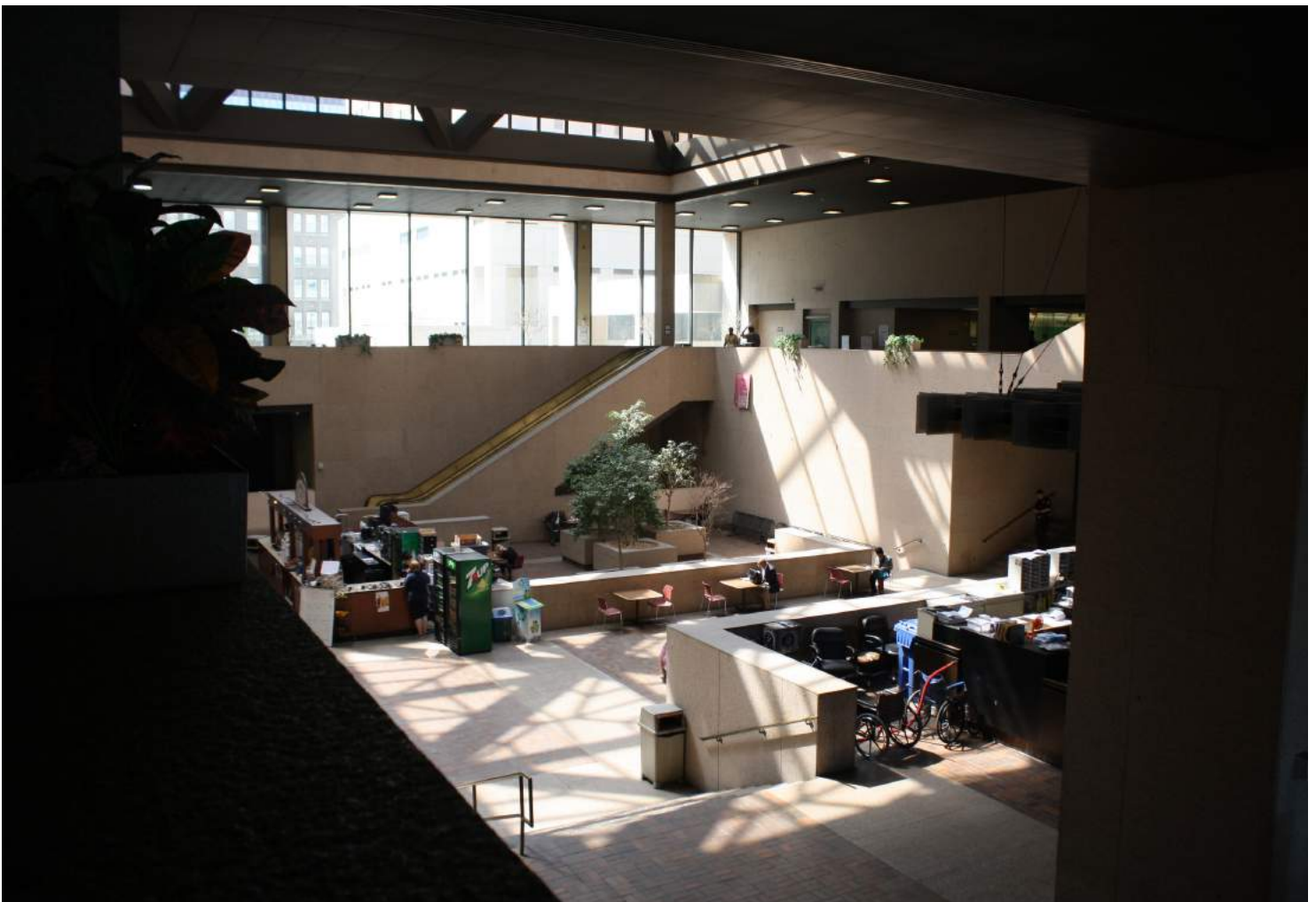
The 2017 actual General Fund Expenses at \$50,359,578 represent funding for the Judicial Administration, Magistrates, Court Services, and Probation/Psychiatric Clinic Budgets. It supports the majority of the Court's operations. The Court is constitutionally entitled to reasonable allocation for its operations. The 2017 General Fund expenditures listed by individual budget are as follows:

**Judicial Administration Budget: \$26,654,420** - This included funding for the following departments: Judicial, Administration, Bailiffs, Jury Bailiffs, Jury Commission, Judicial Staff Attorneys and Judges' Secretaries.

**Magistrates Budget: \$1,415,699** - This included funding for the following departments: Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) / Mediation and Foreclosure.

**Court Services Budget: \$7,899,218** - This includes funding for the following departments: Central Scheduling, Court Systems, Data Entry, Court Reporters, Criminal Records and Information Systems.

**Probation/Psychiatric Budget: \$14,390,241** - This includes funding for the following departments: Probation and the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

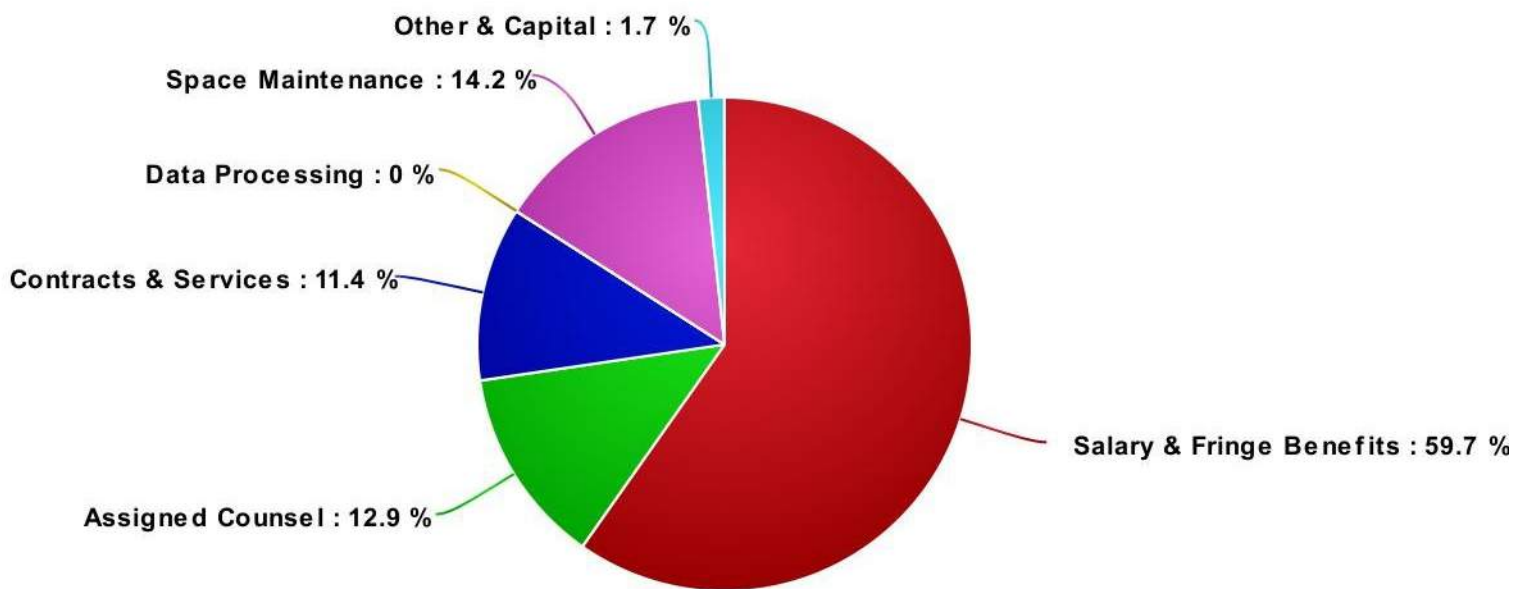


The pie chart summarizes the Court's General Fund Expenditures for 2017. This analysis is comprised of actual expenses from the Judicial Administration, Magistrates, Court Services, and Probation / Psychiatric Clinic budgets. Salary and Fringe Benefits is the largest expense category representing compensation to approximately 513 full and part-time staff, inclusive of 34 elected judges who are paid by the State of Ohio .

The second largest expense category, Space Maintenance, has increased by 21% over 2016. This category includes charge-backs from the Department of Public Works that are based on factors such as square footage, security personnel, and a prior year actual cost reconciliation, which is outside of the Court's control.

In 2017, the total number of arraigned indigent defendants was 9,294. Of that total, 3,157 were then assigned to the Public Defender's Office at the time of Arraignment. The Assigned Counsel expense is not adjusted for the reimbursement by the State to the General Fund for these costs, estimated at 40% of the total expenditure for the first half of 2017. A new rate of 45% became effective with the 2018 State fiscal year budget

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court  
2107 General Fund Expenditures By Percentages



- Salary & Fringe Benefits
- Assigned Counsel
- Contracts & Services
- Data Processing
- Space Maintenance
- Other & Capital

Salary & Fringe Benefits	\$30,080,260
Assigned Counsel	\$6,498,952
Contracts & Services	\$5,744,474
Data Processing	\$1,800
Space Maintenance	\$7,153,737
Other & Capital	\$880,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,359,578</b>



# INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## Director of Information Systems

Thomas Arnaut

## Staff

Systems Analyst

Network Manager

Network Engineer

Network Administrator

Court Technology Specialist

Probation Information  
Systems Specialist

Office Manager

Office Assistants (2)

Project Manager



## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Information Systems Department is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining all of the network systems and software applications used throughout the Court. There are approximately 650 workstations, 28 network servers, 5 local area networks, all connected through the county wide area network. Applications range from the Court's primary case management system, web applications and web sites, and file and print services. The Information Systems Department also supports the interaction of the Court with other County and Municipal agencies where information sharing is required.

In 2017, this department continued developing and implementing new features in the various systems used by the Court, as well as adding features to the Court's primary case management system. The Information Systems Department continuously analyzes and evaluates opportunities to increase efficiencies through the use of technology.

This past year, interactive kiosks and display systems were developed, tested and deployed to improve the check-in process in the Adult Probation Department. Optical marking technologies were applied to analyze juror and probation experiences. Additionally, an analysis of the Court's Internet and Intranet websites, with the goal of improving communication, accessibility and operations, was completed. As a result, new modern and responsively designed websites are in development and will be completed by midyear. These websites will provide faster and timely information updates, increase public and staff awareness about court programs, services and performance. They will utilize enhanced web, video and new media communications abilities, and also allow better user experiences on mobile devices. Technology training was also provided to security staff with the deployment of an advanced imaging security screening system at entrances to certain locations.

Another focus of the Information Systems has been to work with Court departments to improve their document accessibility and archival procedures. The Court creates and processes a large number of paper and electronic case files each year. Maintaining these files can be cumbersome without a proper and contemporary archival plan in place. Information Systems works with departments to implement proper archival methods through analyzing their processes, assisting with document scanning, providing proper network storage and micro-filming records when necessary. In 2017, more than 2.5 million documents have been scanned and indexed, thereby improving document access, productivity and archives while reducing paper file storage.

The Information Systems Department will continue to work diligently on upgrading and enhancing the systems used by the Court, the legal community and the public so that they may have reliable, accurate access to the information they require.

## COURT SYSTEMS

The primary function of the Court Systems Department is to create criminal journal entries, review for accuracy and prepare them for signature by the Judges. This department also provides training and assistance to judges and staff who choose to create journal entries themselves. The Court Systems Department produced 16,399 journal entries in 2017.

The department is also responsible for facilitating training sessions and assisting with the use of technology at a variety of court functions. Throughout 2017, the Court Systems Department helped to facilitate over 435 events.

# ADULT PROBATION

**MARIA NEMEC**

Chief Probation Officer

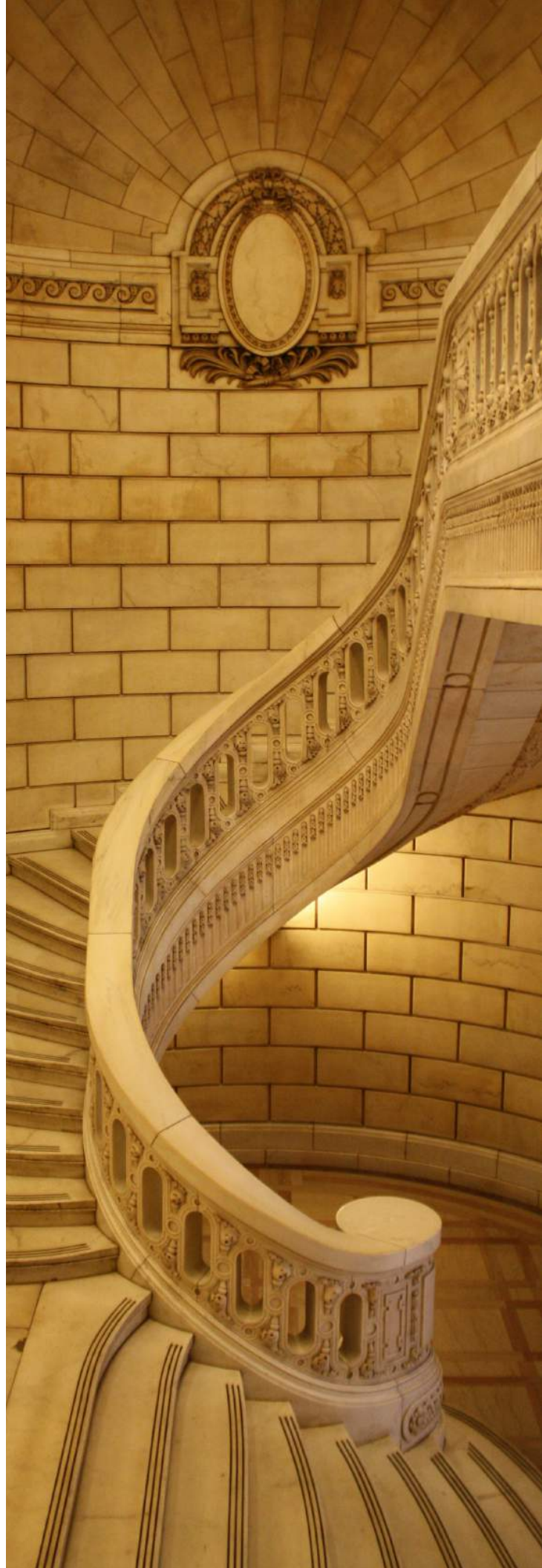
**STEPHANIA PRYOR**

Deputy Chief Probation  
Officer

**JAMES STARKS**

Deputy Chief Probation  
Officer

The Cuyahoga County Probation Department shall establish effective alternatives to incarceration. To encourage positive change in the lives of offenders, the Cuyahoga County Probation Department shall provide evidence based practices to the Court, community, victims, probationers and defendants.



# ADULT PROBATION STAFF

Supervisors (18)  
Probation Officers (145)  
Drug Court Coordinator  
MHDD Court Coordinator  
Re-Entry Court Coordinator  
Veterans Court Coordinator  
Training Specialist  
Clerical Supervisor  
Fiscal Supervisor  
Clerical & Support Staff (13)  
Executive Secretary  
Administrative Assistant (3)  
Lab Manager  
Senior Lab Technologist  
Lab Technologist  
Lab Assistants (6)  
Lab Administrative Aide I  
Cashier Bookkeepers (3)

The Cuyahoga County Probation Department, in providing community corrections services, assists the Court of Common Pleas in the protection of the community and the administration of justice. Toward this end, we:

- > Complete thorough and accurate investigations
- > Provide individualized direction, client centered goal coordination, the effective use of community-based resources and the swift and consistent administration of prescribed incentives and sanctions
- > Provide assistance to victims, including collection of restitution
- > Manage offender risk by enforcing court orders and affording opportunities for change
- > Maintain a trained staff who are knowledgeable regarding evidence-based practices
- > Communicate with law enforcement, correctional and other community agencies in Cuyahoga County

## **Core Values of the Probation Department**

- > Promote Public Safety
- > Implement evidence-based practices
- > Belief that people in our charge can change for the better and that we can be instrumental in providing opportunities and resources to direct that change
- > Belief that everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect

# Investigations

## **Pre-Sentence:** 5,366 completed

- Thorough investigation of current offense
- Risk assessments using the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
- Victim comments and restitution information
- Summary of defendant's pertinent history (e.g., social, educational, employment, health, etc.)
- Supervision placement recommendations based on assessed risk and special population considerations
- 28 days to complete a Bail PSI, 21 days to complete a Jail PSI

## **Post-Sentence:** 68 completed

- Thorough investigation of current offense
- Risk assessments using the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
- Victim comments and restitution information
- Summary of defendant's pertinent history (e.g., social, educational)

## **Expungements:** 1,368 completed

- Criminal history check
- Current residency information
- Compliance with original conditions including financial obligations
- Termination dates of any supervision or confinement provided when available
- Summary report of eligibility information for sealing of criminal records is provided

## **Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE):** 38 completed

- ORC 2953.25: for persons subject to collateral sanctions .
- The CQE will allow persons living in the community who have a previous felony or misdemeanor conviction to apply to the court to lift the collateral sanction that bars them from being considered for employment in a particular field.
- Automatically upon conviction for a felony, misdemeanor or other offense, even if not included in the sentence
- Probation staff person researches and delivers thorough investigation report to the court
- Report includes summary of Petitioner's rationale for requesting a CQE

Court Supervised Release (CSR) involves supervision of defendants charged with felonies, who prior to disposition, are released into the community under supervision with a personal or financial bond.

The following represents defendants released under Court Supervised Release as well as defendants receiving additional or specialized pretrial supervision services including: The Domestic Violence Program, Early Intervention Program, Greater Cleveland Drug Court candidates, as well as Mental Health / Developmental Disability offenders.

<b>Court Supervised Release</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Individuals released from jail under CSR as a condition of bond	1,994	2002	<1%
Individuals under CSR as of December 31	521	574	10.1%

# Diversion Programs

## **PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office began the Pretrial Diversion Program in conjunction with the Court of Common Pleas in March 1993. The program was established pursuant to Revised Code 2935.36. It is designed for persons charged with non-violent and non-drug related crimes that have no previous felony convictions or patterns of adult or juvenile criminal behavior. Successful applicants must enter into a plea agreement which is held in abeyance pending successful completion of the Program. The maximum allowable restitution amount was is \$7,500. The Pretrial Unit provides services to the County Prosecutor's Pretrial Diversion Program. Services currently consist of:

1. Completing extensive criminal record checks on both welfare and non-welfare felony diversion candidates
2. Conducting investigations including interviews, determining restitution amounts and evaluations of eligibility
3. Supervision of all diversion cases (supervision activities include urinalysis, community work service, restitution, court costs, supervision fees, etc.)

In 2017, 317 defendants were placed into Diversion, with a daily average of 401 active defendants.

## **EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)**

The goal of the EIP is to identify and intervene early in the criminal justice process for those offenders who are in need of substance abuse and/or mental health services. The program targets first time offenders with a pending felony drug charge and provides them with appropriate drug treatment services within 45 days of arrest. Offenders are placed on CSR as a condition of bond and are screened for substance abuse issues. At arraignment, CSR makes a recommendation to the Court for continued CSR/EIP participation for offenders in compliance with program conditions, and requests that the judge allow the offender to participate in the program. Offenders must enter a guilty/no contest plea with the court in order to participate.

38 defendants were placed into EIP in 2017. Approximately 36 defendants are active in the program on any given day.

## **INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION (ILC)**

The Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC) is designed to meet the unique needs of low-level, nonviolent probationers with minimal prior criminal histories, who have a significant substance abuse and/or mental health problems that contributed to the underlying offense for which they are charged. The primary focus of the ILC program is to assist probationers to engage in substance abuse or mental health counseling to potentially deter any further recidivism. The unit is comprised of five officers and a supervisor.

At the close of 2017, there were 512 ILC active cases (additional 24 in jail, 82 pending capias).

# Supervision

Probation supervision is risk based. Offenders receive a supervision response that is appropriate for their risk level, targeting higher risk offenders for programming. Evidence-based practices are utilized to change offender behavior. A Behavioral Response System (BRP) matrix is used to respond to both prosocial and non-compliant behavior.

## OHIO RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ORAS)

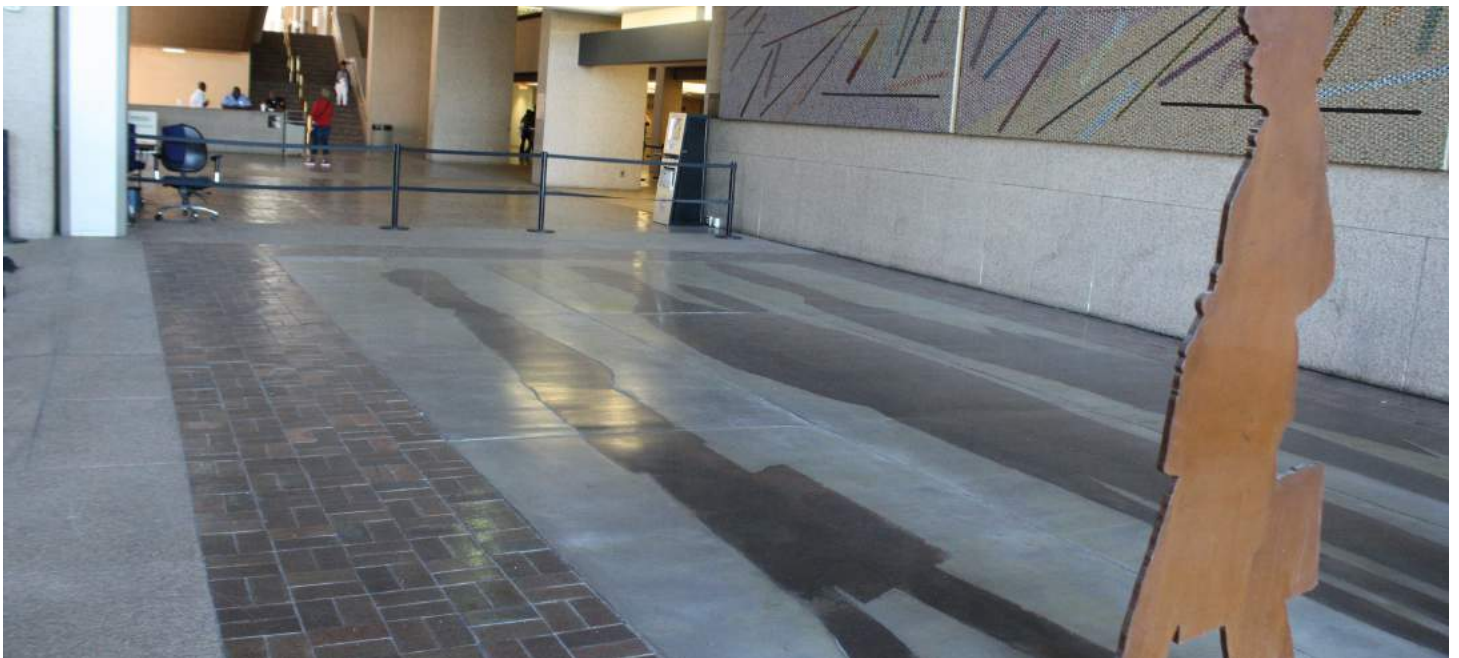
The Probation Department utilizes the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The ORAS was developed as a statewide system to assess the risk and needs of Ohio offenders that was predictive of recidivism at multiple points in the criminal justice system. All cases referred for Pre-Sentence Investigation have an ORAS assessment completed. Eighty three percent (5,562) of the 6,696 defendants on probation as of December 31, 2017, have an ORAS Risk Score.

Extreme High	High	Moderate	Low Moderate	Low	Total
80	1,582	2,355	347	1,198	5,562
1%	28%	42%	6%	22%	100%

## End of the Year Statistics

Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2017	6,696
Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2016	7,075
Highest level conviction is a felony	5,822 (86.95%)
Highest level conviction is a misdemeanor	874 (13.05%)

In 2017, there were 5% fewer defendants on supervision at the end of the year as compared to 2016.



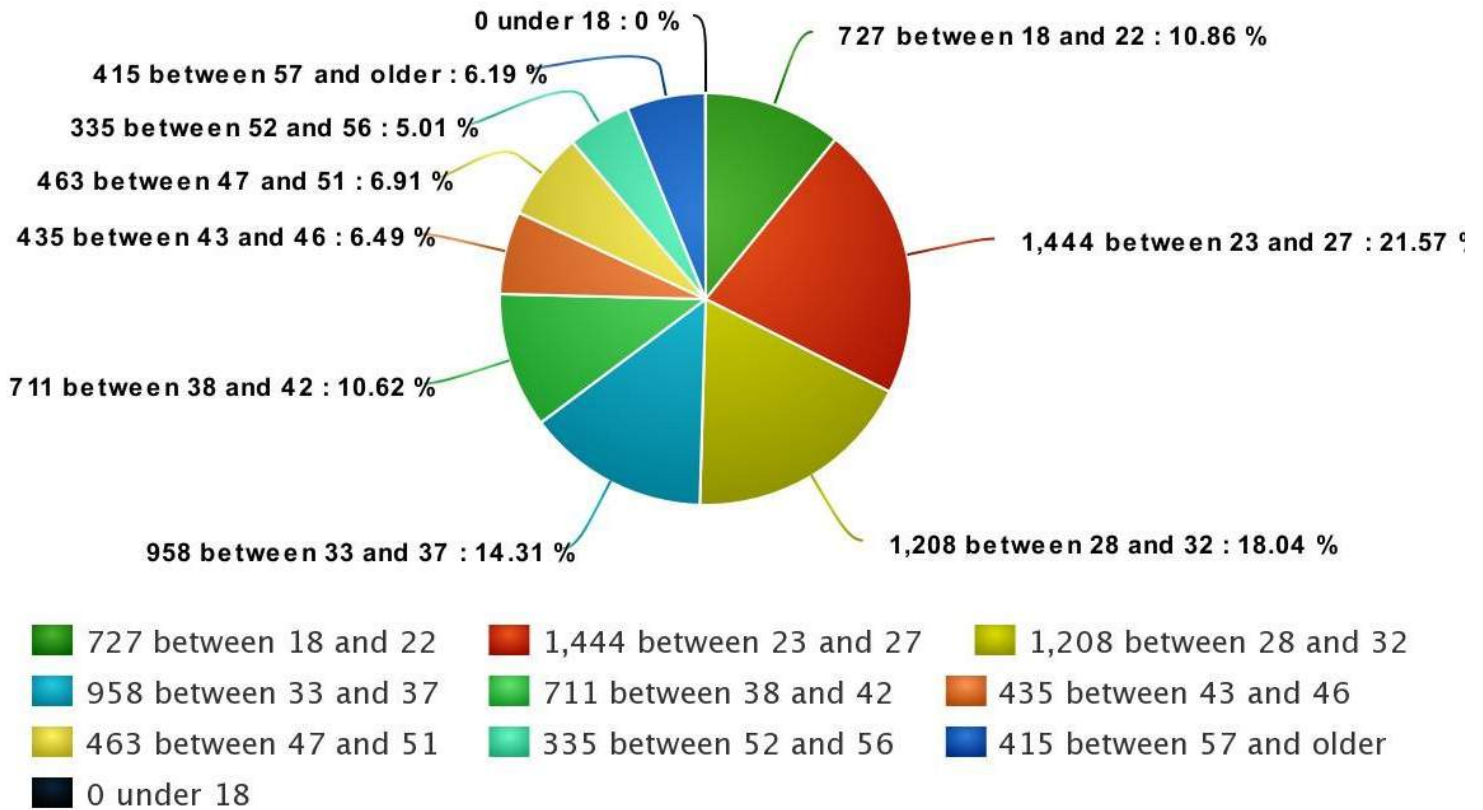
DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PROBATION/COMMUNITY CONTROL BY SUPERVISION GROUP

<b>Bottle</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Low Risk	330	5%
Low Moderate Risk	245	4%
Low / Low Mod - Traditional Probation - Westside	261	4%
Moderate Risk - Evidence Based	1019	15%
Moderate Risk - Regular Probation	823	12%
Moderate Risk - Intensive Supervision	140	2%
High Risk (GRPD)	770	11%
High Risk – Post CBCF	133	2%
Extreme High Risk	42	1%
Intensive Supervision for Misdemeanor	39	1%
Domestic Violence Unit	552	8%
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction	460	7%
Criminal Non Support	390	6%
Mental Health Unit	369	6%
Electronic Monitoring GPS	302	5%
Developmental Disabilities Unit	201	3%
Sex Offender Unit	201	3%
Drug Court Track 1 (Diversion)	164	2%
CBCF Supervision Component	115	2%
Veterans Court	74	1%
Drug Court Track 2 (Non Diversion)	39	1%
Day Programming	35	1%
Interstate Compact – Courtesy Supervision	32	1%
Criminal Non Support – Intensive Supervision (FCNS)	22	<1%
Re-Entry Court	20	<1%
Work Release	8	<1%
Other / Capias	11	<0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6,696</b>	<b>100%</b>



# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SUPERVISION CASES

Defendant Age  
Cuyahoga County Adult Probation



Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian	1	11	12
Black	710	3,419	4,129
Hispanic	34	153	187
Other	9	102	111
White	660	1,597	2,257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>6,696</b>

In 2017, there were 209 active defendants with 210 records of military experience. Forty-nine of the defendants are currently participating in Veterans Treatment Court. The average age is 48 and six of the 209 Veterans are women.

Military Branch	Count
Air Force	27
Army	101
Coast Guard	2
Marines	35
National Guard	4
Navy	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>

## **LOW RISK SUPERVISION**

Low Risk (Group A) currently has one officer supervising approximately 300 defendants. Defendants in this group report every 6 months for one year. Research on the Risk Principle dictates that it is best to provide minimal, if any, supervision for the offenders who assessed as Low Risk to recidivate. The research has found that intensive treatment and intervention for Low Risk Offenders can actually increase their risk of recidivism.

At the close of 2017, there were 330 defendants were supervised on the Low Risk Caseload.

## **LOW MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION**

Low-Moderate Risk (Group B) currently has two officers supervising approximately 300 defendants. Defendants in this group report every three months for one year. Individuals in the Low-Moderate Risk category are supervised at a non-intensive level.

At the close of 2017, 245 defendants were being supervised on the Low Moderate Risk Caseloads.

## **MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION**

Moderate Risk (Group C) is comprised of 12 officers and 2 supervisors. Defendants in this group report once a month or as specified via court order for eighteen months. Officers are expected to be competent in utilizing and administering an ORAS assessment, and must be familiar with defendant criminogenic needs and corresponding Evidence Based programming. In addition, officers are trained in Supervision Planning, Motivational Interviewing and the Stages of Change.

In 2013, the Department implemented a Moderate Risk ISP officers, currently comprised of 2 officers. This position allows for an intensive supervision response for Moderate Risk defendants who, because of their risk level, are not appropriate for intensive supervision of a High Risk Unit. This officer meets with defendants more frequently and creates a more comprehensive Supervision Plan with the defendant that includes more programming dosage to attend to the defendant's increased level of needs.

At the close of 2017, the Moderate Risk Units supervised 1,982 defendants.

## **HIGH RISK SUPERVISION PROBATION**

The High Risk Probation program is designed to divert eligible felony offenders, from incarceration in Ohio's prisons by providing a more intense or heightened degree of supervision within the community. High Risk is designed as a two-year program with frequent offender contact, intense case planning, close attention to offender criminogenic needs and appropriate program referrals, as well as varying urinalysis schedules designed for the most effective habilitation of the offender. The program is staffed by 17 officers and 3 supervisors. Average caseload size is 45 defendants per officer.

There were 942 (39 ISP misdemeanor) defendants supervised in the High Risk program at the end of 2017.

## **EXTREMELY HIGH RISK SUPERVISION**

Extremely High Risk (Group E) currently consists of one officer with a caseload of approximately 40 defendants. Defendants in this group report for up to five years. The goal of supervising the Extremely High Risk offender is to promote public safety. Intensive supervision, surveillance, drug and alcohol testing are a necessity while programming is contraindicated. Supervision of the Extremely High Risk offender consists of:

- Weekly office contacts
- Weekly urinalysis testing
- Weekly field visits with instant drug and/or alcohol testing
- Twice weekly collateral contacts

The officer in this position works closely with the County Sheriff's Department and county provider agencies in the close monitoring of these offenders. They employ non-traditional surveillance hours, including working evenings and weekends for the most effective supervision.

For 2017, the Extremely High Risk Officer supervised 42 defendants.

## **TRADITIONAL SUPERVISION**

Offenders sentenced to a high level of supervision than their risk score warrants are supervised by the Traditional Supervision caseload. The low to low-moderate risk level offenders are supervised according to the frequency that the journal entry dictates.

At the close of 2017, there were 261 defendants supervised at the traditional supervision level.



## OTHER SUPERVISION OPTIONS

### MISDEMEANOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING/JAIL REDUCTION

To provide a community-based alternative to incarceration, the Misdemeanor Alternative Sentencing Program (MASP) began as an informal agreement with Garfield Heights Municipal Court in 1997. It was created to help identify, recommend and provide limited community-based sanctions (e.g., electronic monitoring), supervision and substance abuse and mental health treatment to eligible misdemeanant offenders sentenced by a suburban municipal court to the County Jail for more than 30 days. By 2000, with the assistance of Ohio Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding, the program was made available to all 12 suburban municipal courts in Cuyahoga County.

The MASP Investigation Officer conducts daily screening of misdemeanants sentenced to the County Jail. Investigations include a comprehensive criminal history, offender interview, social situation verification, assessment of supervision needs, ORAS-CST risk assessment and written recommendation to the municipal court-referring judge. The MASP Investigation Officer coordinates with local service providers for assessment and treatment referral for substance abuse and mental health needs. Upon completion of treatment, the MASP Supervision Officer in the Common Pleas Court's Pretrial Services Unit provides supervision and urinalysis testing in the community.

<b>Misdemeanor Alternative Sentencing Program</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Defendants sentenced to County Jail from suburban municipal courts	2,059	1,718
Total defendants released from County Jail	247	185
Released as percent of all suburban municipal court bookings	12%	11%
Defendants admitted to treatment and supervised by MASP Officer	218	150
Released but did not show up for treatment and/or supervision	13%	19%
Jail days saved	29,668	34,591
Average jail days saved per defendant	120 days	187 days
Financial savings (based on per diem rate of \$88.00/day)	\$2,610,784	\$3,044,008

## MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (MHDD) PROGRAM

MHDD serves persons clinically diagnosed with severe mental illnesses with a psychotic component or those with developmental disabilities, whose conditions may be aided by medications, case management and supervision in the community, providing judges with an alternative to prison commitment.

It is currently staffed by 14 specially trained officers, one Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Specialist and two supervisors. The MHDD Probation program effectuated staffing changes in 2017 in response to evolving offender needs. The program designated four officers to supervise offenders with Developmental Disabilities, up from three officers, while the Mental Health officers staffing number was decreased from 14 to 13. Additionally, in an effort to reduce pretrial incarceration rates of program participants, the unit assumed one Pretrial Services position from the Probation Department's general Pretrial Services unit. This officer works to identify jailed defendants who would be appropriate for Court Supervised Release, establish community and behavioral health linkages, ensure court appearances and aid in the successful transition of convicted defendants onto community control.

The MHDD Unit's one Pretrial Services MHDD probation officer currently maintains a caseload of 64 offenders. The average caseload of the thirteen post-conviction officers is 48 offenders with a recommended duration of 2 years of Community Control sanctions.

Officers work closely with community agency providers through bi-weekly or monthly clinical staffing with forensic case managers, licensed social workers and licensed counselors from Recovery Resources, Murtis H. Taylor, FrontLine Service, Connections, and Matt Talbot Inn Residential treatment.

Contracted service providers include the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (approximately 34% of offenders supervised in the MHDD program are assessed with developmental disabilities) and Recovery Resources, selected in cooperation with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, which co-funds the program to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric services, medication management and support services.

A full time Crisis Intervention/ Behavioral Health Specialist (CIBHS) was hired in the first quarter of 2017, and is housed in the MHDD Unit to assist with crisis de-escalation, risk screening, community linkages and case consultations. The CIBHS has developed and delivered trainings on de-escalation techniques and suicide awareness within the Probation Department and the Court.

At the close of 2017, there were approximately 618 offenders under active post-conviction supervision by the MHDD Unit including those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (approximately 77%) as well as those who pled from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction. There were approximately 65 pre-trial clients supervised by Pretrial Services MHDD officer.

## **SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM**

The Adult Sex Offender Program is designed to provide assessment, intensive probation supervision and treatment to sex offenders who have been convicted of a sex offense or an offense whose elements include a sex offending behavior. The program is comprised of 3 specially trained probation officers and a treatment component. An average sex offender caseload size is 70 offenders per officer. Psych & Psych provides group and individual counseling for sex offenders, including the developmentally disabled population. Court general funds and CCA grant dollars provided for 58 sex offender assessments and for 108 offenders to receive treatment services in 2017. An integral part of the program is Polygraph testing, used for verification of client progress and compliance .

26 offenders submitted to a polygraph examination in 2017.

At the close of 2017, there were 204 defendants with felony and or misdemeanor conviction on supervision in the Sex Offender Unit.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT**

The Domestic Violence (DV) Unit is comprised of nine specially trained officers and a supervisor. The unit is designed to provide intensive supervision for offenders who have been convicted of a domestic violence offense or an offense whose elements included domestic violence behavior. Length of supervision is generally two years. The two-year supervision term allows time for DV officers to establish and maintain contact with the victim, enforce any no contact orders, and refer and follow-up on the defendant's DV programming. Officers engage in comprehensive case planning, refer defendants to programs and treatment as indicated in their ORAS assessments, and based on their criminogenic needs.

The majority of the defendants in the DV Unit attend the Domestic Intervention and Education Treatment (DIET) program offered by Cleveland Municipal Court. The DV officers and DIET staff regularly communicate and collaborate on defendant treatment progress and needs. Several officers in the DV Unit also participate on various DV committees to maintain a presence in the community. The DV Unit is a partner in the Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Team. Two officers from the DV Unit attend team meetings twice a month to staff high risk cases. Team members come from various agencies throughout the county, and cases focus on Districts 1 and 5 from the Cleveland Police.

At year's end there were 564 defendants supervised by the Domestic Violence Unit including those with a felony conviction and those who pled from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction (generally an M1). Average caseload size including felony and misdemeanor cases is approximately 63 defendants per officer.

## **NON-SUPPORT SPECIALIZED CASELOAD**

The Non-Support Specialized Caseload was established to provide an additional option in the continuum of sanctions for offenders under supervision for Felony Non-Support. The Non-Support Specialized Caseload is intended to reduce the need for incarceration in state prisons or the local jail by providing an effective sentencing alternative. It also recognizes the importance of expanding the continuum of sanctions for individuals with non-support offenses to decrease prison commitments for technical violations, and avoiding interruption in offender employment and subsequent ability to pay child support.

Cuyahoga County clients represent 16% of Ohio's child support business. The Non-Support Specialized Program seeks to empower parents so they can successfully remove barriers to the payment of child support and promotes ways to rehabilitate non-support offenders without the cost of incarceration. The program works to provide the appropriate external controls along with the Non-Support Education programming, supervision approaches, and interventions necessary to instill the internal motivation and skills necessary for offenders to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

The program collaborates with various community social support agencies that focus on barriers to success, and ensure offenders pay child support and receive services to address their specific needs to encourage responsible parenthood, while promoting public safety.

The offender population served includes individuals with criminal non-support charges under the supervision of the Adult Probation Department. A portion of this offender population may also include individuals required to pay child support whose cases have not been referred for prosecution, but who may benefit from the education component to strengthen their understanding of their responsibilities and increase the likelihood of compliance with child support orders. Risk level will generally be between moderate to high risk. There is also a Basic Non-Support caseload for offenders who do not generally require more intensive supervision and programming. However, moderate or high risk offenders supervised on the Basic NS Unit may be referred for NS programming if needed.

At the close of 2017, there were 25 defendants under supervision on the Specialized Non-Support caseload and 277 defendants on the regular Non-Support caseload.

## **WORK RELEASE**

Individuals in the Work Release Program are granted release from the facility only for verified purposes (e.g., work, education, vocational training, and substance abuse treatment). Individuals can be placed in the Work Release Program at the time of sentencing or at the time of a Probation Violation/Community Control Violation Hearing. CCA funding provides the WR/EM Unit with three full-time supervision officers including a lead officer who assists with administrative oversight of the program. Offenders sentenced to Work Release are placed in state-funded beds at Salvation Army's Harbor Light Complex. In 2017, approximately 48 offenders were placed in the Work Release Program.

## ELECTRONIC HOME DETENTION – GPS / ALCOHOL MONITORING

Electronic Home Detention – GPS Monitoring, Alcohol Monitoring and Work Release provide an alternative to incarceration that allows offenders to remain in the community in a less restrictive setting, while taking into account public safety. The program serves as a sanction to address non-compliant behavior and offenders found to be in violation of their Community Control Sanctions. Offenders placed into the program(s) are ordered there by the Court and, with the exception to Work Release, must have an approved verified residence.

GPS Monitoring restricts offenders to an approved residence except for authorized absences such as work, education, substance abuse treatment etc. The Court in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, implemented active GPS monitoring in 2014.

In 2017, 1,297 offenders were fitted with GPS and/or Alcohol Monitoring equipment. Of those, 1,109 were monitored only on GPS and 188 had alcohol monitoring (127 alcohol only and 61 alcohol and GPS). Of those offenders monitored on GPS monitoring, 462, (42%) were Court Supervised Release and 647 (58%) were a condition of Community Control Sanctions. 89% of offenders monitored in 2017 successfully completed, while 11% were taken into custody by the Sheriff's EM unit for non-compliance of the program.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department provides the GPS monitoring equipment and monitoring surveillance in collaboration with the Probation Department. The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas provides the Alcohol monitoring equipment as well as monitoring services. To defray the cost for indigent offenders and for other program costs, offenders are charged \$8 per day for GPS monitoring and \$10 per day for alcohol monitoring. A total of \$112,796.61 was collected from electronic monitoring participants.

## COGNITIVE SKILLS PROGRAMMING

SCOPE is a cognitive skills development program utilizing the "Thinking for a Change" (T4C) curriculum. The program integrates cognitive restructuring, social skills, and problem solving. It teaches offenders an introspective process for examining their ways of thinking and their feelings, beliefs and attitudes. Social-skills training is provided as an alternative to antisocial behaviors; problem solving becomes the central approach. Offenders learn what enables them to work through difficult situations without engaging in criminal behavior. In early June 2013, a female SCOPE group began which allowed the program to address the unique needs, issues and learning styles of women. In 2017, 481 individuals received SCOPE programming.





## **DOMESTIC INTERVENTION, EDUCATION, and TRAINING (DIET)**

The Cleveland Municipal Court provides domestic violence education for offenders charged with misdemeanor and felony domestic violence offenses in Cleveland Municipal Court, Common Pleas Court and/or the suburban municipal courts. The program is 16 weeks long and is held at three different locations, downtown, the Cleveland Probation Department's East Side Office, and at the Cleveland Probation Department's West Office. The DIET program is funded with Community Corrections Act dollars through a yearly contract with the Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board.

The DIET Program offers a Support Group, comprised of successful graduates that meet on the third Monday of each month. A facilitator monitors the group, but primary direction of the meeting comes from the graduates. Issues discussed include successful implementation of safety plans and establishing healthy relationships. Group members receive Incentives such as note pads or coffee mugs to encourage participation.

In 2017, there were 641 referrals to the DIET Program and 74 participants in the Support Group.

## **THE JUDGE NANCY R. MCDONNELL COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

The Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility provides comprehensive programming to address offender criminogenic needs such as chemical dependency, education, employment, cognitive behavior therapy and family relationships. The program is designed to progressively integrate higher-risk offenders back into the community while, at the same time, reducing prison overcrowding and recidivism. In 2015, eligibility requirements were modified to allow moderate risk offenders.

In 2017, 578 male offenders were placed in the Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF and 75 female defendants were placed in the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County. On any given day, there are approximately 171 males and 14 females serving a CBCF sentence.

Most offenders sentenced to the CBCF are concurrently supervised by one of two CBCF supervision officers or officers from specialized units. The CBCF Supervision Officers are stationed at the facility. Officers work closely with the CBCF case workers to assist offenders in reaching their programming goals. This partnership is pivotal in making sure offenders remain compliant with discharge plan and Community Control expectations once released back into the community. The assigned supervision officer engages the offender during the final stage of the CBCF Program in an effort to assist in the transition to community control supervision. Upon successful completion of the CBCF program, supervision is either maintained by the CBCF officers or officers in specialized units to address offense-specific (e.g., domestic violence) or behavioral health needs (e.g., mental health). In addition to these designated positions, the Probation Department and CBCF staff engage in many collaborative efforts, including cross-training and joint Probation and Judicial Orientations for newly admitted residents.

## APPREHENSION UNIT

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department Warrant Unit arrests individuals with outstanding warrants in Cuyahoga County. Personnel assigned to the Warrant Unit execute and service felony and civil arrest warrants, bench warrants, temporary protection orders, out of state prisoner extraditions and the apprehension of wanted fugitives throughout the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the Warrant Unit assists the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department in the service of warrants issued for individuals under jurisdiction of programs within the Probation Department.

The Warrant Unit worked approximately 1,300 warrants in 2017 and cleared 579. Of these, the Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department submitted the names of 349 offenders for apprehension (up from 344 in 2016). Programs funded by the CCA submitted 291 requests for arrest and regular supervision programs submitted 58 requests. The total number of arrests for CCA generated capias and probation warrants was 259, representing an 89% arrest rate. The total number of arrests for regular supervision capias and probation warrants was 56, representing a 96.5% arrest rate.

Warrant Unit Deputies are routinely dispatched to treatment facilities to apprehend noncompliant probationers. Of the 349 names submitted by Cuyahoga County Probation Staff to the Sheriff's Department Warrant Unit for apprehension, 106 were for apprehension at The Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) and 70 were for apprehension at Community Assessment Treatment Services (CATS).

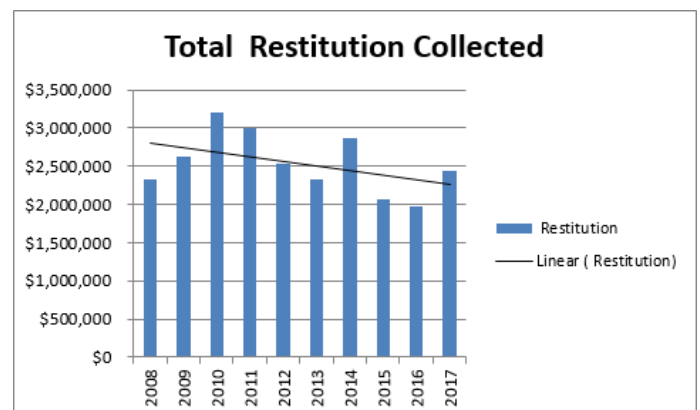
## RESTITUTION

### TOTAL 2017 FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS

	FY 2016	FY 2017	\$ Increase or Decrease	% Increase or Decrease
Restitution Payments	\$1,964,120.41	\$2,434,962.53	\$470,842.12	24.0%
Home Detention Fees	53,292.85	112,796.61	59,503.76	111.7%
Probation Supervision Fees	473,200.86	501,870.00	28,669.14	6.1%
Court Cost	4,146.09	2,611.05	(1,535.04)	-37.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,494,760.21</b>	<b>\$3,052,240.19</b>	<b>\$557,479.98</b>	

The spike in restitution in 2017 can be attributed to payments made for three cases that were for a total of \$604,000.00. While there are normal fluctuations for restitution payments each year, the overall trend is a decline from 2010. The 112% increase in home Detention Fees is due to the increase in the number of probationers placed on home detention in lieu of jail.

In 2017, the Restitution Unit received payments by credit cards of \$374,322.01, a decrease of 23.9% over the 2016 credit card payments of \$491,587.21.



## STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

CCA program standards require training. Additionally, it provides this service for non-CCA funded staff to insure compliance with the mandated training requirements of H.B. 86. Staff consistently meets grant and legislative requirements for training hours with innovative training events, utilizing in-house facilities and offering a variety of pertinent topics. The Training Specialist has created an EBP curriculum for staff skill development, a comprehensive Safety Training Program that began in 2014 and a Technology Training curriculum. A significant number of line staff and supervisors volunteer to implement many of the components of the Training Program.

The line staff and supervisors provided approximately 80% of the training hours. All probation officers and supervisors met the State HB 86 training standard of 20 hours per year. All CCA Probation Officers and Supervisors met the State CCA training standard of 24 hours per year related to evidence-based practices and service delivery.

A total of 1,081 person hours of training were provided during 2017. The cost for training in 2017 was \$31,383.35.

### PROBATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT STAFF TRAINING HOURS OBTAINED - 2017

Evidence-Based Practices	2017
Risk Assessment	134
Needs Assessment	736
Case Planning	1011.5
Stages of Change	74.25
Motivational Interviewing	107.5
Responsivity Issues	1962
Supervision Strategies & Programming	1176.5
Professional Alliance	6.5
Criminal Thinking Process	1.5
General EBP	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5209.75</b>

Correctional Practices	
Ethics	18
Legal Updates	32.25
Recordkeeping/Documentation	234.75
Management/Supervisor	324.75
New Hire Orientation	721
Safety	1347.5
Cross Training	0
Meetings	1224
Outside Conferences	969
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4871.25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10081</b>

## COMMON PLEAS COURT - PROBATION DEPARTMENT LABORATORY 2017

The Probation Department Laboratory performs drug abuse testing on urine specimens using enzyme immunoassay (EIA) and cloned enzyme donor immunoassay (CEDIA) manufactured by Microgenics Inc. The laboratory has a contract with Thermo-Fisher Scientific to provide reagents, instrumentation, a water system, and the computer interface system. LabDaq software is used to produce test reports, bar code labels, statistical reports and export results into the justice system database.

The Adult Probation Laboratory is funded by the CCA grant, the Court of Common Pleas, and user fees paid by other agencies using the laboratory. Outside agencies contracting for laboratory services include Cleveland Municipal, Euclid, Garfield Heights Municipal Court Probation Departments, Early Intervention Program, TASC, CATS and the Domestic Relations Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

The laboratory currently has 10 employees and is open from 7:30 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. on Friday.

### LABORATORY STATISTICS

#### NUMBER OF URINE SPECIMENS AND TESTS PERFORMED 2007 – 2017

Year	Total Specimens	Change	Drug Tests	Change
2017	105,471	8.7%	820,351	7.4%
2016	92,813	1.5%	610,993	4.4%
2015	89,237	1.5%	570,113 <sup>3</sup>	(10.3%)
2014	87,898	(2.2%)	635,346 <sup>2</sup>	38.2%
2013 <sup>1</sup>	89,947	(3.0%)	459,530 <sup>2</sup>	17.2%
2012	92,730	2.3%	392,139	(7.1%)
2011	90,612	(9.3%)	422,219	(1.3%)
2010	99,877	5.9%	427,943	21.9%**
2009	94,289	(8.6%)	351,168	(10.0%)
2008	103,133	(16.0%)	390,929	(6.9%)
2007	123,338	1.0%	419,792	1.1%

1 Does not include creatinine test for 2014 = 87,898

2 Increase in 2013 due to addition of 6-acetylmorphine test added to all specimens with opiate requested.

2 Increase in 2014 due to addition of oxycodone test added to all specimens with opiate requested.

3 Decrease in number of tests due to change in testing protocol. Positive tests no longer repeated on all positive specimens in order to improve efficiency and lower test cost. This change is in accord with current laboratory practices.

The laboratory subscribed to proficiency testing from the American Association of Bioanalysts and scored 100 percent (%) in testing accuracy in 2017. It is not eligible to participate in any other inspection or certification programs because confirmation testing by gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy (GC/MS) is not performed in-house. Since the Laboratory only performs testing for forensic purposes, it is exempt from CLIA regulations.

<b>Urine Drug Screens</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Total Subjects</b>	26,947	26,768	23,845	17,514	16,893	15,980
<b>Total Specimens **</b>	92,730	89,947	87,898	89,237	92,813	105,471
<b>Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs</b>	15,071	16,340	15,844	16,847	18,262	21,828
<b>% Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs</b>	16.3%	17.5%	18.0%	18.9%	19%	20.6%

<b>Percent Positive by Drug</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	2.9%	3.7%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.9%
<b>Marijuana</b>	9.7%	12.7%	10.8%	10.6%	1.0%	11.6%
<b>Opiates</b>	3.6%	4.5%	3.8%	3.5%	2.0%	1.6%
<b>Phencyclidine (PCP)</b>	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	2.5%	1.1%
<b>Amphetamines</b>	1.0%	1.3%	2.1%	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%
<b>6-Acetylmorphine (heroin)</b>	0.6%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%
<b>Oxycodone</b>			1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%
<b>ETG - alcohol</b>					8.3%	7.5%
<b>Fentanyl</b>					1.0%	1.3%

Specimens are tested for 2 to 9 drugs and may be positive for more than one drug. In addition, validity testing is performed on each specimen by measuring the creatinine level. The laboratory added fentanyl to its testing menu July 1, 2016.

## HAIR TESTING

Hair specimens are sent to Omega Laboratories Inc., an accredited reference laboratory (CAP - College of America Pathologists Laboratory Accreditation Program). The majority of these tests are for Domestic Relations Court, where hair generally provides a longer detection window of use over urine tests. Some Specimens may be positive for more than one drug.

Hair Testing	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Specimens	110	155	118	124	121	117
Negative	93	128	94	98	93	80
Quantity Not Sufficient	1	0	0	2	6	1
Positive	16	27	24	31	22	36
Cocaine	7	11	11	12	24	51
Marijuana	7	11	9	15	10	18
Amphetamines	0	0	0	2	3	9
MDMA (Ecstasy)	0	1	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine	0	0	0	2	0	3
Morphine	3	1	2	0	1	2
Codeine	1	2	2	0	1	0
6-AM*	1	1	0	0	1	2
Phencyclidine	1	0	0	0	0	0

\* 6-acetylmorphine (6-AM) Heroin metabolite

## ORAL FLUID TESTING

Oral fluids are routinely tested in the laboratory from individuals who are unable to produce urine specimens due to medical conditions (i.e. renal dialysis) and those who continue to submit dilute urine specimens. Approximately, 3% of all urine specimens are considered dilute and unacceptable due to a low creatinine concentration of less than 20 mg/dl. The procedure currently being used is an on-site immunoassay device from Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Inc. The following drugs are reported: cocaine, opiates, marijuana and phencyclidine (PCP). Confirmation testing is not performed on oral fluid specimens.

ORAL FLUID TESTING	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Specimens	548	800	598	541	707	837
Positive Specimens	38	57	26	23	39	67
% Positive Specimens	6.9%	7.1%	4.3%	4.3%	5.5%	8.0%
**Tests (4/specimen)	2,288	4,800	2392	2164	2828	3331

\*\* 2012 to present: Changed from 6 tests to 4 tests per specimen. No tests were sent for GC/MS confirmation.

## URINE DIP TESTING

The laboratory utilizes Reditest, an on-site device for preliminary screens to be used when routine instrument testing is unavailable. Tests reported are: cocaine, opiates, marijuana, PCP and amphetamines. Dilute specimens cannot be identified with this device as it does not test for creatinine.

## REFERENCE LABORATORY TESTING

The Probation Laboratory utilizes Redwood Toxicology Laboratories and Metro Health Toxicology Laboratory for confirmatory and dilute urine testing.

Some of the tests performed by Metro Health consist of several drugs or metabolites (analytes), Specimens tested for opiates include codeine, morphine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, 6-AM and oxycodone; amphetamine is tested for amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDA, MDMA and, MDEA. Each component is a separate test.

The majority of tests performed by Redwood Toxicology have only one component resulting in a lower number of “tests” per specimen.



# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## **Administrator**

Rebecca B. Wetzel

## **Foreclosure Mediation Program Director/ Mediator**

John Minter

## **Court Mediator**

Matthew Mennes

## **Foreclosure Mediator**

Administrative Assistants (3)





The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Department provides multiple methods of alternative dispute resolution for the Court: arbitration, civil mediation, business mediation and foreclosure mediation. The total referrals to all ADR programs for 2017 were 2,901. This department is located on the fourth floor of the Justice Center, across from the cafeteria. The Foreclosure Mediation Program is located on the 10th floor.

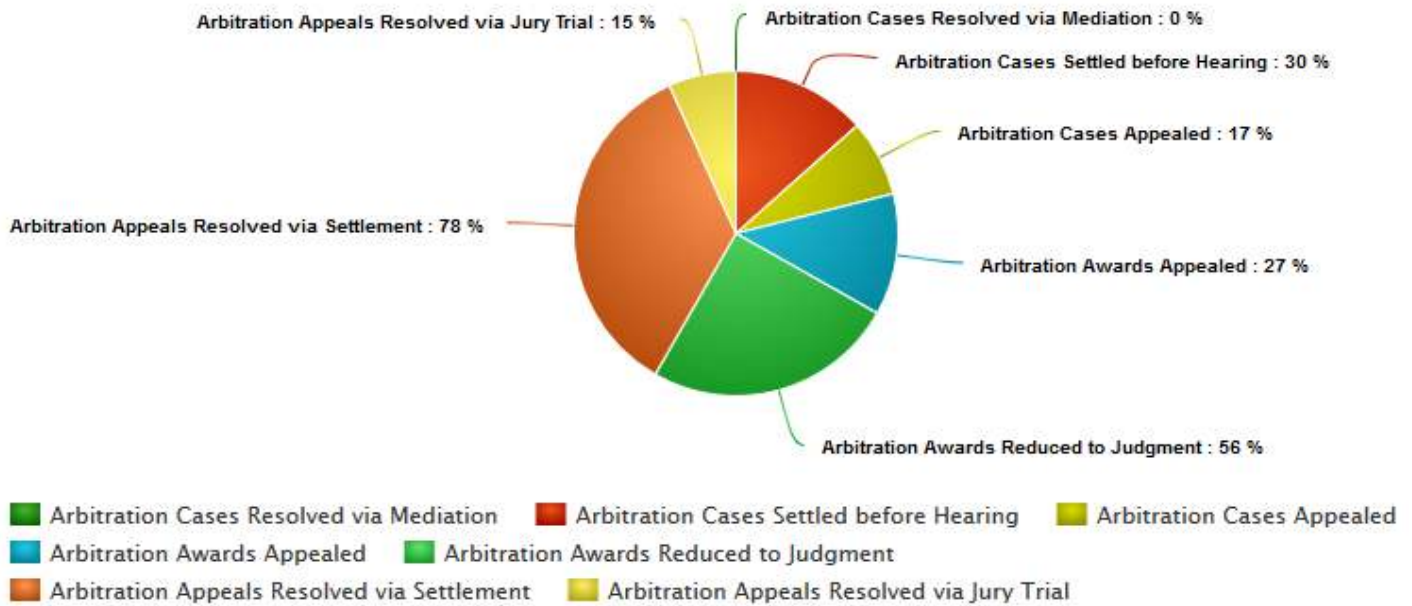
## ARBITRATION

The original method of ADR is arbitration. Cases involving claims that are \$50,000 or less per claimant are amenable to arbitration. Judges refer cases to the ADR Department where a panel of three arbitrators is assigned. The chairperson of the panel notifies all concerned of the hearing date, which is to take place within 90 days of the date of referral. The department receives and files the Report and Awards from the arbitrators, and, if no appeal is taken from the award within 30 days, ADR prepares a final judgment entry reflecting the arbitration award.

<b>MANDATORY ARBITRATION STATISTICS FOR 2017</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>Since Inception (May 1970)</b>
Total Cases Referred	141	79,815
Arbitration Referral Vacated	13	3,590
Net Total Arbitration Referrals	128	75,585
Report & Awards Filed	82	53,179
Total Appeal de Novo Filed	24	15,304

<b>FINAL ENTRIES</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>Since Inception (May 1970)</b>
Arbitration Cases settled via Mediation	0	N/A
Arbitration Cases Settled (no fees paid)	43	2,320
Awards Reduced to Judgment	46	N/A
Bankruptcy	0	N/A
Appeals Disposed	0	12,803
<b>TOTAL FINAL ENTRIES</b>	<b>89</b>	

PERCENTAGES 2017  
(Based on 159 net referrals)



## MEDIATION

Mediation is the most widely used method of ADR in the court. It is a non-binding process in which a mediator assists the parties in negotiating their case's contested issues with the goal of helping them reach a settlement agreement. As an impartial participant, the mediator does not advocate for a particular outcome. They challenge the parties to view the issues from different perspectives and focus on their interests, instead of their initial positions.

## CIVIL MEDIATION

Civil mediation cases are chosen from arbitration cases or referred directly by the judges. In 2017, the ADR Department again held a Settlement Week in October to coincide with the American Bar Association's Settlement Week. Nancy Hardin Rogers, professor emeritus at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, spoke, and specialized settlement days were held during the week: one dedicated to workers' compensation cases, one for civil cases and a bank servicer day for foreclosure mediation. The largest event was on a Wednesday when 15 volunteer mediators heard 45 cases and achieved a 57% settlement ratio.

In 2017, civil mediation saw an increase in referrals of 15%.



<b>Statistics &amp; Analysis for 2017</b>	
Total Cases Referred to Court Mediation	1,697
Total Cases Mediated	1,006
Total Cases Settled by Mediation	548
Percentage of Settlements	54%
Total Appeals Mediated	0
Appeals Settled in Mediation	0
Percentage of Mediated Appeals Settled	0

## BUSINESS MEDIATION

Business mediations are conducted pursuant to Local Rule 21.2. Judges may refer any business case to the ADR Department for mediation. The department notifies the parties of the referral and provides them with three names of eligible mediators. The parties rank their choice and return the ranking sheet to the department. The ADR Administrator then designates the mediator and notifies the parties. The business mediator must conduct the mediation within 30 days of being designated and file a report within 10 days of the hearing.

<b>Statistics &amp; Analysis for 2017</b>	
Total Cases Referred to Business Mediation	23
Total Completed Mediations	14
Total Settlements	7
Percentage of Settlements	50%

## FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

The inception of the Foreclosure Mediation Program was June 25, 2008. Any party to a foreclosure action may request mediation, and any foreclosure magistrate may directly refer a foreclosure case to the program. A referral to mediation stays all discovery and motion practice until the mediation is concluded. The mediators screen the request forms, notify the parties when a case has been accepted and schedule both a pre-mediation conference and a full mediation hearing. After the pre-mediation conference, the parties typically have 14 days to submit the documentation necessary to carry out the foreclosure mediation process.

If the parties do not submit the necessary documents, sanctions may be imposed, including returning the file to the active foreclosure docket or dismissing the foreclosure action without prejudice. All parties and their counsel are required to appear at the face-to-face mediation hearing. This includes a representative from the investor/servicer. Because of the loss mitigation guidelines followed by many investors/servicers, and the need for significant financial information from the property owners, multiple mediation contacts are typically required to thoroughly review all loss mitigation options. These follow-up contacts are conducted face-to-face and by telephone.

<b>Statistics &amp; Analysis for 2017</b>	
Total Cases Referred	1,053
Cases Available for hearing	3,045
Total Hearings Held	
Pre-mediations hearings held	942
Full mediation hearings held	739
Telephone Mediation conferences	1358
Cases Settled	584
Settlement Ratio	93%

The total number of cases referred to the Foreclosure Mediation Program decreased in 2017. The average age of a foreclosure mediation case in 2017 was 131 days, which is higher than 2016, but the program's settlement rate increased from 78% to 93%.

With a focus on providing a fair and impartial process for banks/servicers and home-owners, the program continued to focus on improving its process. During 2017, the program continued its "Servicer Day" program. The Servicer Day format has mediation hearings involving the same servicer scheduled on the same day. This format creates many benefits. The servicers benefit because it creates a more cost efficient way to send representatives to Cuyahoga County and the homeowners benefit because it incentivizes their loan servicer to complete a thorough loss mitigation review in a timely manner. Currently, there is a servicer day schedule for Wells Fargo, US Bank, Seterus, Ocwen, DiTech, Mr. Cooper (fka as Nationstar), Citi and PNC. These servicer days are scheduled every two to three months throughout the year for each servicer. The Wells Fargo Servicer Day was reinstated in 2017 after taking a hiatus at the request of Wells Fargo in 2016. This servicer day format will likely continue in 2018 and banks/servicers that don't participate in servicer days will also still be required to send bank/servicer representatives to the in person mediation hearings.

These in person hearings help ensure the residents of Cuyahoga County receive a thorough and fair loss mitigation review process.

Continuing its dedication to community education, the program continued to reach out to the communities during the month of September. This outreach included John Minter appearing on local radio broadcasts in an effort to promote mediation as a successful tool for resolving foreclosures in Cuyahoga County.

## SUMMARY

Alternative Dispute Resolution processes remain an effective and efficient way to resolve legal disputes. This conclusion is supported by the ADR Department's referral and settlement rates. Cuyahoga County residents are fortunate to have multiple ADR options, which provide them an opportunity to take control of their cases' outcomes and promotes fuller and longer lasting resolutions.



# CENTRAL SCHEDULING/ JUDICIAL SECRETARIES

**Supervisor of Central  
Scheduling**  
Mary Kay Ellis

Assistant Supervisors (2)

**Staff**

Courtroom Assistants (13)

Re-Entry Program  
Administrative Assistant

Visiting Judge Bailiff

Receptionists (2)

Assigned Counsel  
Coordinator

Secretaries (8)



The Central Scheduling Office is located on the 11th floor of the Justice Center Tower. This department of 19 employees assists Judges in docket management, record keeping, scheduling of cases and preparation of criminal and civil journal entries.

## **COURTROOM ASSISTANTS**

Courtroom Assistants are responsible for scheduling criminal & civil hearings, distributing various court pleadings and forms to the appropriate departments, and helping their judges prepare their annual inventory of pending civil and criminal cases. As Courtroom Assistants are able to create criminal as well as civil journal entries for their Judges, bailiffs and staff attorneys, they continue to be an integral part of the courtroom team while helping to relieve the load from other staff.

They are an essential part of each courtroom team as they are often called upon to substitute in the absence of the court bailiff. In these instances, the Courtroom Assistant is required to fulfill all the duties of the regular court bailiff, as well as keep abreast of their own duties until the return of the bailiffs. Also, because a Courtroom Assistant may be asked to assist in a courtroom to which they are not regularly assigned, they must be well versed in all facets of courtroom operation in order to adequately assist the Judge or bailiff to whom they have been temporarily assigned.

## **RECEPTIONISTS**

Our Receptionists are multi-functional employees. In addition to assisting the general public and attorneys with specific questions relating to criminal and civil cases in person and via telephone, they also assist in the preparation of assigned counsel fee bills.

## **ASSIGNED COUNSEL VOUCHERS**

Our Assigned Counsel Coordinator is responsible for preparing assigned counsel vouchers for fee bills. These vouchers are forwarded to the Fiscal Office for payment to the attorneys who were assigned by the Court to represent indigent defendants. In 2017, 9,845 vouchers were prepared, examined for errors and submitted for distribution of funds. This figure represents a slight decrease from previous years.

## **VISITING JUDGE PROGRAM**

The Court's Visiting Judge Program is managed by the Supervisor of Central Scheduling, and consists of five retired Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges and four retired out-of-county Judges called in for special cases. The Supervisor of Central Scheduling maintains records and prepares monthly & annual reports on this program for submission to the Administrative Judge and Court Administrator.

In 2017, in addition to the specialized Asbestos/Workers' Compensation and Asbestos dockets, the Visiting Judge Program disposed of 59 civil cases. Of those, 19 cases were disposed of by settlement, which results in a 32.2% settlement rate for this year. In addition, out-of-town judges were also appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court to handle a few criminal cases. In 2017, 14 criminal cases were disposed. Collectively, the Visiting Judges were in trial a total of 91 days.

<b>JUDGE</b>	<b>CIVIL CASES DISPOSED</b>	<b>CRIMINAL CASES DISPOSED</b>
<b>Brown, Robert</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Corrigan, Michael</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cosgrove, Patricia</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gibson, Joseph</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Greene, Lillian</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hanna, Harry</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>McGinty, Timothy</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>McMonagle, R.J.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Reinbold, Richard</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>

We welcomed several new out-of-county retired judges this year. Their service was most appreciated, and we look forward to their continuing presence.

The specialized Asbestos docket and Workers' Compensation Asbestos docket are presided over by Visiting Judge Harry A. Hanna. At the beginning of 2017 the pending case load was 1,307. The total pending cases at the end of the year was 834.

Judge Hanna disposed of 573 cases in 2017; in addition 99 new/reactivated cases were added.

Since January 2014, the Asbestos Docket has been reduced by 4,330 cases.

## **JUDICIAL SECRETARIES**

The Secretarial Department of the Court serves the 34 sitting judges, as well as the visiting judges, judicial staff attorneys and other Court personnel. Their responsibilities include the following: transcribing from Dictaphone, typing various documents including criminal and civil jury instructions, verdict forms, jury interrogatories, journal entries, opinions, various reports, speeches, letters and any other documents required by the judges.

This Department consists of eight secretaries; each secretary is assigned to four judges, with the exception of two secretaries assigned to five judges. The Department works as a unit, filling in for each other during absences, as well as helping each other with heavy workloads.

The secretaries also attend periodic training classes to upgrade their skills in the use of new software to continue with the installation of new programs.



# CRIMINAL RECORDS

## **BOND COMMISSIONER**

Gwendolyn Bennett

## **ASST. BOND COMMISSIONER**

Greg Burger

## **STAFF**

Office Manager

Arraignment Room Clerk

Administrative Aide

Grand Jury Clerks (2)

Grand Jury Bailiff

Office Assistants (4)

Bail Investigators (5)



The Criminal Records Department, located on the 12th floor of the Justice Center, is primarily responsible for bond investigations, Grand Jury staffing, Arraignment Room proceedings and defendant criminal history maintenance.

## GRAND JURY

In January, May and September prospective jurors' names are drawn for service on a Grand Jury. There are three Grand Juries per term and each Grand Juror serves two days a week for four months. The Grand Jury Bailiff is the liaison between the Prosecutor, the Grand Jurors and Grand Jury witnesses.

## BOND INVESTIGATION

The Bond Investigators monitor the Sheriff Department's daily booking list for incoming inmates who have not yet been indicted and/or arraigned, and need to have their bond continued, set or lowered. The Investigators interview the defendants, verify accuracy of information obtained from the interview, run an extensive criminal background check and review the felony charges filed against the defendant. A risk assessment is completed and then a recommendation for a reasonable bond is presented to the Arraignment Judge. Bond Investigators also provide information to the courtrooms where there has been a motion for bond reduction. The department's Bond Investigators conducted 6,691 bail investigations during 2017.

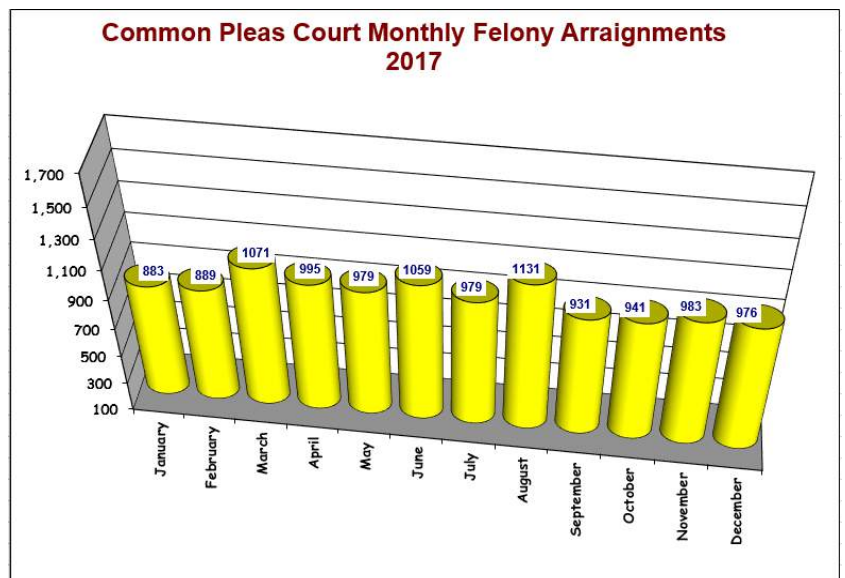
## ARRAIGNMENTS

The Arraignment Clerks assemble and summarize the criminal history of each defendant scheduled for arraignment, along with determining if the case needs to be assigned randomly or to a specific trial judge based on local rules. During the arraignment hearing, the Bond Commissioner presents these materials, along with a bond recommendation to the Arraignment Room Judge, so that a defendant may be properly arraigned. The Judge proceeds with the Arraignment, which includes the setting of the bond, instructions on any conditions of a bond, assignment of the trial judge and appointment of an attorney, if the defendant needs one to be appointed. The Arraignment Judge also issues *capias* for defendants who fail to appear at the scheduled arraignment.

At the conclusion of the arraignments, the staff updates the case files, notifies the attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants and forwards the files to the trial judge assigned.

During 2017, there were 16,831 scheduled arraignments.

In addition, staff maintains detailed statistics on the defendants who are scheduled for and appear at arraignment, *capiases* issued and assignments to private counsel and the Public Defender.



## FIRST APPEARANCE DOCKET

In 2017, all defendants bound over to Common Pleas Court from Municipal Courts were referred for a First Appearance in Common Pleas Court. The main purpose of First Appearance is to assign indigent defendants with defense counsel at the early stage of the felony process. At this appearance, a bond is set and the case is referred for a Case Management Conference or presentation to the Grand Jury. In 2017, 5,900 First Appearances were held.

The department supports these court appearances through bond investigation, preparation of defendant criminal history, coordination of scheduling with the Clerk of Courts and Sheriff Departments, assistance in the court proceedings and notification of appointed attorneys.

This department works closely with other departments, but most specifically with the Sheriff's, Clerk's and Prosecutor's Offices to assure correct identification of defendants, timely scheduling of arraignments and accurate indictment information for the Arraignment process. The Bond Commissioner and staff are often assigned special projects at the request of various Judicial Committees.

<b>ARRAIGNMENT STATS YTD</b>														
<b>ARRAIGNMENT DATA</b>														
<b>2017</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>YTD TOTAL</b>	
Female Jails	58	61	60	51	41	48	56	59	69	58	39	52	652	
Male Jails	457	414	520	491	485	571	507	582	500	483	519	502	6031	
Total Scheduled Jails	515	475	580	542	526	619	563	641	569	541	558	554	6683	
Total Scheduled Bails	725	751	969	881	848	887	772	964	741	772	946	892	10148	
Total Scheduled	1240	1226	1549	1423	1374	1506	1335	1605	1310	1313	1504	1446	16831	
Jails Arraigned	489	462	544	506	507	538	544	588	537	502	506	501	6224	
Bails Arraigned	394	427	527	489	472	521	435	543	394	439	477	475	5593	
Total Arraigned	883	889	1071	995	979	1059	979	1131	931	941	983	976	11817	
Total Cont.	91	96	112	135	82	122	91	97	77	96	143	126	1268	
<b>CAPIAS SUBURBS/OTHER</b>													As % of total capias	
Straight Capias	81	91	96	91	104	118	98	128	106	97	118	123	1251	33.4%
OCR	34	17	53	35	37	40	31	50	40	21	36	37	431	11.5%
BFC C/SIP	28	28	59	33	31	30	23	31	18	21	41	29	372	9.9%
TOTAL OTHER	143	136	208	159	172	188	152	209	164	139	195	189	2054	54.8%
<b>CAPIAS CLEVELAND</b>													As % of total capias	
Straight Capias	89	63	86	90	92	93	77	118	85	86	129	123	1131	30.2%
OCR	15	20	42	26	34	24	25	29	28	30	36	23	332	8.9%
BFC C/SIP	19	22	30	18	15	20	11	21	25	21	18	9	229	6.1%
TOTAL CLEVELAND	123	105	158	134	141	137	113	168	138	137	183	155	1692	45.2%
													1692	100.0%
<b>CAPIAS TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3746</b>	
Total Cap														
<b>TOTAL SCHEDULED</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>1226</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>1374</b>	<b>1506</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>1605</b>	<b>1310</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1446</b>	<b>16831</b>	

# MAGISTRATES' DEPARTMENT

## **Chief Magistrate**

Stephen M. Bucha III

## **Asst. Chief Magistrate**

Kevin C. Augustyn

## **Staff**

Magistrates (10)

Office Manager

Receptionist

Magistrates' Clerical  
Assistants (5)



All cases concerning foreclosure, quiet title and partition are adjudicated by the Court's twelve magistrates. Some judges refer other types of civil matters, such as preliminary injunction hearings or administrative appeals, to the magistrates. The Magistrates also serve as backups to the judges and Administrative Judge for ex-parte hearings in Civil Stalking Protection Order cases.

The Magistrates' involvement begins upon referral of a case, shortly after filing, and continues through trial or other disposition. They are also responsible for post-judgment proceedings in the cases assigned to them. Unlike most civil cases, foreclosures involve complicated post-judgment matters such as Sheriff's sale confirmations, distribution of Sheriff's sale proceeds, supplemental judgments, approval of appraisers' fees and other matters. The judges referred 5,211 of the Court's 17,104 civil cases to the Magistrates' Department in 2017. Thus, the Magistrates were responsible for over 30% of the Court's civil cases.

The Magistrates disposed of over 33% of the Court's civil dispositions while being allocated less than 2.7% of the court's overall budget.

The department takes part in educational forums around the county and fielding thousands of phone calls and in-person visits by self-representing litigants. The department continually educates and informs academics, municipalities, the bar, and the general public, including those facing foreclosure, about real estate law and procedure. The department continues to work with the Court's Mediation Department to ensure that homeowners have an opportunity to explore ways to save their home or to make a smooth transition to other living arrangements. Personnel from this department serve on the Court's Access to Justice Committee, which seeks to improve access to the Court for non-represented litigants, and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Foreclosure Subcommittee, which looks to improve foreclosure procedure.

The Magistrates' Department serves the legal community by preparing and circulating a weekly case update newsletter to lawyers and magistrates throughout the state. Members of the department serve on the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College planning committee, and have appeared as speakers in numerous Judicial College seminars and other continuing legal education courses. Also, the department assists a committee that is redrafting and improving the Court's local rules. The Magistrates make themselves available on a rotating basis to answer lawyers' general questions concerning foreclosure law and procedure.

The department serves the judges by adjudicating most of the Court's often complicated and emotionally fraught foreclosure, partition and quiet title cases. Overall, the Magistrates disposed of 6,316 cases in 2017, issuing 3,947 decrees of foreclosure, and made 31,426 recommended rulings on motions for summary judgment, procedural motions, motions to distribute funds and confirmations of Sheriff's sales. A significant number of these proposed rulings require extensive research and detailed written opinions. The Magistrates are available to the judges for consultations on matters related to foreclosure and real estate law in general.



Traditionally, most of the cases adjudicated by the Magistrates were disposed by default. Since 2010, however, with the lenders' missteps making national news and the development of a dedicated foreclosure defense bar, the number of contested cases is on the rise. This trend continued in 2017, with approximately 300% more contested cases managed by the department in 2017 than in earlier years.

From its peak staffing levels in 2010, the department has been downsized by 27% and was downsized 10% in 2017 alone.

Despite the reduction in case filings and staff, and the increase in the labor intensive contested cases, the Magistrates disposed of 804 more cases than were newly referred and reinstated to the department. For the most recent year that statistics are available (2016), the magistrates disposed of over 33% of the Court's civil dispositions, while being allocated less than 2.7% of the Court's overall budget.

In order to place these statistics in proper context, below is a twenty-seven year summary of the Magistrates' Department's statistics.

Year	Referrals <sup>1</sup>	% Change from		% Change from		Referrals & Reinstates		% Change From		Decreases <sup>4</sup>	% Change from Previous		% Change from		Net Case Gain/Loss <sup>6</sup>
		Previous Year	Reinstates <sup>2</sup>	Previous Year	Previous Year	Combined	Previous Year	Supplementals <sup>3</sup>	Previous Year		Year	Dispositions <sup>5</sup>	Previous Year	Year	
1990	4796	n/a	45	n/a	4841	n/a	1564	n/a	2854	n/a	4512	n/a	329		
1991	4247	-11.4%	66	46.7%	4133	-14.6%	1320	-15.6%	3678	28.9%	4535	0.5%	-402		
1992	3895	-8.2%	60	-9.1%	3955	-4.3%	1430	8.3%	3060	-16.8%	3933	-13.3%	22		
1993	3564	-8.4%	39	-35.0%	3603	-8.9%	1821	27.3%	2875	-6.0%	3656	-7.0%	-53		
1994	3366	-5.6%	77	97.4%	3443	-4.4%	2569	41.1%	2463	-14.3%	4271	16.8%	-828		
1995	2582	-23.3%	230	198.7%	2812	-18.3%	4611	79.4%	2199	-10.7%	3974	-7.0%	-1162		
1996	4065	57.4%	245	6.5%	4310	53.3%	4364	-5.3%	2174	-1.1%	3960	-0.3%	350		
1997	3867	-4.9%	411	67.8%	4278	-0.7%	5121	17.3%	2608	20.0%	4597	16.0%	-319		
1998	5133	32.7%	538	30.9%	5671	32.6%	6431	25.6%	3043	16.7%	5583	21.4%	88		
1999	5446	6.1%	628	16.7%	6074	7.1%	7097	10.4%	2823	-7.2%	5795	3.7%	279		
2000	5915	8.6%	835	32.9%	6750	11.1%	10083	42.1%	3073	8.8%	6265	8.1%	485		
2001	7161	21.1%	928	11.1%	8089	19.8%	17438	72.9%	3048	-0.8%	6843	9.2%	1246		
2002	9609	34.2%	1101	18.6%	10710	32.4%	19753	13.3%	3261	7.0%	7315	6.5%	3395		
2003	8724	-9.2%	1421	29.1%	10145	-5.3%	26591	34.6%	3510	7.6%	8544	16.8%	1601		
2004	9739	11.6%	1470	3.4%	11209	10.4%	29539	11.1%	4988	42.1%	10394	21.6%	815		
2005	11075	13.7%	1634	11.2%	12709	13.4%	33100	12.1%	5515	10.6%	11852	14.0%	857		
2006	13276	19.9%	1584	-3.1%	14872	17.0%	67972	105.4%	10412	88.8%	16351	38.0%	-1479		
2007	13968	5.2%	1356	-14.4%	15324	3.0%	77592	14.2%	11378	9.3%	18041	10.3%	-2717		
2008	13742	-1.6%	1241	-8.5%	14983	-2.2%	64506	-16.8%	9698	-14.8%	15950	-11.6%	-2208		
2009	13417	-2.3%	936	-24.6%	14353	-4.2%	57016	-11.6%	6908	-28.8%	13210	-17.2%	1143		
2010	12050	-10.2%	849	-9.3%	12899	-10.1%	66644	16.8%	7781	12.6%	14219	7.6%	-1320		
2011	10434	-13.4%	752	-11.4%	11186	-13.3%	60771	-8.8%	5707	-26.7%	12996	-8.6%	-1810		
2012	10280	-1.5%	744	-1.1%	11024	-1.5%	62311	-8.8%	6260	9.7%	11168	-14.1%	-144		
2013	8941	-13.0%	607	-18.4%	9548	-13.4%	58720	-5.8%	6149	-1.7%	11144	-0.2%	-1596		
2014	7076	-20.1%	515	-15.2%	7591	-20.5%	46367	-21.0%	5653	-8.1%	9428	-15.4%	-1837		
2015	6529	-7.7%	348	-32.4%	6877	-9.4%	38734	-16.5%	4664	-17.5%	7386	-21.7%	-509		
2016	6166	-5.6%	315	-9.5%	6481	-5.8%	37811	-2.4%	4387	-5.9%	6933	-6.1%	-452		
2017	5211	-15.5%	301	-4.5%	5512	-15.0%	31426	-16.9%	3947	-10.0%	6316	-8.9%	-804		

(1) This column represents all cases referred to the Magistrates which includes all of the Court's Foreclosure, Quiet Title and Partition cases. Foreclosures represent 95%+ of all cases referred to the Magistrates' Department.

(2) This column represents all cases reinstated after a final judgment has been entered or from bankruptcy stays, contract stays, and the Court of Appeals.

(3) In the years 1990 through 1992, this column represents all proposed rulings by the Magistrates' Department on motions to distribute funds generated by sheriff's sales. After 1992, this column represents all proposed rulings by the Magistrates' Department on miscellaneous motions and all magistrates orders.

(4) This column represents all decrees of foreclosure, decrees for quiet title, and decrees of partition entered by the Magistrates.

(5) This column represents all cases disposed by the Magistrates Department including disposition by decree, dismissal, vacated reference, real estate tax contract stays and bankruptcy stays.

(6) This column is the difference between Referrals and Reinstates Combined and Dispositions.

# JUDICIAL STAFF ATTORNEYS/ COURT REPORTERS/ JURY COMMISSIONERS

**Judicial Staff Attorney**  
Cheryl Hannan (prepared  
report)

**Chief Court Reporter**  
Bruce Bishilany

**Asst. Chief Court Reporter**  
Robert P. Lloyd

**Asst. Chief Court Reporter**  
Nancy A. Nunes

**Jury Bailiff Co-Director**  
Veronica Adams

**Jury Bailiff Co-Director**  
Patricia I. Bittner



# Staff Attorneys

The Judicial Staff Attorney Department consists of 36 employees.

During the past calendar year, six new staff attorneys were hired. Each brings varying degrees of experience. Some staff attorneys arrive at the Court shortly after passing the Ohio Bar Examination. Others offer deeper legal experience, having served previously at various government offices such as the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Court of Claims, the Attorney General of Ohio, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, various state Courts of Appeals, and Federal District Courts. Many have private sector experience, having worked in law offices and firms ranging in size from that of a sole practitioner to international law firms.

For some, being a staff attorney is a second career. From employment, personal injury, breach of contract, medical and professional malpractice, criminal, workers' compensation and administrative appeals, they have to be familiar with many different areas of the law. Depending on the judge they serve, the staff attorney can assist the Court by conducting case management conferences, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences and final pretrial conferences, always at the direction of the judge. In addition, staff attorneys review and research legal issues, formulate recommendations on the disposition of motions, assist in drafting opinions and orders and offer assistance with civil protection petitions and temporary restraining orders that have to be addressed promptly. On a daily basis, they answer many inquiries from attorneys, their staff and self-represented litigants. Staff attorneys can help set the stage for the litigation and can be crucial in setting the Court's expectations for professionalism and civility.

As sworn officers of the Court, staff attorneys uniquely share in the Court's goal of providing a forum for the fair and impartial administration of justice in which all of its participants and the public can have trust and confidence.

Additionally, members of the department remain committed to outreach programs such as participating in the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's 3Rs program, volunteering with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, serving as speakers at continuing legal education seminars and taking on leadership roles in their communities.

Whether they are fulfilling the Court's mission or serving the community, Judicial Staff Attorneys are faithful public servants.





# Court Reporters

Along with the Chief Court Reporter and two Assistant Chiefs, there are 39 Court Reporters, a certified Court Interpreter and an Administrative Assistant.

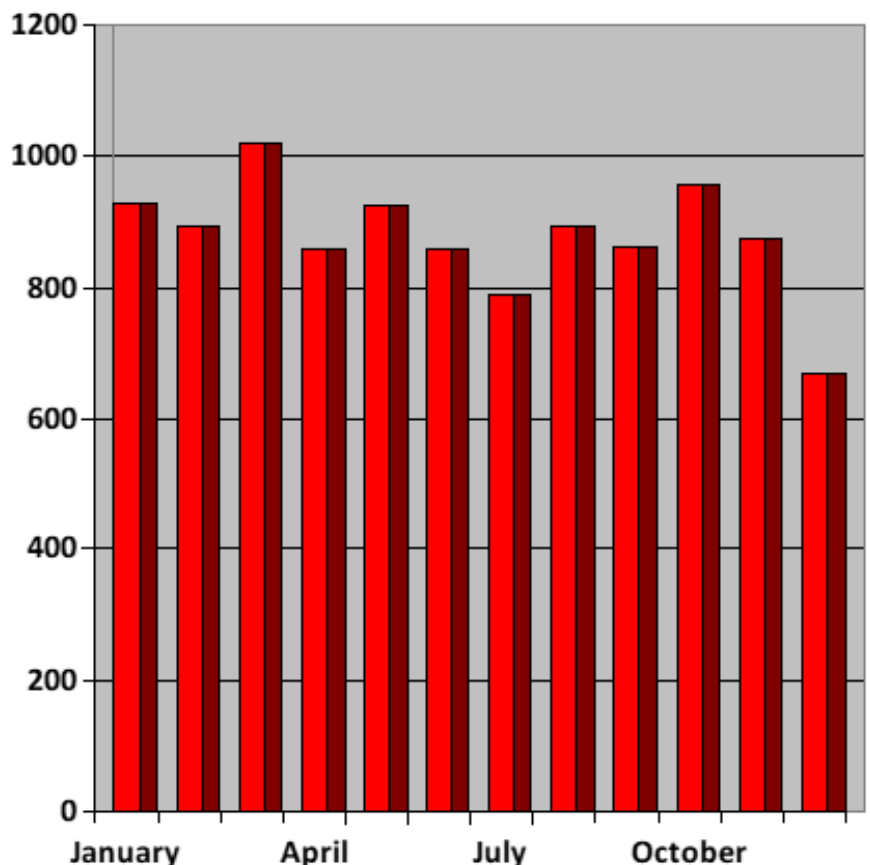
In 2017, over 29,500 job cards were filed representing court reporter attendance at trials, pleas, sentencings, motions, hearings and other related matters in both civil and criminal cases. In addition, the Court Reporters Department recorded more than 11,800 arraignments and diversions, and a similar number of cases in Grand Jury. On average, each member of the Department stenographically reported over 1,363 cases.

Court Reporters serve the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in the Justice Center, visiting judges sitting by assignment in the Lakeside Courthouse, the Arraignment Room and all Grand Jury proceedings. As guardians of the record, the members of the Court Reporters Department make a verbatim record of the proceedings for later use by the judges, attorneys, litigants, Court of Appeals or any interested party. All assignments are coordinated through the Chief Court Reporter.

Realtime reporting, the instantaneous translation from the Court Reporter's steno machine to a viewing device, should be coordinated with the Chief Court Reporter. The Court Reporters Department regularly provides realtime reporting throughout the year for hearing impaired jurors, as well as hearing impaired attorneys. This allows them to participate fully in the judicial process, and ensures the County is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Court Reporters Department has now upgraded their personal computer software, stenographic writers and computers in order to provide real time to the judges of the Court of Common Pleas on all trials.

## Average Calls Per Month



# Jury Bailiff/Jury Commission

Along with the two Co-Directors, the Jury Commission has two Jury Bailiffs, two Jury Commissioners and one Assistant Jury Commissioner.

The Jury Commission's goal is to reduce the cost of jurors and gain more effective utilization of jurors.

In comparison to 2016, there was a slight increase in the number of jurors that were called in 2017, and a decrease in the number of juror days. The number of jurors who spent more than the 5 day minimum decreased dramatically. Our goal this year is to try and utilize the Monday/Wednesday jurors in a way that, if possible, we can get them out within five days or less so that we can stay within our budget.

## JUROR UTILIZATION - CRIMINAL 2017

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	33	30	34	34	28	23	29	26	26	37	28	12	340
Trials	21	17	19	18	14	15	15	15	16	24	14	7	195

## JUROR UTILIZATION - CIVIL 2017

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	5	8	3	8	8	2	6	4	7	11	10	3	75
Trials	5	7	3	4	6	2	4	4	5	9	9	3	61

**CAPITAL CASE JURY TRIAL - 0;**  
**NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS OVER 5 - 790;**

**NUMBER OF JURORS - 14,113;**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS - 41,976;**

## JURY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2017

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	2750	2800	3375	2950	3675	2500	2600	2900	2300	2700	2400	1601	32551
Report	1233	1038	1236	1210	1542	1367	1249	1167	1035	1176	1091	769	14113

**PETIT JURORS DRAWN 32551**  
**GRAND JURORS DRAWN 1575**  
**SPECIAL JURORS DRAWN 0**  
**TOTAL 34126**

In 2013, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court was given the responsibility of overseeing and managing the Cleveland Municipal Court Jurors.

### JUROR UTILIZATION - CITY 2017

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	5	0	7	0	8	2	2	7	5	4	1	5	46
Trials	3	0	3	0	4	0	1	3	0	2	1	0	17

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	2400	2000	2000	2000	2500	2000	2400	2000	2000	2500	2000	1500	25300
Report	45	0	74	0	96	22	28	56	65	47	15	19	467

Total Jury Fees(Cleveland): \$15,255.00



# COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

## **Interim Director**

Julian J. Dooley, Ph.D.

## **Chief of Psychology**

Michael H. Aronoff, Psy. D.

## **Chief of Social Work**

Michael Caso, LISW-S,  
LICDC-CS

## **Chief of Psychiatry**

Phillip Resnick, M.D.

## **Staff**

Full-time Social Workers (2)

Assistant Office Manager

Transcriptionists (3)

Part-time Psychiatrists (10)

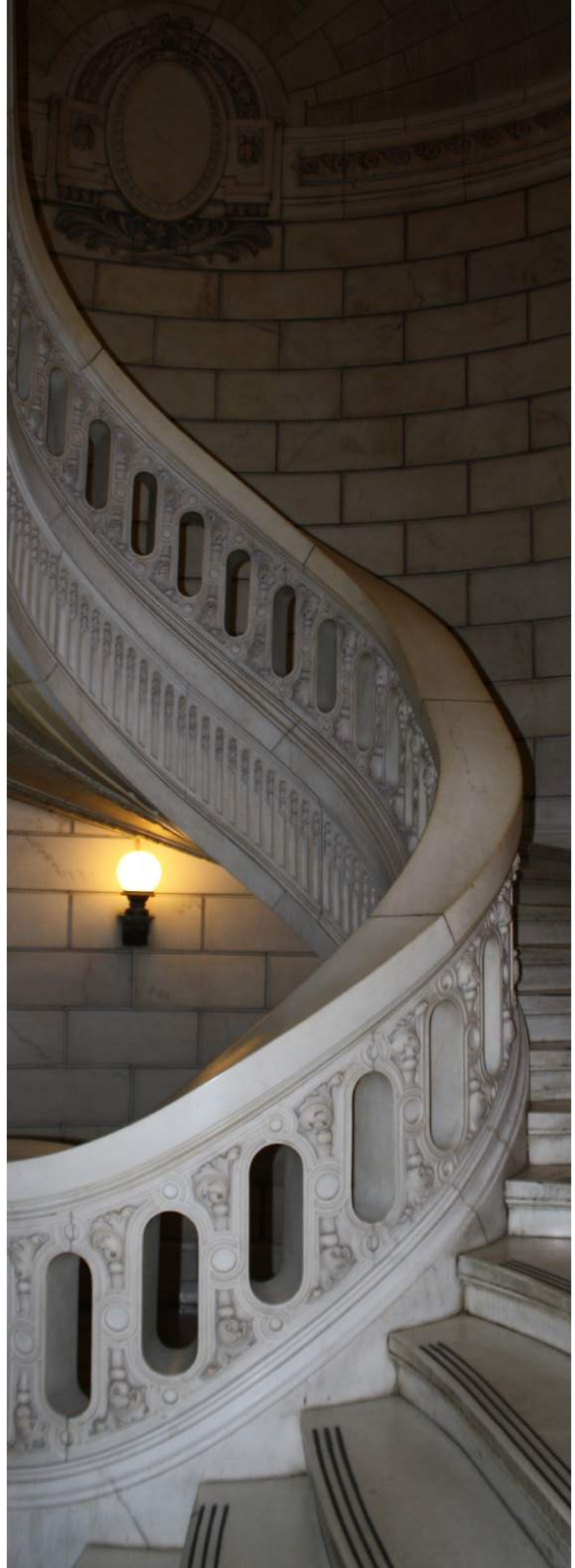
Part-time Psychologist

Part-time Neuropsychologist

Full-time Psychologists (3)

Office Manager

Office Assistant



## **COURT CLINIC REFERRALS**

In 2017, the Court Psychiatric Clinic received 2,974 referrals. This number represents a 3% decrease in referrals over the 3,063 received in 2016.

## **CLINICAL STAFF COMPOSITION**

Dr. Julian Dooley accepted the position of Interim Director in July, 2017. Former Associate Director Dr. George Schmedlen retired in 2017. Dr. Michael Aronoff, Chief of Psychology, served as Acting Associate Director from 2016 through mid-2017.

After retiring in December 2016, Dr. Phillip Resnick accepted a one-year position as Chief of Psychiatry.

Dr. Sherif Soliman resigned from the Clinic after accepting a clinical position at a hospital in North Carolina.

All clinical staff (psychiatrist/psychologist/neuropsychologist/social worker) provide direct clinical evaluation services.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

The administrative staff worked diligently in 2017 to assist in the preparation of clinical reports in a timely manner. Continuing a pilot project in 2013, three transcriptionists continued to work from home. We also continued our relationship with a third-party typing service, Premier Office Technology. They were used on an as-needed basis to prepare overflow and “rush” reports that could not be completed by the three transcriptionists, due to scheduled/sick leave, time constraints, etc. The Office Manager, Assistant Office Manager and Office Assistant demonstrated continued excellence in their office reception, answering telephone calls, processing referrals, sending out requests for and distributing medical records, preparing dictations for transcription and compiling case-specific information from the Prosecutor’s File for examiners’ perusal.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic continues to schedule appointments using an electronic calendar, developed by the Information Services Department (ISD). This has proved to be a significant time-saver and helped streamline the overall referral and scheduling process. The Clinic Office Manager, Molly Kelly, worked closely with the ISD to enhance and improve the system to ensure more complete case management with respect to monitoring and assigning transcription services, completion of reports by clinical staff and delivery of reports to the courts. This has been a significant improvement and has ensured that reports are being completed and delivered in a timely fashion. Finally, clinic staff worked with information services to further refine the process of entering data for statistical forms mandated by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). In addition, the Clinic was very fortunate to have two student interns approved by Court Administration to assist with the entering of OMHAS statistics as part of the Clinic’s approved status as a Designated Forensic Center.

## **SENATE BILL 285/122 “SECOND OPINION” EVALUATIONS**

For the 21st year, the OMHAS funded the Court Psychiatric Clinic to perform Senate Bill 285/122 “Second Opinion” evaluations. Professional staff traveled to Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (Northfield, Ohio) and/or Warrensville Developmental Center (Highland Hills, Ohio) to examine forensic patients who have been adjudicated Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity or Incompetent to Stand Trial-Unrestorable and have been recommended by their Treatment Team for “Movement to Non-Secured Status.” OMHAS funds the Court Psychiatric Clinic in the amount of \$122,000/year to perform these evaluations. The funds are administered through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS). In 2017, Court Psychiatric Clinic staff completed 19 Senate Bill 285/122 “Second Opinion” evaluations, consistent with the previous year.

## **COMPETENCY AND SANITY EVALUATIONS**

In 2017, competency and sanity evaluations constituted 29% of the total referrals to the Court Psychiatric Clinic. Competency evaluation referrals totaled 563 for the year, representing a decrease of 20% from 2016. Sanity evaluation referrals for 2017 totaled 296. This represents a decrease of 29% from 2016. The decrease in sanity evaluation referrals is attributed in part to the continuation of a screening process implemented by Chief Social Worker Michael Caso. When a sanity evaluation referral is received, Mr. Caso contacts the defense attorney to ensure the request was intended. These efforts have reduced the number of inappropriate referrals, which allows clinical staff to spend more time on complex cases where the issue of Sanity at the Time of the Act is most relevant.

## **INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION EVALUATIONS**

Referrals for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction reports totaled 729, representing an increase of 15% from 2016. The Social Work staff completed the vast majority of these reports, which in addition to substance use, now require that mental illness and/or intellectual disability be considered in the evaluation.

## **HOUSE BILL 180 (SEXUAL PREDATOR) AND SEXUAL OFFENDER EVALUATIONS**

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 34 referrals for House Bill 180 (Sexual Predator Evaluations and Sexual Offender Risk Assessment Evaluations), a 39% decrease from 2016.

Sexual offender evaluations often require administration of the Abel Assessment for Sexual Interest, scoring of the Static-99R (an actuarial risk instrument), in addition to a thorough clinical interview and occasional staff testimony at court hearings. Sexual offender evaluations continue to be the most labor-intensive examinations performed at the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

## **MITIGATION OF PENALTY AND PROBATION EVALUATIONS**

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 1,215 referrals for Mitigation of Penalty reports. This represents an increase of 8.4% from 2016.

We received 87 referrals for Probation reports, an increase of 3.5% from 2016. We continue to work with the Probation Department and Probation Officers to obtain contemporary medical records from a probationer’s mental health providers prior to referring for an evaluation. If the records document the presence of a psychotic mental illness or an I.Q. below 75, this information is sufficient for transfer of the individual to the Mental Health/Developmental Disability programs and eliminates duplication of services.

## **COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC TRAINING FUNCTIONS**

The Court Psychiatric Clinic maintained its affiliation with the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Two groups of Forensic Psychiatry Fellows (three Fellows each), pursuing fellowship training under the supervision of Phillip Resnick, M.D., rotated through the Court Psychiatric Clinic during calendar year 2017.

We maintained our association with the Mandel School of Applied Social Science (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University and have had a 24 hour per week Social Work student placed at our facility during the academic year.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic continued its mission to provide education and training experiences to numerous undergraduate behavioral science students, law students, advanced medical students, psychiatry residents, and a number of mental health professionals.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic sponsored lunchtime seminars open to Clinic staff, Judges, Probation Officers, Mental Health Professionals, and Attorneys from the community. The seminars included topics such as: "Psychiatrists in Peril: Lawsuits, Lockup, and Loss of License"; "A Bitter Pill: Involuntary Psychiatric Medication in Ohio"; and "Legal Considerations in College Mental Health."

## **OHIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES CERTIFICATION**

The Court Psychiatric Clinic's status as a Designated Forensic Evaluation Center certified by the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services was renewed in December, 2017.

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC CENTER DIRECTORS**

In 2017, Interim Director Julian Dooley, Ph.D. and Chief of Psychology Michael Aronoff, Psy.D. were active in the Association of Ohio Forensic Psychiatric Center Directors. They regularly attended monthly meetings in Columbus, explored the possibility of developing collaborative research projects, and helped plan a successful two-day continuing education workshop in Columbus, attended by staff of community forensic psychiatric centers from throughout the state.

## **SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MAPPING WORKSHOP**

Dr. Julian Dooley participated in a two-day workshop that was part of the Stepping Up Initiative. He co-chairs one of the sub-committees tasked with examining Pretrial and Psychiatric Services in the Cuyahoga County Jail.

## **THE COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC REMAINS FOCUSED ON ITS CORE MISSION**

During 2017, the Court Psychiatric Clinic continued to focus its resources on discharging its primary mission to prepare thorough, timely and useful clinical assessments of defendants referred by the Common Pleas Court and Probation Department.

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC (01/01/17 – 12/31/17)  
NUMBER OF REFERRALS**

Competency to Stand Trial-2945.371 (A)	<b>563</b>
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371(A)	<b>296</b>
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06 (B)	<b>1,215</b>
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	<b>10</b>
Movement to Non-Secured Status –S.B. 285	<b>19</b>
House Bill 180/Sex Offender Risk -2947.06 (B)	<b>34</b>
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	<b>729</b>
Reports for Probation-2951.03	<b>87</b>
Miscellaneous	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,971</b>

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC  
COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF REFERRALS  
2016 & 2017**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% Change, +/-</b>
Competency to Stand Trial-2945.371 (A)	707	563	-20.3%
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371 (A)	417	296	-29.0%
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06 (B)	1120	1215	+8.4%
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	4	10	+150%
Movement to Non-Secured Status-S.B. 285	19	19	0%
House Bill 180/Sex Offender Risk – 2947.06 (B)	56	34	-39.2%
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	633	729	+15.1%
Reports for Probation-2951.03	84	87	+3.5%
Miscellaneous	23	25	+8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3063</b>	<b>2971</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>



# CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD

## **Chair**

Hon. John J. Russo

## **Corrections Planning Board Administrator**

Martin P. Murphy

## **407 Prison Diversion Program Director**

Stephania Pryor

## **408 Jail Diversion Program Director**

James Starks

## **Staff**

Board Administrator  
Substance Abuse Placement  
Coordinators (2)

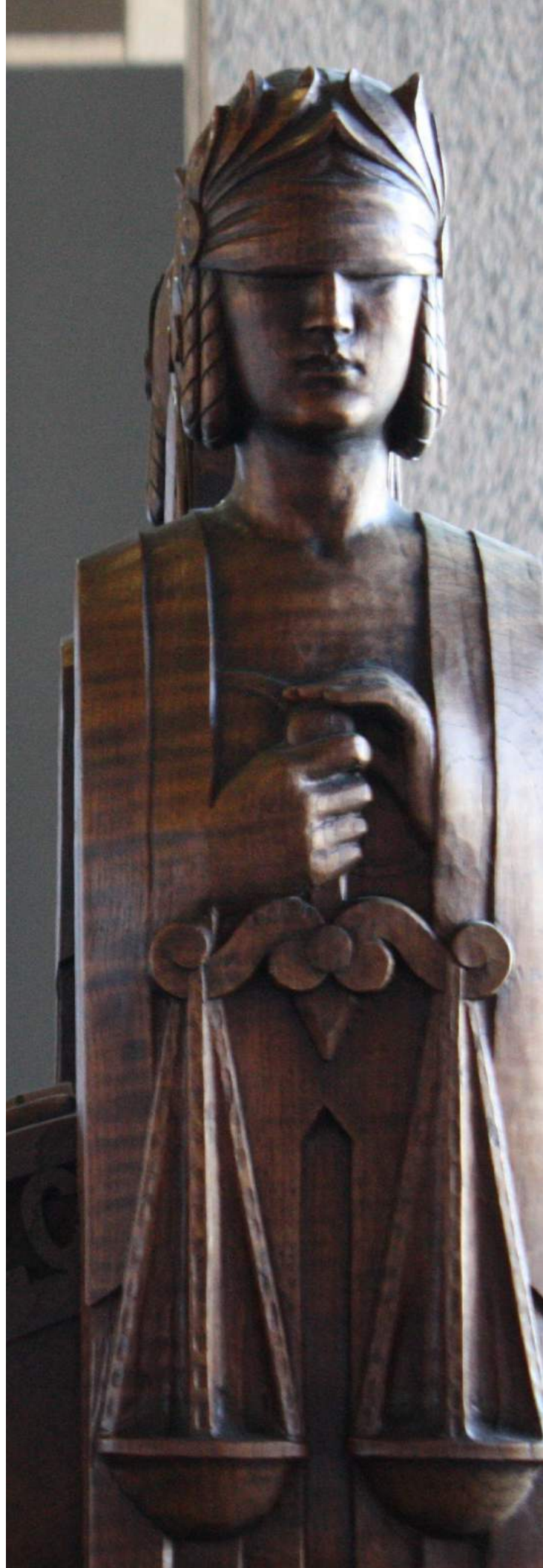
Project Directors (2)

Record Check Specialist

Fiscal Officer

Office Assistants (3)

Research Planner



## CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD ROSTER OF MEMBERS

**Honorable John J. Russo, Chair**

Presiding Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court

<b>Hon. Dick Ambrose</b> <i>Judge, Common Pleas Court</i>	<b>Russell R. Brown III</b> <i>Court Administrator Cleveland Municipal Court</i>	<b>Dean Jenkins</b> <i>Administrator of a CCA- funded program within Cuyahoga County</i>
<b>Valeria Harper</b> <i>Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol, Drug Addiction &amp; Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County</i>	<b>Armond Budish</b> <i>Cuyahoga County Executive</i>	<b>Arthur B. Hill</b> <i>Director, Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex</i>
<b>Maria Nemec</b> <i>Chief Probation Officer Cuyahoga County Adult Probation</i>	<b>VACANT</b> <i>Crime Victim Representative</i>	<b>Kenneth Mills</b> <i>Director, Cuyahoga County Corrections Center</i>
<b>Hon. Michael C. O'Malley</b> <i>Cuyahoga County Prosecutor</i>	<b>Illya McGee</b> <i>Vice President - Correctional Programs, Oriana House, Inc.</i>	<b>Calvin D. Williams</b> <i>Chief of Police, City of Cleveland</i>
<b>Hon. K.J. Montgomery</b> <i>Judge, Shaker Heights Municipal Court</i>	<b>Gregory Popovich</b> <i>Court Administrator, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court</i>	<b>Clifford Pinkney</b> <i>Cuyahoga County Sheriff</i>
<b>Kelly Petty</b> <i>Superintendent and CEO, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities</i>	<b>Mark A. Stanton, Esq.</b> <i>Cuyahoga County Chief Public Defender</i>	<b>Christopher P. Viland</b> <i>Representative of the Law Enforcement Community in Cuyahoga County</i>

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board exists to create an environment to improve the coordination of community corrections at all levels of the criminal justice system.*

Toward this end, the Corrections Planning Board members and staff will work to:

- Provide effective alternatives to incarceration
- Enhance public safety and protection of victims
- Seek and secure funding and resources
- Develop and maintain partnerships with stakeholders

The Corrections Planning Board, comprised of eighteen members, administers Community Corrections Act (CCA) grant funds from the State of Ohio's Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for community jail and prison diversion programs. The Chair of the Board is the Presiding Judge of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Cuyahoga County established its Corrections Planning Board in 1984. Most of the Board's local community sanction programs are administered through the Court's Adult Probation Department.

During FY 2017, the Board administered CCA grants of \$ 5,680,508 to fund and staff local community corrections programs. In addition to the annual base CCA funds, the State provided \$1,541,575 in Probation Improvement and Incentive funding as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and \$3,663,332 from the Smart Ohio grant initiative for reduction in prison commitment for non-violent F4 and F5 offenders. The Corrections Planning Board also oversees a significant amount of funding from other sources including \$3,424,000 in federal grants from US HSS-SAMHSA and US DOJ-BJA, as well as \$92,488 in miscellaneous smaller awards.

The state funding supports programming designed to divert eligible criminal offenders from the Cuyahoga County Jail and/or the state prison system, while maintaining public safety. Compared to the rest of the State, Cuyahoga County has reduced the number of prison commitments from 20% of all ODRC commitments in FY 2010 to 12.5% in FY 2017. Cuyahoga County contributes approximately 16% of the statewide total of prison diversions and 18% of the statewide total of jail diversions. In CY 2017, approximately 5,836 criminal offenders were diverted into local community sanction alternatives.

The Cuyahoga County CCA programs through the Corrections Planning Board have been the recipients of numerous awards to recognize their contributions to community corrections. The Probation Department Management has been recognized for their willingness to assist other Ohio counties with criminal justice initiatives. CCA Project Directors and Board Administrator actively participate in the CCA Directors Organization and as Board of Trustees/Executive Board Members of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections.

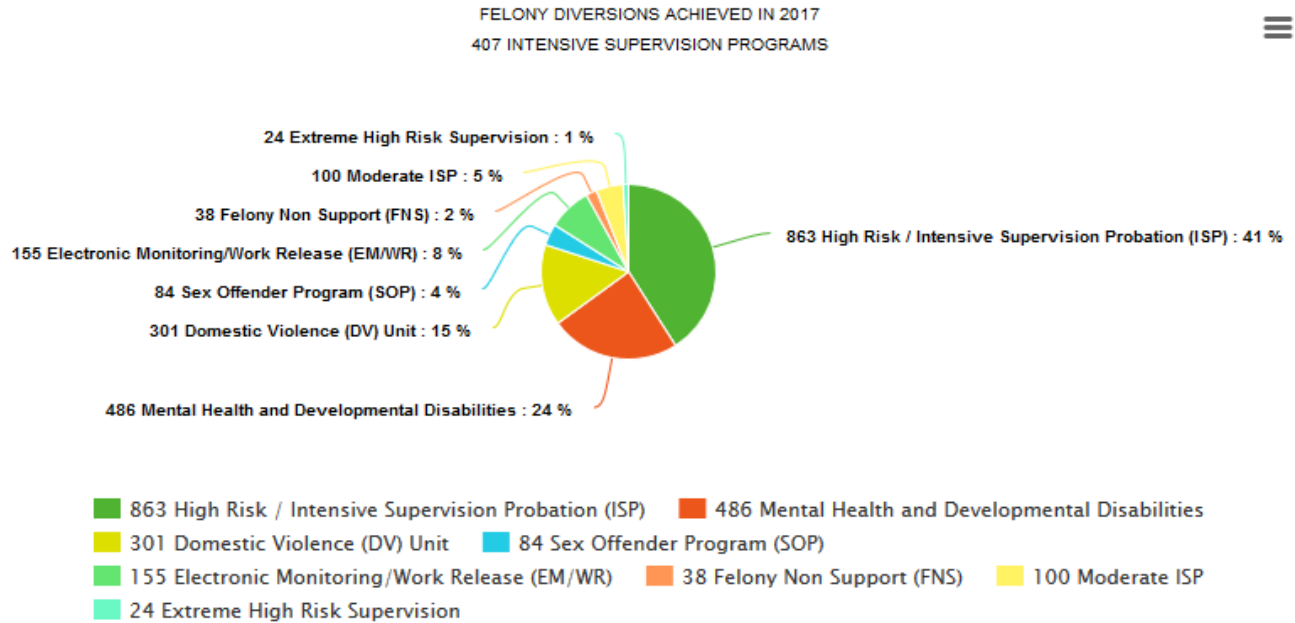
The Board funds several of the projects jointly with other Cuyahoga County agencies such as the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This allows all concerned agencies to maximize the resources available to the community. In addition, the Board participates in the planning and coordination of a number of collaborative projects (e.g., Mental Health Advisory Committee, Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Leadership Committee, Office of Re-Entry Leadership Coalition, Community Based Correctional Facility and the Cuyahoga County Drug Court). The CPB also provides fiscal and administrative oversight, as needed, for various grants on behalf of the Common Pleas Court and the Adult Probation Department separate from CCA (e.g., 2 SAMHSA/BJA Drug Court grants, Office of Re-Entry grant for Re-Entry Court and several state and federally-funded TASC grants). In 2010, the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) agency was transferred from the County Department of Justice Affairs to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Corrections Planning Board.



## 407 INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAMS

(For program descriptions and 2017 figures, please see the Probation Department Report)

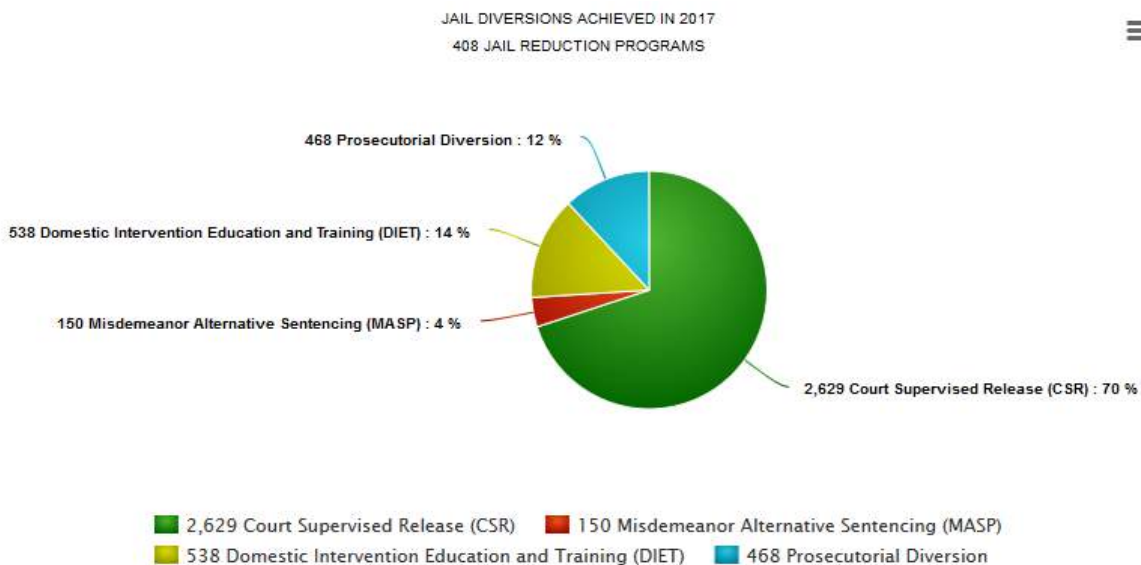
The 407 Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) strives to divert offenders from prison by providing intensive supervision in the community as an alternative to incarceration. ISP includes various high risk units, specialized units and programming and services including cognitive skills development programming, Apprehension Unit services, the Staff Training and Development Project, Substance Abuse Case Management and Drug Testing.



## 408 JAIL REDUCTION PROGRAMS

(For program descriptions and 2017 figures, please see Probation Department Report.)

The Jail Population Reduction Project began as a CCA project in 1994. The project's overall goal is to reduce jail overcrowding by reducing unnecessary pretrial detention and case processing delay and better utilization of limited local jail space for appropriate offenders. First, through a number of collaborative criminal justice initiatives and activities in Cuyahoga County, case processing procedures are examined to identify and resolve difficulties and delays. Second, the project gears its activities to developing and operating community control programs described below to reduce commitments and the average length of stay in local jails. The program offers several programs and 408 treatment coordination.



## STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

CCA funding reimburses salary and a portion of the fringe benefit costs for the Probation Department Training Specialist. The Staff Development and Training Program's most important task is to provide training and enhance professional standards for probation staff in CCA grant programs. It strives to meet all CCA program standards in regard to training. Staff regularly meet grant requirements for training hours with innovative training events utilizing in-house facilities and offering a variety of pertinent topics.

The Training Specialist has created an Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) curriculum for staff skill development, a comprehensive Safety Training Program that began in 2014, and a Technology Training curriculum. A significant number of line staff and supervisors volunteer to implement many of the components of the Training Program.

- A total of 10,081 person hours of training were provided during 2017, a 4% increase compared to total training hours in 2016. The cost for training in 2017 was \$31,383.35.
- Training was funded with Probation Department supervision fees, as well as CCA, SAMHSA and BJA grant funds.
- All probation officers and supervisors met the State HB 86 training standard of 20 hours per year.
- All CCA probation officers and supervisors met the State CCA training standard of 24 hours per year for training related to EBP and service delivery.
- All support staff met the departmental standard of 10 hours of training per year.

For description of specific trainings offered in 2017, please see the Probation Department Report.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

The Substance Abuse program targets offenders with drug and alcohol problems. Various activities are utilized as a coordinated system process to deal with substance abusing offenders, including centralized case management for referring and managing offenders placed in various residential substance abuse treatment programs.

With CCA funding, the Adult Probation Department continues to provide centralized case management, staffed by a Centralized Case Manager and an Administrative Aide, for assessment and treatment referrals. One case manager coordinates all offender referrals for substance abuse assessment and treatment services, and manages offenders throughout treatment. Defendants and probationers are selected to participate in the program based on an evaluation of Bail Bond Investigation reports, Pre-sentence Investigation (PSI) reports, Risk/Needs Assessment and Alcohol and Drug Assessment. They may be referred as a condition of probation. Drug dependent persons requesting Intervention in Lieu of Conviction under O.R.C. 2951.041 may also be referred for treatment.

The Corrections Planning Board also manages treatment contracts not funded by CCA dollars: Common Pleas Court treatment contract, the Halfway House Initiative and the ADAMHS Board Jail Reduction contracts. As of 2005, the local ADAMHS and the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners had dedicated funding for jail reduction efforts. Prior to the availability of these dollars, the average length of stay in jail for offenders waiting admission to treatment was approximately 45 days. Due to the continuing opiate/heroin epidemic in the community, in FY 2017, length of time spent waiting for treatment placement ranged from the previous average of 14 days to as long as 30 days as demand for residential treatment increases. The most difficult clients to place continue to be those dually diagnosed with a mental illness, which complicates treatment, or those with a prior sex offense or arson conviction. To assist with placement of these offenders, through collaboration with the ADAMHS Board, limited access to psychotropic medication is available from Central Pharmacy for offenders waiting in jail for treatment placement.

In 2017, 1,012 offenders (a 10% increase from 2016) were placed into residential drug/alcohol treatment programs through the Probation Department Centralized Case Management program as described below.

The Common Pleas Court continued to fund contracted treatment beds placing 308 offenders at the following agencies:

- Catholic Charities - Matt Talbot Inn & Matt Talbot for Women (212 offenders)
- Community Assessment and Treatment (CATS) (44 offenders)
- ORCA House (52 offenders)

The County-funded Halfway House Initiative provided placement for 78 offenders at the following agencies:

- Community Assessment Treatment Services
- Oriana House
- Salvation Army – Harbor Light

The number placed using this funding source is markedly lower than last year (192 placements) because the funding ended in March 2017. State-funded halfway house beds have been utilized instead.

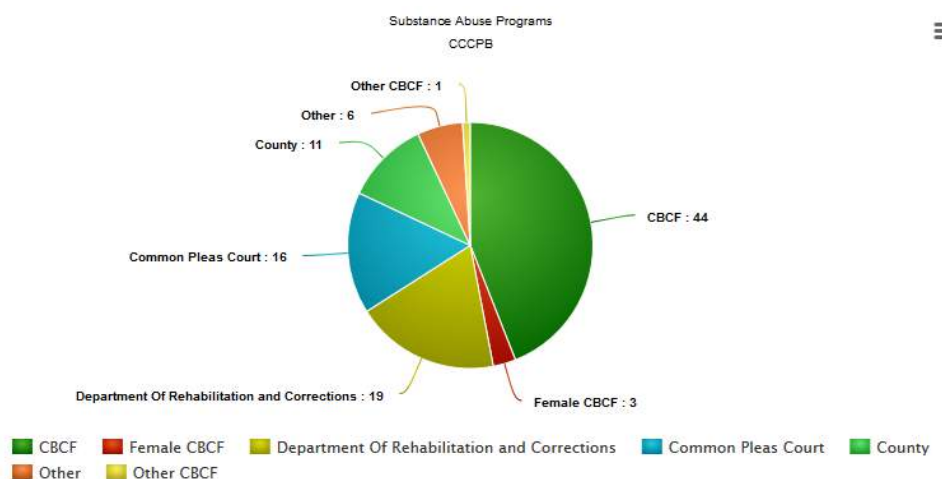
Using ADAMHS Board-funded Indigent Beds, Smart Ohio funding, Medicaid, VA and other sources, an additional 46 offenders were placed in residential treatment at the following agencies:

- Catholic Charities
- Community Assessment Treatment Services
- ORCA
- Hitchcock House
- HUMADAOP/CASA ALMA
- Y-Haven
- Stella Maris
- Veterans' Administration (VA)

In addition to above funding streams, the Centralized Case Management Program utilized funding made available by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) funded 582 halfway house placements for offenders receiving inpatient substance abuse treatment services and 24 Community Based Corrections Facility placements at Northwest Community Corrections Center, Lorain/Medina.

On February 1, 2011, the Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) opened in Cuyahoga County. 578 offenders were placed in the CBCF in 2017; a 3% decrease compared to 2016 figures. In addition, 75 female defendants were placed in the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County, a 9% decrease compared to 2016 placements. On any given day, there are approximately 171 males and 14 females serving a CBCF sentence.

Centralized Case Management also coordinates court-ordered placements with non-contracted providers (e.g., Ed Keating Center, Jean Marie's House, Edna House, City Mission/Laura's Home, The Lantern and Glenbeigh).



To comply with court orders, the Centralized Case Manager referred 1,807 offenders to Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) for assessments, case management and referral to treatment (includes re-referrals). In addition, 475 offenders were referred to TASC for assessments at the PSI stage; a 50% increase in referrals made at the PSI stage in 2016.

Effective November 8, 2010, the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) division was transferred from the BOCC Department of Justice Affairs to the Common Pleas Court Corrections Planning Board (See TASC Section of the Annual Report for 2017 figures).

#### **408 TREATMENT PLACEMENT COORDINATOR**

The 408 Treatment Coordinator receives referrals for treatment for defendants identified and assessed during pretrial incarceration in the jail or during pretrial supervision and determined to have mental health and/or substance abuse issues by any of the Pretrial Services programs, including CSR, Bond Investigation, EIP, Diversion and the MASP. In 2017, the Treatment Coordinator used various funding sources to place 204 defendants into residential treatment, a 30% decrease over 2016 placement numbers.

They also serve as the point person for identification, eligibility determination and placement for the Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Court (MHDD) docket, and coordinates with the Forensic Mental Health Liaisons and the Jail Mental Health Intake Specialist to place defendants identified with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The Coordinator works with judges, attorneys, public defenders, defendant family members, municipal courts, community agencies and the Sheriff's Department in placing individuals in the appropriate substance abuse and mental health settings.

In addition, they also coordinate weekly staffing with the Mental Health Judges, community agencies, MHDD supervision officers, forensic liaisons and attorneys and assisted in the development of a female CBCF pilot with the ADAMHS Board.

#### **OTHER TREATMENT RESOURCES**

Grant awards from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded 160 placements into residential treatment for participants in the Specialty dockets (Drug Court, Recovery Court and Veterans Court).

#### **DRUG TESTING LABORATORY**

To provide drug testing for CCA and other probation programs, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Drug Testing Laboratory operates under Court funding and approximately \$200,000 of funding from the Community Corrections Act grants and a Supreme Court grant for fentanyl testing.

A portion of Community Corrections funding is allotted for reagents and drug testing fees.

A contract (June 30, 2017 through June 30, 2019) for instrumentation and reagents was awarded to ThermoFisher Scientific, Inc. (formerly Microgenics). (Please see Probation Department Report for 2017 figures).

# TASC (TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME)

## **Administrator**

Martin P. Murphy, LISW-S

## **TASC Manager**

Ronda Blaney

## **Staff**

Clinical Services Manager

Clinical Coordinators (3)

Fiscal Officer

Program Officers (2)

Assessment Specialists (22)

Administrative Assistants (2)





Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) is a nationally recognized program model designed to break the addiction-crime cycle of recidivism by supporting criminal justice involved individuals in their efforts to become healthy, sober, self-sufficient and law abiding citizens. TASC seeks to link drug-involved offenders to therapeutic interventions of drug treatment programs. Cases are managed by assisting the offender through the criminal justice process and into drug treatment, simultaneously providing monitoring services as an adjunct to criminal justice supervision. TASC's comprehensive case management services create a unique interface among the criminal justice system, the treatment service system, and the offender, thus allowing for effective and efficient outcomes. These programs also work to establish treatment accountability by ensuring that offenders receive the appropriate type and level of treatment, are attending treatment sessions regularly, are progressing in treatment and that treatment agencies are providing effective treatment services.

The mission of Cuyahoga County TASC is to provide an objective and effective bridge between the treatment community and the criminal justice system. In working towards this mission, TASC participates in the justice system processing as early as possible, providing substance abusing criminal defendants the help and guidance they need to achieve abstinence, recovery and a crime-free life.

Cuyahoga County TASC is Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) certified to provide non-intensive outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and mental health services. Additionally, TASC acquired Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation in 2013 that was successfully renewed in 2016.

TASC serves non-violent, substance abusing, adult offenders referred by the criminal justice system on both the misdemeanor and felony levels. Referrals are generated from Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Cleveland Municipal Court. It provides assessment, case management, non-intensive outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, coordination of referrals to community treatment providers and drug testing. TASC Assessment Specialists are licensed by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board and/or the Ohio Chemical Dependency Board.

Staff were trained on how to incorporate ASAM Criteria into clinical decision-making and treatment planning. TASC continues to explore options for the adoption of new Electronic Health Record to assist in providing efficient and quality client care.

## **ASSESSMENT**

TASC assessments may be conducted at any of the following stages in the criminal justice continuum: Diversion, Pre-Trial, Pre-Sentence, and Post Sentence. Assessors meet individually with clients in the TASC office or in the County jail to conduct the interviews. The assessor determines whether a substance use disorder exists using DSM 5 criteria and then recommends the appropriate treatment intervention based on ASAM Criteria. The current assessment tool used by TASC is the "Solutions for Ohio's Quality Improvement and Compliance –Cuyahoga County" (SOQIC-C). The SOQIC is the preferred tool amongst the agencies within Cuyahoga County who receive funding through the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

TASC Case Managers develop individualized case plans to assist clients in meeting treatment recommendations as identified in the substance abuse assessment. The TASC Case Manager links clients to treatment facilities and assists in removing any barriers that might interfere with the individual successfully completing treatment.

## **MEDICAID NAVIGATOR**

The TASC Medicaid Navigator position was eliminated. Initially, offenders arrived at TASC with no health insurance and the Navigator would assist with the Medicaid application process. As time progressed, more offenders were walking through the door already having insurance. TASC Case Managers are able to assist offenders with the Medicaid application should the need arise.

## **NON-INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

TASC provides a Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment program for males. The 6 session group meets weekly for 2 hours. Participants are required to attend 12-step meetings and submit to random urinalyses. In addition, they complete a URICA (University of Rhode Island Change Assessment) Scale at intake and then at successful completion to measure shifts in a client's stage of change.

## **INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

Two Intensive Outpatient Treatment programs are provided by TASC. Our MATRIX Model Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program is recognized by SAMHSA as a best practice model for intensive outpatient treatment.

This group consists of individual and group therapy with men, and focuses on Early Recovery Skills, Relapse Prevention Skills, Family Education and The Twelve Steps. The MATIX IOP Treatment group meets three days a week for three hours each day for eight weeks, which is then followed by four weeks of Aftercare. Our second program, the Women's Trauma, Recovery and Empowerment Model, Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program, (TREM), combines the TREM Model and a Trauma-Informed Addictions Treatment Model. Both models are recognized as being evidence-based and were developed by Dr. Maxine Harris and other clinicians at Community Connections in Washington, D.C.

The TREM is an evidence-based program designed to help members develop and strengthen the skills necessary to cope with the impact of traumatic experience. It utilizes psycho-educational and cognitive-behavioral techniques in an actively supportive group context.

The Trauma-Informed Alcohol and Drug Treatment Model are also focused on Early Recovery and Relapse Prevention Skills, as well as The Twelve Steps. However, it also builds on key principles of safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and empowerment, while at the same time taking care not to inadvertently re-traumatize the clients.

Eligible group members are court-referred female clients who have been assessed as having a substance use disorder, meet the placement criteria for Intensive Outpatient Treatment, and have experienced past or present trauma.

SPECIALIZED DOCKETS

TASC provides both assessment and case management services for four existing Specialty Dockets: Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court, Court of Common Pleas Recovery Court, Court of Common Pleas Veteran's Court and the Greater Cleveland Drug Court.

In addition to staffing each court with an Assessor and Case Manager, TASC assists in providing fiscal and grant oversight for the projects, tracking the various funding streams which support the staffing and treatment components of Drug Court in addition to the provision of client incentives such as gift cards and bus tickets.

Referral Source	2015	2016	2017
	Referrals Received	Referrals Received	Referrals Received
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> PRETRIAL	316	209	167
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION	353	426	462
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> PROBATION	1,550	1,572	1,716
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> DRUG COURT	99	101	125
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> RECOVERY COURT	77	53	166
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> VETERAN'S COURT	---	33	35
<i>Common Pleas Court</i> INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION	338	340	293
<b>Subtotal</b>	2,733	2,734	2,964
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court</i> PROBATION	252	240	248
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court</i> DRUG COURT	55	42	19
<i>Subtotal</i>	307	282	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	3,050	3,016	3,231

# RE-ENTRY COURT

**Judge Nancy Margaret Russo**

**Probation Officer  
Chyvonne Kimbrough**

**Administrative Assistant  
Brooke N. Hadjuk**

**Bailiff  
Deena Lucci**



The Cuyahoga County Re-Entry Court (REEC) was implemented in January, 2007, and is presided over by Judge Nancy Margaret Russo. The goal of REEC is to reduce recidivism and recommitments to ODRC through intensive, specialized supervision of persons accepted into the program and granted Judicial Release.

REEC participation has specific eligibility criteria and defendants are screened by the REEC team. The decision to accept or deny the defendant is made by the REEC Judge and the decision to permit the defendant to transfer into the REEC program for purposes of the Judicial Release Hearing and supervision, is made by the individual sentencing Judge.

All Judges of the Court of Common Pleas may either opt in or opt out of participation in this specialized docket. At present, 32 of 34 of the Court of Common Pleas Judges participates in the REEC program.

The REEC keeps savings and demographic data for all defendants filing Motions for Judicial Release on the dockets of Participating Judges, and for all those filing REEC Applications.

REEC savings to taxpayers in calendar year 2017:	\$894,640.78
REEC savings to taxpayers from 2007 through 2017:	\$12,008,938.00

These savings are calculated conservatively, using only the established per diem rate for prison commitment and they do NOT include such things as medical costs, prc supervision costs or other ancillary commitment costs saved by ODRC, as the result of the defendants participation in REEC. These savings also do not reflect the value gained by the employment of these individuals, their status as taxpayers and not as inmates, the value to their families and reduction on government assistance. Nor can we quantify the value of a person not returning to prison for future crimes.

In addition, REEC partners with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies to seek solutions to the recidivism and re-entry issues facing Cuyahoga County. Some of those partners include EDWINS, ODRC and The Dalton Foundation.

Graduates are followed for a 3 year period to determine if they are arrested subsequent to their completion of REEC. This is an aggressive, self-imposed measure that REEC sets for itself and its graduates in order to determine the effectiveness of REEC.

Currently, REEC measures its success at 92%, with only an 8% recidivism rate, based on the most recent measures.

REEC wishes to express its gratitude to the County Executive, County Council and the Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry for its support of this unique, important, innovative and successful docket.

# DRUG COURT / RECOVERY COURT

**Judge David T. Matia**

**Judge Joan C. Synenberg**

**Coordinator**  
**Molly Leckler**



Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court implemented its County Drug Court in May 2009. The mission of the County Drug Court Program is to reduce recidivism among drug-dependent offenders by providing enhanced treatment services. The majority of participants in the County's Drug Court Program are opiate dependent. Opiate dependency, largely due to the abuse of prescription drugs, currently is a major public health crisis in Ohio.

In January of 2015, the Common Pleas Court expanded the existing Drug Court Program to add a second track that not only deals with alcohol and/or drug addiction, but trauma related mental health issues. This docket is overseen by the Honorable Joan Synenberg, who brings her expertise from five years as a Mental Health Court Judge.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration and Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded the Common Pleas Court with a three year expansion grant that allocates funding for additional staff and treatment services to assist those suffering from co-occurring disorders.

In 2017, 261 defendants were screened for Drug Court and Recovery Court eligibility. Of those, 127 were formally placed into Drug Court and 75 in Recovery Court, totaling 202 participants. Also, 64 participants graduated from the Drug Court Programs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Judge David Matia was asked to speak at a science and public policy forum in Washington, DC. As part of a panel on the opioid crisis at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 2017 Forum on Science and Technology Policy, Judge Matia told the attendees that the "worst is yet to come" when it comes to the sharp rise of accidental deaths attributed to synthetic opioids. He also addressed the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus.

Judge Joan Synenberg was awarded with the Woman of Strength Award from Recovery Resources. The entire Recovery Court Team attended this annual luncheon on May 11, 2017.

As part of National Recovery Month in September, Drug Court and Recovery Court held a joint graduation at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The following day, the graduates attended a Cleveland Indians game as guests of the team.

On September 29, 2017, Project 180 held its 2nd annual Light up the Night for Recovery event at Lakewood Park. This year, more than 600 people attended.



# MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COURT (MHDD)

**JUDGE HOLLIE L.  
GALLAGHER** Chair

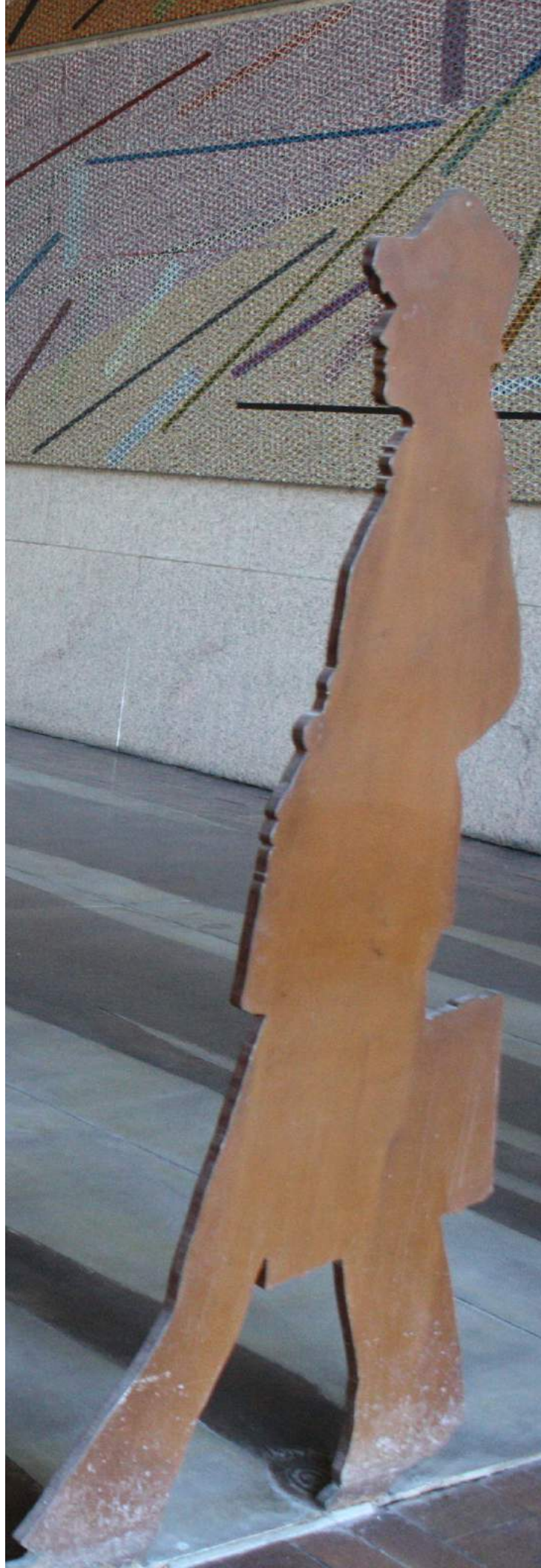
**JUDGE MICHAEL P.  
DONNELLY**

**JUDGE ROBERT C.  
McCLELLAND**

**JUDGE DEENA R.  
CALABRESE**

**JUDGE CASSANDRA  
COLLIER-WILLIAMS**

**Coordinator  
MEGHAN E. PATTON**





*"The mission of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court is to promote early identification of offenders with severe mental health and/or developmental disabilities in order to promote coordination and cooperation among law enforcement, jails, community treatment providers, attorneys and the courts for offenders during the legal process and achieve outcomes that both protect society, and support the mental health care and disability needs of the defendant."*

The Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court was established on June 9, 2003, as a response to the increasing number of offenders with serious mental illnesses and/or developmental disabilities entering the criminal justice system. This Court was created through amendments to local rules 30, 30.1, and 33. In March of 2017, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges adopted revised amendments in Local Rule 30.1 to allow for eligible cases to have more opportunity to transfer into the MHDD Court, including after sentencing an offender to community control sanctions (probation).

It was established with the intent to operate with a high level of collaboration among Court personnel, criminal justice entities, and behavioral health partners. From arrest to disposition and community control (probation), many dedicated services have been developed for offenders who suffer from mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

The MHDD Court is funded by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, and supported by local, state, and federal funding entities. Contracted service providers include the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Recovery Resources, selected in cooperation with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, which co-funds the program, to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric services, medication management and support services to offenders on MHDD probation.

Acceptance to the Cuyahoga County MHDD Court is diagnosis-driven. Therefore, eligible offenders enter the MHDD Court with all offense types and offense levels. This distinguishes our Court from virtually all other such dockets in the State of Ohio.

Offenders qualify by meeting either of the following criteria per the clinical diagnosis of a mental health professional: a) schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, major depressive disorder with psychotic features and bipolar disorder with psychotic features and/or b) suffer from an intellectual disability with an IQ of 75 or below, have adaptive skills deficit based on a diagnostic report or may be eligible for services through the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder, Tic Disorder or Major/Mild Neurocognitive Disorder with onset prior to age 22). Cuyahoga County is one of the only felony level courts in the State of Ohio that includes developmental/intellectual disabilities as part of its criteria eligibility and not as a secondary diagnosis. This feature also distinguishes the court on the national level.

The jurists who served the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court in 2017 were Judge Hollie L. Gallagher (chair), Judge Michael P. Donnelly, Judge Robert C. McClelland, Judge Deena R. Calabrese and Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams.

The five judges oversee the MHDD Court on a voluntary basis, while also carrying non-MHDD criminal and civil cases on their dockets. In 2017, approximately 45% of the MHDD Judges' criminal dockets were identified as MHDD offenders.

### **MHDD COURT COORDINATOR**

The MHDD Court Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the MHDD judges and Court Administration. The MHDD Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and also with external partners and providers on an ongoing sustained basis. Throughout the year, the MHDD judges and the coordinator continued to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission.

### **PRETRIAL TREATMENT/MHDD PROBATION COORDINATOR**

The Pretrial Treatment/MHDD Probation Coordinator serves as the clinical point person for identification, eligibility determination and placement for MHDD Court dockets in 2017. This position plays a critical role in the management of the mental health "flagging" of offenders within the Court's information system. This allows for more expedient identification and linkage to services in the event an individual cycles through the system in subsequent cases. Approximately 1,400 cases are reviewed per year. During 2017, 389 new individuals were identified in this manner. Since 2005, the cases of 6,095 individuals have been flagged as eligible for the MHDD Court.

### **PRETRIAL SERVICES UNIT**

The Pretrial Services Unit of the Adult Probation Department provides supervision to defendant's on bond during their pending case, known as Court Supervised Release. In March of 2017, a designated MHDD officer was incorporated into the MHDD Court team and MHDD probation unit. This officer works to identify incarcerated defendants who would be appropriate for Court Supervised Release, establish community and behavioral health linkage, ensure court appearances and aid in the successful transition of convicted defendants onto community control (probation). This position currently maintains a caseload of 64 officers.

### **ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT MHDD SPECIALIZED SUPERVISION UNIT**

MHDD offenders sentenced to community control (probation) through the Probation Department are provided with specialized MHDD supervision. The MHDD probation unit is staffed by thirteen (13) specially trained officers, a crisis intervention behavioral health specialist and two supervisors. Presently, the average caseload size is 48 offenders per MHDD probation officer. Offenders are assigned to community control supervision for a recommended duration of two years.

In 2017, 456 offenders were assigned to supervision in the MHDD probation unit by Common Pleas Court judges. Of that total, 339 offenders were placed in the MHDD probation unit. Thus, 74% of all MHDD offenders placed on community control in 2017 were diverted at arraignment or transferred to the MHDD Court. This is an increase of 7% from last year.

At year's end, the MHDD probation unit was actively supervising approximately 618 offenders on community control sanctions (probation,) including those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (77%) as well as those who pled from a felony at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction. Approximately 34% of offenders supervised in the MHDD unit are assessed with developmental disabilities.

Throughout 2017, 446 offenders completed/terminated from community control sanctions. Of that total, 321 (72%) offenders were completed/terminated directly from the MHDD Court. Approximately 60% of offenders within the MHDD Court were terminated successfully.

## MHDD TREATMENT TEAM STAFFING HEARINGS

One of the most unique features of the MHDD Court is the incorporation of judicial treatment team staffing hearings. Staffing hearings are consistent with a philosophy of providing team commitment and therapeutic approaches for each offender while using evidence-based practices. This also engages the judge more centrally as a problem solver and collaborator in the therapeutic process.

Research has suggested that people suffering from mental illnesses are more likely than others under community supervision to have their community sentences revoked nationwide. This has an enormous effect on their involvement in the criminal justice system and has vast implications for public safety, health and tax dollar spending. The MHDD Court employs several sound interventions to assist the MHDD offenders in successfully complying with their community control conditions through the treatment team staffing. Although MHDD offenders may have a higher amount of minor technical violations, the MHDD Court consistently works with the offenders in order to assist them through medication compliance, substance abuse treatment, lack of housing, securing entitlements, benefits and employment when public safety is not in jeopardy.

Each MHDD judge schedules staffing hearings twice per month in close collaboration with MHDD probation officers. Community behavioral health partners from several agencies, community jail liaisons, county jail's mental health coordinator, attorneys and social workers from the Public Defender's Office are also typically present at the team meetings. The team commitment by various stakeholders continues to strengthen the collaborative relationship.

The MHDD Court and the treatment team established a variety of court hearings that may be requested by officers at the staffing hearings. These hearings reinforce the obligations and consistency of compliance among offenders. Throughout an offender's community control experience within MHDD Court, probation officers will regularly have an offender attend staffing hearings for a variety of reasons.

The paramount concerns are ensuring community safety and effective supervision of offenders in the community. In 2017, 95 judicial treatment team staffings took place among the five MHDD judges, and approximately 875 hearings were conducted. It should be noted, offenders may attend multiple hearings throughout the year depending on their compliance while on community control sanctions.

<b>Statistics and Analysis for 2017</b>	
<b>Total Staffing Hearings held in 2017</b>	<b>875</b>
30-day Review Hearings	123
Case Review Hearings	119
CBCF Pre-Release Hearings	14
Compliance / Modification Hearings	85
Violation Hearings	426
Early Termination Hearings	33
Terminations	38
Other	37

## **MHDD CLINICAL TEAM MEETINGS**

Another unique feature of the MHDD Court team is the collaboration officers and community behavioral health agencies undertake to ensure therapeutic approaches during an offender's community control experience. Officers work closely with several community behavioral health providers through on-going communication and monthly clinical staff treatment meetings attended by forensic case managers, licensed social workers and licensed counselors. Recovery Resources, Murtis H. Taylor, FrontLine Service Inc., Connections/Signature Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), and Matt Talbot for Recovering Men are among the primary providers of community behavioral health services.

This interaction provides all parties with relevant information regarding an offender's progress, along with an opportunity to address linkage or mental health issues, community safety concerns, housing resources, substance abuse issues, benefit reinstatement plans, employment assistance, financial planning, familial and peer association assistance and criminal thinking concerns. During 2017, 68 clinical staff treatment meetings were held between the MHDD unit and the community behavioral health agencies.

Officers also maintain a working relationship with St. Vincent Charity Hospital – Psychiatric Emergency Room, Veteran's Administration, Cleveland Police CIT officers, Mobile Crisis and other treatment providers.

## **TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

The MHDD Court has continued its commitment of strengthening its professional training and partnership efforts throughout 2017. The MHDD Court Coordinator created several educational training opportunities for the MHDD judges, MHDD probation officers and team members to further expand their knowledge and increase skill levels.

## **MHDD COURT JUDICIAL TRAINING**

Also, the MHDD Court received a unique judicial training grant through the Judges' and Psychiatrists' Leadership Initiative. As an interactive training designed for all judges who hear criminal cases, the program was created by judges and psychiatrists working in partnership with the American Psychiatric Foundation and the Council of State Governments Justice Center, with input from the National Judicial College and SAMSHA's GAINS Center.

The training was held on November 30, 2017, and was presented by the Honorable Steven Leifman of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida (Miami-Dade County), known for his dynamic efforts of diverting those suffering from mental illness out of the criminal justice system, and Dr. Mark Munetz, Director of Ohio's Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence. Dr. Munetz designed a nationally accepted model known as Sequential Intercept Mapping as an approach to decriminalize people with mental illness. 26 judges from around the state of Ohio participate in this event.

### **MHDD PROBATION OFFICER TRAINING**

The MHDD probation officers experienced a variety of new trainings this year to expand their knowledge and understanding of resources in the community for the MHDD offenders. The Probate Court's Assisted Outpatient Treatment team presented their new grant funded program to MHDD probation officers, Public Defender social workers and jail liaisons on May 15, 2017, to enhance collaboration and possible referrals.

The officers visited and toured the facilities of MetroHealth Broadway Center located at 6835 Broadway Avenue Cleveland, Ohio, to learn more about their grant funded jail and reentry program, Metro WRAP (Wellness, Reentry and Assistance Program) on May 31, 2017. Lastly, on June 22, 2017, several team members visited the Magnolia Clubhouse located at 11101 Magnolia Drive Cleveland, Ohio 44106, and volunteer in the evening hours with gardening and refreshing of the property alongside Magnolia Clubhouse members and staff.

All of these opportunities were created for the officers to understand the different resources that may benefit the MHDD offenders in their daily lives. The officers were able to meet with staff members, understand the referral process and witness clients taking part in a variety of activities.

### **STATEWIDE MENTAL HEALTH ATTORNEY TRAINING**

In early 2017, The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) requested the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence at Northeast Ohio Medical University to implement a state-wide attorney training related to mental health and developmental disabilities issues. The Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court was asked to participate in the planning and implementation of the training, as the Court had one of the only mental health attorney seminars offered in the state. The MHDD Court Coordinator was selected to participate. The one-day course was offered twice, and held on June 21, 2017 in Rootstown, Ohio and on June 23, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio. More than 100 attorneys from across the state participated in this event, including many from Cuyahoga County.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

The Court celebrated its second annual Mental Health Awareness Month in May with an art display provided through Recovery Resources, a behavioral health community agency that assists those struggling from addiction or mental health illnesses through comprehensive continuum of services including prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery and support. Court employees, court visitors and the public were able to view the art work, and see that through recovery of addiction and treatment of mental illness combined with the artistic process can bring beautiful ideas to light. An informational table with resources about the MHDD Court, the ADAMHS Board and a variety of other services were available.

## THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Throughout 2017, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, the Cuyahoga County Executive's Office, and the ADAMHS Board continued their 2016 commitment to reduce the overwhelming number of individuals with mental illness entangled within the criminal justice system through The Stepping Up Initiative.

This initiative was launched nationally in 2015 through the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Associations of Counties and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. The goal is to reduce the number of people living with mental illness in jails. In Ohio, the initiative is funded by The Peg's Foundation and under the leadership of Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton.

In April of 2017, several key leaders and judges from the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, County Executive's Office and The Cleveland Municipal Court spent two days observing and learning more about the innovative work being done through Florida's 11th Judicial Circuit Mental Health Diversion Program with Judge Steven Leifman in Miami-Dade, Florida. This site learning session was tremendously beneficial to supplement thoughtful ideas, and enhanced concepts for planning purposes when responding to the needs within Cuyahoga County.

Through support from The Stepping Up Initiative, Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Taskforce, headed by the Honorable Hollie L. Gallagher, MHDD Court Chair, Mr. Robert Triozzi, County Executive Office's Office, Mr. William Denihan (retired) and Ms. Valeria A. Harper (deceased) of the ADAMHS Board, hosted a two-day seminar. This seminar was held on August 28th and 29th, 2017, where more than 50 key leaders and stakeholders from criminal justice and behavioral health systems worked together to improve cross-collaboration efforts.

The seminar focused its effort through an interactive workshop called, Sequential Intercept Mapping. The Northeast Ohio Medical University's Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, Public Research Associates and The Center of Health and Justice at TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime) facilitated this event. Sequential Intercept Mapping is a dynamic, interactive tool for developing criminal justice-mental health partnerships used by communities to assess their resources, gaps, and opportunities at each "intercept point". Points include arrest and initial detention, jails and courts, re-entry and community corrections. Key to meaningful stakeholder involvement is understanding each other's roles in serving justice involved persons with mental illness. A specific task during the seminar was to develop a community map of how behavioral health services and the justice system interact with one another while looking towards solutions for improvement.

Throughout 2018, the Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Taskforce will continue the development of strategic action planning for the top priorities identified during the seminar.

# VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

**Judge Michael E. Jackson**

Amanda Wozniak, VTC Coordinator

Stephanie Gilliams, Probation Officer  
(Veteran)

Camille Croft, Probation Officer  
(Veteran)

Francis Arinze, VTC Defense Counsel  
(Veteran)

John Kirkland (Veteran), Glen Ramdhan  
& Michael Lisk (Veteran), VTC  
Prosecutors

Victoria Marion, Veterans Justice  
Outreach Specialist, U.S. Department of  
Veteran Affairs

Jennifer Opra, VTC TASC Clinician/Case  
Manager

Adam Sandor, Outreach Coordinator,  
Cuyahoga County Veteran Service  
Commission (Veteran)

Deborah Williams, Veterans Outreach  
Program Specialist, East Side Vet Center  
(Veteran)

Supported by: Dr. Margaret Baughman &  
Christine Gordon, Case Western Reserve  
PI and Evaluators



*The mission driving the Veterans Treatment Court is to successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the unique tools they need to lead a more productive and law-abiding life. At the same time, these veterans are held responsible for their conduct. We seek to accomplish this mission through a shared military experience within our specialized docket, including the use of veterans who volunteer in our community, called mentors.*

Veterans Treatment Courts integrate the principles of Drug Court and Mental Health Court to serve military veterans and active-duty personnel. These principles promote sobriety, recovery, stability and accountability. This is accomplished through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Networks and Veterans Benefits Administration (VA), Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, volunteer veteran mentors, other organizations and governmental agencies that support veterans and their families. (See: Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2010).

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was dedicated on May 29, 2015. It was initially certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio on September 23, 2015 and re certified on July 6, 2017. In addition to being the largest urban area in Ohio, Cuyahoga County, with a population of over 80,000 veterans, has by far the densest concentration of veterans in the state. Presently, our Veterans Treatment Court has served 109 veterans and 25 graduates, which is the largest Veterans Treatment Court in Ohio.

All 34 of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges have the discretion to transfer a veteran's case to the Veterans Treatment Court for a program that typically lasts 12-months and 18-months. Veterans in the criminal justice system charged with any felony that results in a sentence of probation, formally called Community Control Sanctions, are eligible for our program. Veterans are also eligible to participate when released early from prison by the Judge who sentenced the veteran, called Judicial Release. Our goal is to enable veterans released from prison on Post-Release Control, often called parole, to participate.

Veterans are eligible regardless of their type of discharge. Their injuries, substance use disorders and/or mental health diagnosis do not have to be service connected. Those who do not qualify for VA benefits will receive comparable community services in the same manner as other defendants who are on probation. Veterans with a high risk of re-offending in the future and with a high degree of needed treatment or services will be admitted first.

Our VTC is divided into 4 Phases. These phases are consistently monitored by our Treatment Team, which is listed below, and progression to the next phase are made only after the specific requirements are completed. The phases are:

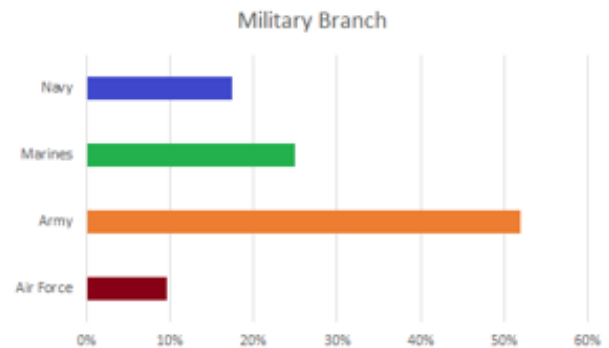
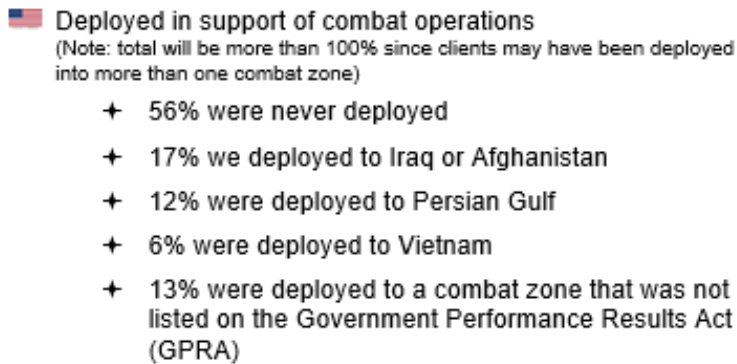
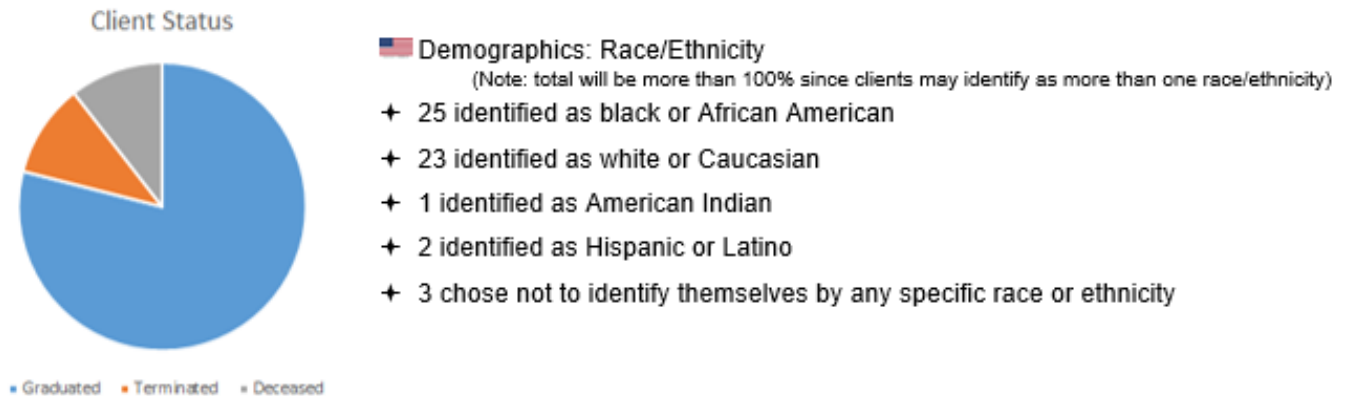
- Phase 1: Orientation/Compliance
- Phase 2: Stabilization
- Phase 3: Community Reintegration
- Phase 4: Maintenance/ Growth and Development and Recognition Ceremony

A key component of our Veterans Treatment Court is the Mentoring Program. Defendants in this program are paired with a veteran who volunteers to provide peer support. This aspect of the program, which is based on their shared military experience, is unique in comparison with other treatment courts, and has proven to be one of the key reasons for the success of the 350 Veterans Treatment Courts across the nation.



## 2017 VTC Highlights and Accomplishments

Year 2 Enrollment from January 1, 2017 through to December 31, 2017, was 86% of the target, with 52 clients entering into the specialized docket program.



**Our Veterans Treatment Court hosted 3 Recognition Ceremonies in February, September, and December of 2017**

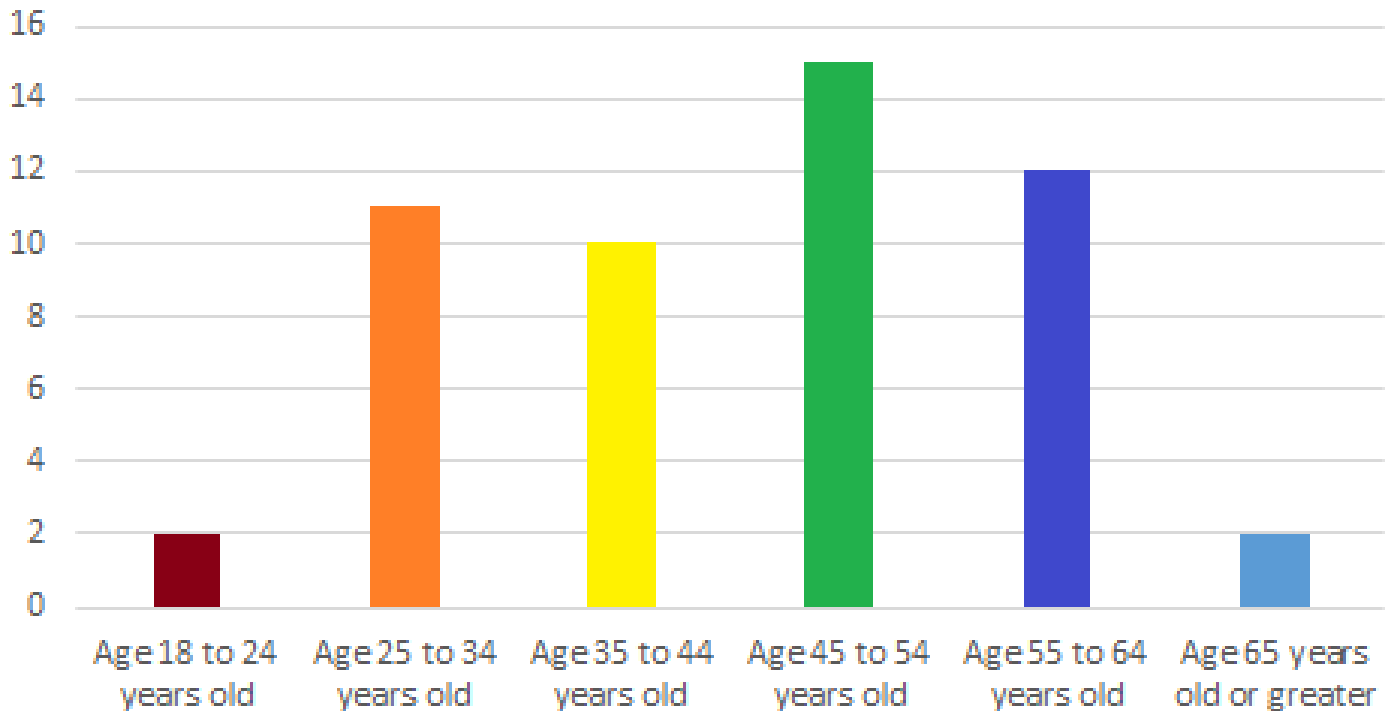
Overall, each veteran who successfully completed their supervision reported to be substance use free, had not re-entered the criminal justice system, had permanent/stable housing, were engaged in a supportive recovery environment and attended an average of eleven 12-step meetings monthly.

A community-based service project must be accomplished before successfully completing the VTC program. For example, many of our veteran graduates decided to pay it forward at local animal shelters and assisting elderly neighbors with house and yard work in their community.

A recent review by the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department indicated that approximately 550 veterans, who acknowledged their military service, were booked into the county jail during a 12-month period. Our VTC continues to meet with jail administration on a weekly basis to encourage a collaborative services approach throughout the criminal justice system.

In 2017, over 200 veterans were provided services. The National Institute of Corrections conducted a 2-day visit, and decided to use the Cuyahoga County model as an example of evidence-based practices for veterans in jail nationwide. They will also be writing a soon-to-be published article about Judge Jackson.

## Client Demographics: Age



The Honorable Michael E. Jackson was recognized and awarded:

- \* Hank Pirowski Award by Justice for Vets, a division of the National Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), for preeminent service to veterans and the Veterans Treatment Court field
- \* A National Service Award and honorary lifetime member by the Vietnam Veterans of America for granting justice-involved veterans an opportunity for redemption
- \* Appointed to serve on the National Institute of Corrections Justice Involved Veterans Board
- \* Rolling Thunder Honorary Speaker
- \* Theater of War, Honorary Panelist, Rochester, NY
- \* Roundtable participant for the NPR IdeaStream Ken Burns Vietnam Special

The NADCP/Vet Court Professionals selected our Veterans Treatment Court Team led by Judge Jackson and Coordinator Amanda Wozniak to present a topic, “Veterans Treatment Court: Lessons Learned After One Year”, at the Annual 2017 National Conference.

The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association recognized our Veterans Treatment Court in their Bar Journal in December 2017.

The Peer Mentor Program associated with our Veterans Treatment Court was officially certified as a 501(c)3 in 2017, under the auspice of the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County. This allows our Mentor Program to receive tax-deductible donations that they will use only to assist the veterans and the overall growth of our program.

Our Veterans Treatment Court welcomed Stephanie Gilliams, and Camille Croft, both United States Army veterans, into the position of Veterans Treatment Court Probation Officers. Their previous professional experiences bring forth leadership skills as well as a wealth of case management knowledge.

Our Veterans Treatment Court welcomed new veteran and community ancillary services, such as the East Side Vet Center, to our treatment team. We are honored to have their expertise in the courthouse and community at large.

With 25 or more years of service with the Court

<b>Kevin C. Augustyn</b>	<b>Assistant Director Magistrates</b>
<b>Bridget Y. Austin</b>	<b>Administrative Aide I</b>
<b>Teroldlyn D. Barkley</b>	<b>Clerk-Typist</b>
<b>Kathleen A. Barry</b>	<b>Foreclosure Scheduler</b>
<b>Robert M. Beck III</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>John T. Bilinski</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Bruce J. Bishilany</b>	<b>Chief Court Reporter</b>
<b>Gary A. Bolinger</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Michael T. Brady</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Dewey D. Buckner</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Erika D. Bush</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>
<b>Jarvis A. Clark</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Rachel Colbert</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Mary J. Cooley</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Michelle L. Davis</b>	<b>Executive Secretary</b>
<b>Mary Kay Ellis</b>	<b>Supervisor Central Scheduling</b>
<b>Vermell Y. Harden</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Mary M. Hayes</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Kathleen A. Kilbane</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Sheila A. Koran</b>	<b>Office Manager</b>
<b>Michelle L. Kozak</b>	<b>Cashier/Bookkeeper</b>
<b>Deborah L. Kracht</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Nicholas P. Marton</b>	<b>Systems Analyst</b>
<b>Laura M. Martz</b>	<b>Clerk-Typist</b>
<b>Tracey L. McCorry</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Denise J. McNea</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Nancy A. Nunes</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Court Reporter</b>
<b>Floyd B. Oliver</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Evangelina Orozco</b>	<b>Bail Investigator</b>
<b>Susan M. Ottogalli</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Patricia A. Parente</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Janna R. Phillips</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Marguerite A. Phillips</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Gregory M. Popovich</b>	<b>Court Administrator</b>
<b>Stephania A. Pryor</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Probation Officer</b>
<b>Miguel A. Quinones</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Cheryl A. Russell</b>	<b>Administrative Aide I</b>
<b>Michael P. Scully</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Melissa M. Singer</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>James E. Starks</b>	<b>Deputy Chief Probation Officer</b>

<b>Brian J. Thelen</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Armatha A. Uwagie-Ero</b>	<b>Clerical Supervisor</b>
<b>Suzanne Vadnal</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Margaret M. Wagner</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Cynthia H. Walker</b>	<b>Social Worker</b>
<b>Kimberlee B. Warren</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Phillip G. Zeitz</b>	<b>Probation Information Specialist</b>

With 20 to 24 years of service with the Court:

<b>Veronica L. Adams</b>	<b>Jury Bailiff Co-Director</b>
<b>Michael H. Aronoff</b>	<b>Chief Psychologist</b>
<b>Lisa S. Austin</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Mary Jo Baden</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Stephanie Wherry Branch</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Monica R. Brown</b>	<b>Clerk-Typist</b>
<b>Stephen M. Bucha III</b>	<b>Director Magistrates</b>
<b>Michael A. Cain</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Michael P. Caso</b>	<b>Chief Social Worker</b>
<b>Joseph I. Cassidy</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>John B. Coakley</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Laura W. Creed</b>	<b>Coordinator Legal Support</b>
<b>Mary Alice Donnelly</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Marlene Ebner</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Brian S. Ely</b>	<b>Substance Abuse Case Manager</b>
<b>Eileen F. Fox</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Keith L. Fromwiller</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Joanne M. Gibbons</b>	<b>Courtroom Assistant</b>
<b>Michelle R. Gordon</b>	<b>Laboratory Assistant</b>
<b>Andrea M. Gorman</b>	<b>Training Specialist</b>
<b>Winston L. Grays</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Sertarian B. Hall</b>	<b>Laboratory Assistant</b>
<b>Lisa M. Hrovat</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Robert A. Intorcio</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>James M. Jeffers</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Colleen A. Kelly</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
<b>Deborah Kreski-Bonanno</b>	<b>Assistant Jury Bailiff</b>
<b>Catrina M. Lockhart</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Steve E. McGinty</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Timothy J. McNally</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Wendy L. McWilliam</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Timothy G. Meinke</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>

<b>Stephen G. Noffsinger</b>	<b>Psychiatrist PT</b>
<b>Patricia A. Palmer</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Kerry L. Paul</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Kellie M. Reeves-Roper</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Kelli A. Summers</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Nicole D. Thomas</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>John L. Thomas, Jr.</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Pamela Thompson</b>	<b>Cashier/Bookkeeper</b>
<b>James M. Toth</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Jennifer E. Vargics</b>	<b>Office Assistant</b>
<b>Lawrence R. Wallace</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Rebecca B. Wetzel</b>	<b>ADR Administrator</b>

with 10 to 19 years of service with the Court:

<b>Gerald Abbadini</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Jessica Amos</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Barbara A. Apanites</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Thomas P. Arnaut</b>	<b>Director Information Systems</b>
<b>Gail D. Baker</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Kelly Barr</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Kathleen M. Barrett</b>	<b>Office Assistant</b>
<b>Tion Benn</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Gwendolyn T. Bennett</b>	<b>Bond Commissioner</b>
<b>Rose M. Bennett</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Patricia I. Bittner</b>	<b>Jury Bailiff Co-Director</b>
<b>Christopher R. Bonezzi</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Maria Grazia Bonezzi</b>	<b>Foreclosure Scheduler</b>
<b>Ronald P. Borchert</b>	<b>Bail Investigator</b>
<b>Maureen M. Broestl</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Judicial Secretary</b>
<b>LaToya D. Brown</b>	<b>Administrative Aide I</b>
<b>Angie D. Bryant</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Nicole Byron</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Weddie D. Carroll</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Jose B. Casiano</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Luann Z. Cawley</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Diane L. Cieply</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Angela D. Collins</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Don D. Crump</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Angela R. Cudo</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Christopher E. Day</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>

<b>Kathleen A. DeCrane</b>	<b>Grand Jury Clerk</b>
<b>Meghan E. Disbrow</b>	<b>Coordinator Mental Health</b>
<b>Marcella A. Distad</b>	<b>Judicial Staff Attorney</b>
<b>Shaunte Dixon</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>John T. Dyke</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>LoriAnne Dyke</b>	<b>Judicial Staff Attorney</b>
<b>Cindy M. Eiben</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Vivian E. Eskridge</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Leila Fahd</b>	<b>Courtroom Assistant</b>
<b>Omer Farhat</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Julie K. Farrell</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Reynaldo Feliciano</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Charise M. Flowers</b>	<b>Receptionist</b>
<b>Anna M. Foley</b>	<b>Courtroom Assistant</b>
<b>I. Jennifer Franklin</b>	<b>Psychologist PT</b>
<b>Julie M. Fritz-Marshall</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Kevin M. Gallagher</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Ann Marie Gardner</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Laura A. Glasgow</b>	<b>Courtroom Assistant</b>
<b>Tracey S. Gonzalez</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Kenya R. Gray</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Erricka L. Grays</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Emily Hagan</b>	<b>Judicial Staff Attorney</b>
<b>Cheryl L. Hannan</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Judicial Staff Attorney</b>
<b>Margaret A. Hastings</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Lisa A. Heathfield</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Aileen M. Hernandez</b>	<b>Psychiatrist PT</b>
<b>Elizabeth A. Hickey</b>	<b>Foreclosure Mediator II</b>
<b>Kevin R. Hippley</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Celeste M. Hodous</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Michelle M. Hoiseth</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Amy R. Jackson</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Kari L. Jones</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>LaToya M. Jones</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Karen M. Jopek</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Bill S. Kavourias</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Andrea R. Kinast</b>	<b>Deputy Court Administrator/Court Operations</b>
<b>Sean A .Kincaid</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Monica C. Klein</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Gregory L. Koterba</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Richard P. Kraft</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>

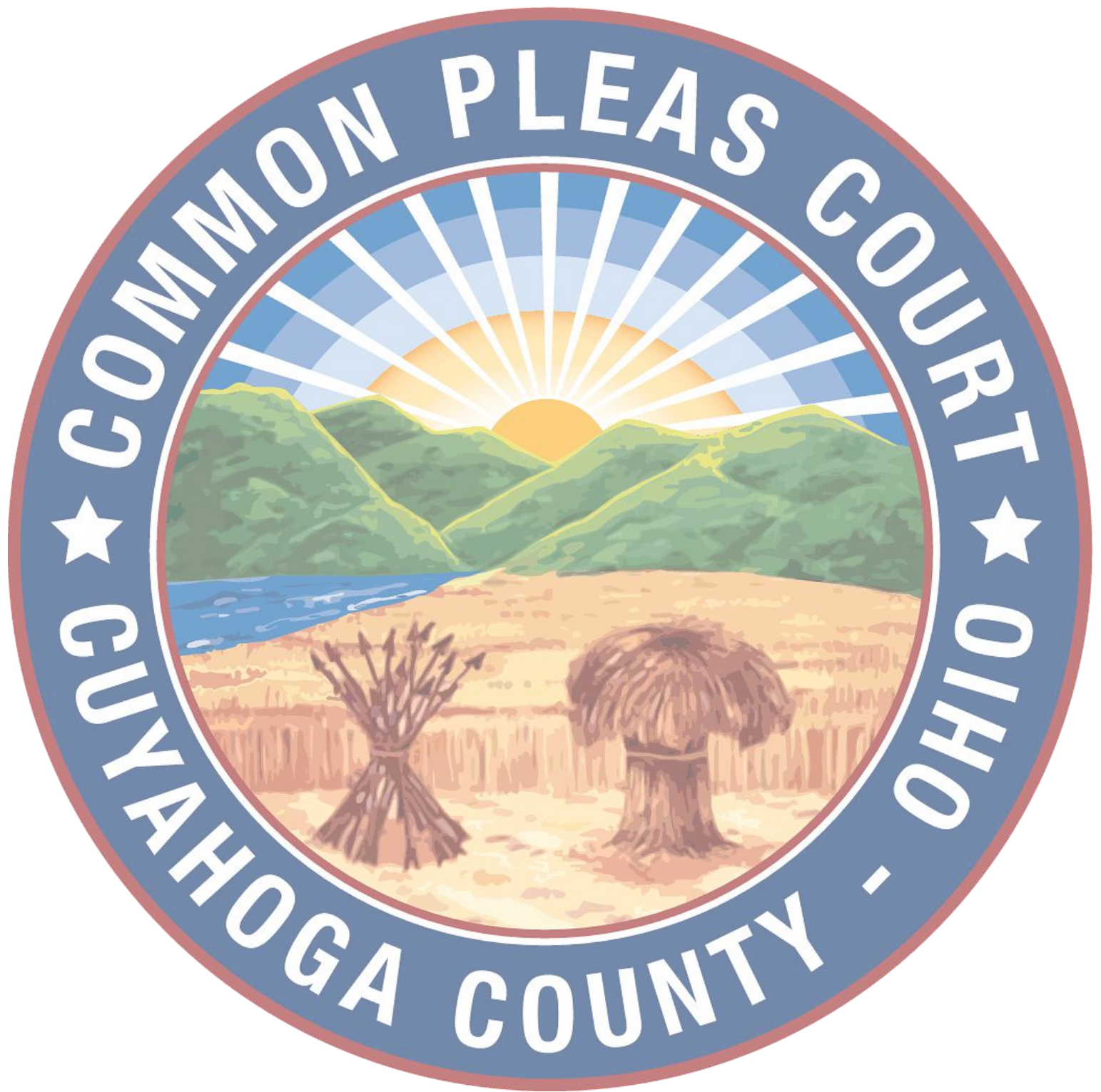
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Jessica E. Lane	Clerk-Typist
Molly Leckler	Coordinator Drug Court
Paul R. Ley	Assistant Dir/Sr Analyst
Robert P. Lloyd	Assistant Chief Court Reporter
Walter J. Luc	Bail Investigator
Paul H. Lucas	Senior Foreclosure Magistrate
Deena M. Lucci	Bailiff
Renee W. Maalouf	Probation Officer
Timothy Malik	Probation Officer
Sabrina M. McClain	Judicial Secretary
Mikel M. McCormick	Probation Officer Supervisor
Regina A. McFarland-Mohr	Assistant Arraignment Room Coordinator
Kelly M. McTaggart	Administrative Assistant
Althea L. Menough	Probation Officer
Marija Mergl	Judicial Staff Attorney
Laura A. Miller	Bailiff
Patricia A. Mingee	Payroll Officer/Administrative Assistant
Nakia U. Mitchell	Probation Officer
Jennifer K. Moody-Davis	Substance Abuse Case Manager
Eric D. Moten	Probation Officer
Maria Nemec	Chief Probation Officer
Dawn E. Norman	Foreclosure Scheduler
Philip M. Novak	Probation Lead Officer
Matthew W. O'Brien	Probation Officer Supervisor
Anita B. Olsafsky	Laboratory Technologist
Sarah J. O'Shaughnessy	Bailiff
Cheryl C. Parker	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kathleen A. Patton	Cashier/Bookkeeper
Maureen Povinelli	Assistant Court Reporter
Molly W. Rakic	Probation Officer
Ellen A. Rassie	Assistant Court Reporter
Lauren M. Rivera	Probation Officer
James R. Rodio	Psychiatrist PT
Loretta Ryland	Research Planner
Marybeth Sammon	Office Manager
Bradley J. Schleter	Probation Lead Officer
Patricia K. Schmitz	Clerk-Typist
Mary Ellen Schuler	Assistant Court Reporter
Thomas W. Sedgwick	Laboratory Assistant
Michele M. Severt	Probation Officer
Mary Jo Shannon	Office Assistant

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<b>Lakisha Sharp</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Patrick M. Shepard</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Tammy L. Sherman</b>	<b>Probation Officer Supervisor</b>
<b>Sherif Soliman</b>	<b>Psychiatrist PT</b>
<b>Patrice P. Stack</b>	<b>Bailiff - Administrative Judge</b>
<b>Joy Ellen Stankowski</b>	<b>Psychiatrist PT</b>
<b>Leslie A. Svoboda</b>	<b>Bailiff</b>
<b>Shontrell Thompson</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Carlos L. Torres</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Minerva Torres</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Sarah M. Tuggey</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Mathew J. Urbancich</b>	<b>Probation Lead Officer</b>
<b>Tracy L. Vargo</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Margaret G. Wallison</b>	<b>Bailiff - Asbestos</b>
<b>Carol A. Weiss</b>	<b>Senior Foreclosure Magistrate</b>
<b>Ilene E. White</b>	<b>Assistant Court Reporter</b>
<b>Ritamarie White</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Thomas A. Wiktorowski</b>	<b>Courtroom Assistant</b>
<b>Derrick A. Wilson</b>	<b>Grand Jury Clerk</b>
<b>Christopher A. Wise</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>Latanya R. Wise</b>	<b>Clerk-Typist</b>
<b>Michael G. Yezbak</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>





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