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Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court

# Annual Report

*2020*



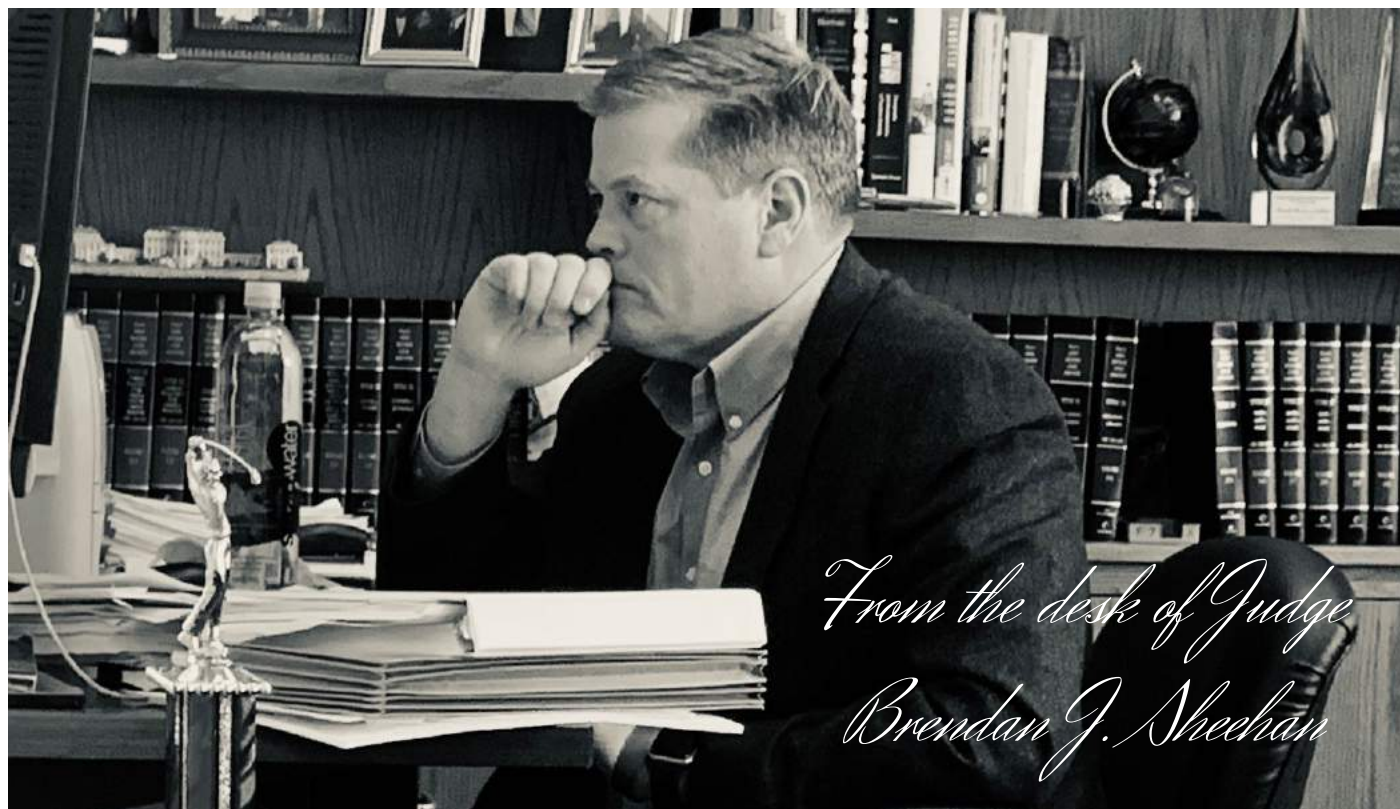


**Judge Brendan J. Sheehan,  
Administrative and Presiding Judge**

Judge Dick Ambrose  
Judge Deena R. Calabrese  
Judge J. Philip Calabrese  
Judge Maureen E. Clancy  
Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams  
Judge Brian J. Corrigan  
Judge Peter J. Corrigan  
Judge Nancy A. Fuerst  
Judge Steven E. Gall  
Judge Hollie L. Gallagher  
Judge Kelly A. Gallagher  
Judge Shannon M. Gallagher  
Judge Daniel Gaul  
Judge Emily Hagan  
Judge Wanda C. Jones\*  
Judge Ashley Kilbane  
Judge David T. Matia

Judge Robert C. McClelland  
Judge Timothy McCormick  
Judge Nancy R. McDonnell  
Judge William T. McGinty  
Judge Sherrie Miday  
Judge John P. O'Donnell  
Judge John J. Russo  
Judge Joseph D. Russo  
Judge Michael J. Russo  
Judge Nancy Margaret Russo  
Judge Shirley Strickland Saffold  
Judge Michael Shaughnessy  
Judge John D. Sutula  
Judge Kathleen Ann Sutula  
Judge Joan Synenberg  
Judge Deborah M. Turner

\*Judge Richard A. Bell replaced Judge Jones on December 3, 2020.



*From the desk of Judge  
Brendan J. Sheehan*

The 2020 Annual Report for the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court – General Division is different from what we would have expected when 2019 came to an end. I started my first year as Administrative and Presiding Judge in January, and soon started paying attention to news reports of a virus that was spreading across the globe. In early March, we knew it was just a matter of time before COVID-19 would impact our Court and the Cuyahoga County Jail.

Efforts to combat the pandemic are chronicled in this report, but I can summarize a few things. We essentially shut down jury trials in March, only holding them for a few months in the fall before a spike in COVID-19 cases forced us to shut them down again. We outfitted our courtrooms with large monitors and Zoom accounts to hold hearings virtually. We fast-tracked cases in which defendants were in the jail to clear bed space to allow jail medical personnel to treat COVID-19 patients. We implemented sanitization measures and placed Plexiglas barriers in our courtrooms. Some staff worked remotely.

But we never closed our court. Our Judges and staff did incredible work to make sure that we could keep the justice system moving whenever it was in our power to do so. I thank and applaud them all.

Many of the changes we made in 2020 will continue. Albert Einstein said, “In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.” We took every opportunity to look at what changes could be made to improve the justice system and access to justice.

As I write this, trials have resumed and we are cautiously optimistic about the future thanks to COVID-19 vaccines and the public’s adherence health protocols.

I want to thank our previous Administrative and Presiding Judge, John J. Russo, for his six years of leading the Court from 2014 through 2019. His leadership was exceptional and we are grateful that he continues to serve on our Bench as a valued colleague.

*Brendan J. Sheehan*

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*GREGORY M. POPOVICH,  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR*

# COURT ADMINISTRATION



*ANDREA R. KINAST*  
Deputy Court Administrator  
Director of Court Operations

*CHRISTOPHER J. RUSS*  
Deputy Court Administrator  
Director of Human Resources

## **Administration Staff**

**Court Administrator**

**Deputy Court Administrator/Court  
Operations**

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

**Director of Fiscal Operations**

**Community Outreach  
Coordinator/Public Information Officer**

**Director of Training & Development**

**Administrative Assistant/Payroll  
Officer**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Administrative Aide**

The Judges and nearly 500 staff of the Common Pleas Court are dedicated to providing fair, accessible and efficient justice for all persons. 2020 presented unprecedented challenges as the world coped with the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Court, we are used to thousands of people coming through our doors weekly. Through the efforts of the dedicated Judges and staff, in order to maintain safe and efficient operations and to meet its constitutional obligations, the Court made changes in 2020 that will impact us and the citizens of Cuyahoga County for years to come.

### **THANK YOU JUDGES AND STAFF**

Our Court is proud of the fact that, although jury trials were suspended for the greater part of 2020, our doors never closed. We always had staff on hand to answer phones, or questions from people who came to the Justice Center. While a number of people worked remotely, or in a combination of in-person and remote, we never stopped serving the citizens of Cuyahoga County.

This could not have been accomplished without the leadership of Administrative and Presiding Judge Brendan J. Sheehan, our 34 Judges, our team in Court Administration, and a staff that worked tirelessly under unique and challenging circumstances.

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC & SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS IN 2020**

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, swift action was taken by the Court to protect the public and staff. The Court worked with County Administration, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, defense attorneys, and Sheriff's department/Jail Management corrections staff to quickly reduce the population of the Cuyahoga County jail. This was done so that medical teams could be prepared to treat and minimize COVID-19 outbreaks and to make every effort to protect the people working and housed in the County Jail.

We worked with Cuyahoga County Public Works to make the Justice Center a healthier place for people to work in and visit. The Court put strict mask and social distancing protocols in place. Thanks to the hard work of staff and the Trades in the County's Public Works Department, all 34 courtrooms were outfitted with Plexiglas barriers to protect jurors and any parties involved with in-person proceedings. The courthouse's HVAC system was upgraded to allow more fresh air into the building, and ultraviolet lights were installed to sanitize the air. We developed a QR Code system for hands-free contact tracing in case we needed to inform a visitor of potential COVID-19 exposure. Work places were also outfitted with Plexiglas to protect staff and the public from exposure. This is just a sampling of some of numerous changes that were made to combat COVID-19 in the courthouse. The Court extends its appreciation to the staff and Trades in Public Works for their assistance during these challenging times.

Significant time and resources were expended on a number of other projects in 2020 and in response to the pandemic. Below is a sampling of some of these projects.

At the onset of the pandemic, it was essential that the Court move toward handling court proceedings remotely when possible. This prevented the transport of some people from the County Jail to the courtroom and limited the number of visitors in the courthouse. A key project was installing 86-inch interactive video monitors in each of our courtrooms so that Judges and staff could see and hear people by video during court proceedings. The monitors also provided a vehicle to present digital evidence and online video testimony during court hearings. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and the cost of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund. To facilitate the remote hearings, after testing several different Internet based video platforms, the Court purchased ZOOM licenses for each courtroom and our various departments. This investment in technology provided the Court the ability to conduct hearings remotely with defendants in the County Jail and with parties and attorneys in both civil and criminal matters, unless a Judge felt it was necessary to be with the parties in person. In those instances, social-distancing was observed and the courtrooms were sanitized after the hearings. The new technology is also used by the Court's Mediators and Magistrates to hold mediations and foreclosure proceedings remotely. Remote video also became the norm for holding meetings and to offer trainings as well. The use of this new remote technology dramatically changed the Court's culture and will continue to be used by Judges and Court staff in the future.

New headsets for language interpretations during hearings were deployed to interpreters in courtrooms. The headsets allow the interpreter to social-distance between parties during a courtroom proceeding. The new headsets also improve communication and allows for efficient hand-offs between interpreters when multiple translators are needed. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

New portable audio enhancement and sound reinforcement systems supported ZOOM calls and hybrid court hearings during the pandemic in 2020 and beyond. Additional audio reinforcement equipment supported the voir dire of the jury and other court hearings. These technologies supported safe distancing and the CDC guidelines for in-person interactions in the courtrooms. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

To expand our ability to work remotely, the Court purchased more than two hundred (200) laptop computers for all essential staff who could do work from home. This was essential in the Probation Department as we outfitted almost 180 staff members with laptops that not only provided them a remote connection to the Court's network, but also provided the Officers the ability to communicate remotely with probationers as well.

The Court also purchased additional software that allows staff to work remotely in a secured environment when using their own home computers. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

Purchasing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Judges, staff, County agencies and the public was a major focus for Court Administration. Masks and hand sanitizer were procured from a number of different sources locally and nationally so that PPE could be available for anyone needing it. The Court also provided masks to the public and other County entities prior to them becoming available by the County. This was essential as the Court ordered all persons entering and working in the courthouse to wear a mask.

The Administration continues to replace its aging, 1970's cloth furniture with modern non-cloth furnishings. The expectation is that at some point in the near future, all cloth seating in the courthouse will be replaced without the need of Cuyahoga County taxpayer monies with non-cloth options that are easy to maintain and clean and do not create a possible health hazard. In 2020, the Court replaced all the jury box chairs in the 34 courtrooms. Additionally, due to the pandemic, the chairs had to be modified so that they could be placed outside of the jury box until there was a time when they could be relocated to their normal position. The project was funded without the expenditure of Cuyahoga County taxpayer monies and funding of the project did not negatively impact the General Fund.

The Court began implementation of its Returning Home Pilot Project in 2020. The pilot project assists people who are homeless and have a mental illness to find permanent housing. The project provides a team of professionals who try to meet the mental health needs of this population and to find and maintain permanent housing in the community. In addition to funding community professionals to assist this population, the Court also created and funds a Probation Officer position that specializes in working with the homeless population. The project also offers incentives to landlords to provide housing for this population. It is hoped that the project, over time, will reduce the cycle of visits to the emergency room, decrease multiple arrests and incarcerations in the County Jail, and minimize probation violations. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

The Court also began implementing a Jail Shelter Diversion Pilot Program in 2020. For this pilot program, the Court partnered with the Cleveland Mediation Center to incorporate shelter diversion and mediation techniques prior to release for individuals rather than waiting until they are in the community. One goal is to prevent people on pre-trial or probation who are incarcerated (either homeless or in unstable housing) from entering into the shelter system after release. Another goal is to reduce future arrests and incarcerations in the County Jail or the prison system. The project was funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund.

The Court began implementation of its texting project in 2019. The project gave the Court the ability to contact individuals with pending criminal cases by text to notify them of court hearing dates. The new system sends texts to a person in three separate instances; when the hearing or event is scheduled, seven days before the day of the event, and the day before. The project is funded without the expenditure of additional taxpayer monies and funding of the project will not negatively impact the General Fund. The project expanded in 2020 beyond the pilot stage for all criminal matters. Implementation of a pilot also began to include people on Probation/Community Control.

The opioid epidemic continues to substantially impact the residents of Cuyahoga County, the Judges and the operations of the Court. Courts throughout the State continue to experience an alarming number of deaths caused by opiate overdoses. Ohio continues to be one of the hardest hit states nationally in the number of per capita deaths caused by opiate overdoses and Cuyahoga County specifically has some of the highest overdose numbers in the State attributed to opiate and/or fentanyl overdoses. In response, the Court, continued to commit significant resources to treat the growing number of people addicted to opiates in our community in 2020. To meet this need, the Court continued to receive and 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 provide 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.



It should be noted that due to a substantial decrease in the number of cases filed, especially cases related to drug abuse, the Court saw fewer people in its programs in 2020. However, it is anticipated that as conditions improve, the number of individuals treated will return to normal levels.

## **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 2020, the Court's Criminal Case Clearance rate was 103%, primarily because of a substantial decrease of over 4,721 cases filed during the year. In 2020, a total of 16,849 civil cases were filed / reactivated, a decrease of 3,455 cases. A total of 8,806 new criminal arraignments, about 2,726 cases less than 2019 (and 1,766 reactivations), were held. A total of 25,655 new cases/reactivations were filed in 2020. This was a decrease of about 8,176 cases in comparison to 2019. Calendar year 2019 concluded with 15,362 cases pending.

Of the civil docket 4,186 (new filings) cases were foreclosures, a decrease of nearly 1.4% from 2019, due mostly to the federal moratorium on foreclosure filings in response to the pandemic. In all, foreclosure cases comprised 25% of all new civil case filings. Civil case filings decreased in 2020 by 17% because of the pandemic.

Additionally, legislation (Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison or T-CAP became mandatory in 2018 and limits on probation violations were imposed) 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. Additionally, specialized dockets, which are 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, place additional responsibilities on Judges and staff and stress already limited resources.

Productivity and efficiency are only two means for measuring performance of the Court. While gauging productivity and efficiency through empirical measurement is significant, more importantly, the Court must strive for justice in the resolution of each case that affects the rights and obligations of each individual or entity.

## **THE TRIAL COURT**

In 2020, the Court's 34 Judges conducted 81 jury trials; 67 for criminal cases and 14 civil jury trials. The Judges conducted 62 bench trials in 2020. Overall, jury and bench trials were down in 2020 (143) in comparison to 2019 (377) primarily because of the pandemic.

## **SPECIALIZED DOCKETS/PROGRAMS**

In 2020, Judge Hollie L. Gallagher was the Chair of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court. The MHDD Court said goodbye to Judge Robert C. McClelland in 2020 and welcomed Judge Deborah Turner to the docket. Judge Turner joins Judges Deena R. Calabrese, Shannon M. Gallagher and Michael P. Shaughnessy as the other assigned Judges to this docket. The highlight for 2020 was the continuation of the Court's Stepping-Up Initiative. Thanks to the efforts of Judge Hollie L. Gallagher and staff, this Initiative continues to bring providers and government entities in Cuyahoga County together to discuss important topics impacting people with mental illnesses and to take significant steps in the criminal justice system to meet the needs of persons with a mental illness.

Drug Court continued in 2020. The Court has several Drug Court dockets that focus on persons with specific needs. Judge David T. Matia, who was the Court's first Drug Court Judge, continues to handle a docket that focusing on matters requiring Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). The Court received continued funding from a federal grant in 2019 that expanded the services offered and the number of people treated with MAT. Judge Nancy R. McDonnell is the Court's other Drug Court Judge. She presides over cases assigned to its general docket.

A third 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 filled a critical hole in the justice system as it focused on serving the special needs of women. This docket continued to admit the maximum number of persons in 2020 as the project continues to identify a large population of people who require the special attention this specialized court docket provides. Federal funding of this docket ended in 2020, however, the Court continues to fund the docket because of its enormous positive impact on the people who come before it. This docket continues to treat persons with trauma related issues. The Court, thanks to the efforts of Judge Synenberg, applied for and received a continuation grant from the NORD Family Foundation to coordinate/expand pro bono services to all persons on specialized dockets in 2019. This funding continued into 2020. It is believed that this project is the first of its kind in Ohio and possibly the United States. This unique service is important because it is known that various legal issues add additional stress that increases the risks of addiction and mental health issues for people. It is hoped that providing these pro bono services will assist in the treat and recovery of persons on the Court's various specialized dockets.

Although the number of people admitted into the various Drug Courts were much lower in 2020 due to a decrease in case filings, a number of graduation ceremonies for successful candidates continued to be held virtually during the year for all of the Drug Court dockets.

Re-Entry Court continued to accept new people in 2020 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. Upon exiting prison, It provides participants resources that allow them opportunities as they return as productive members of society.

Judge John J. Russo presides over the Veterans Treatment Court. This specialized docket is federally funded by a grant and it integrates the principles of Drug Court and the MHDD Court to serve military veterans and active duty personnel. In 2020, funding continued for this docket and provides the Court the ability to serve the important needs of military veterans.

## **UPDATING PERFORMANCE MEASURES and OTHER STATISTICS**

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. In 2007, 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.

Over the years, the Court has added to the performance measures. Throughout 2020, the Court continued to allocate resources to update the CourTools' performance measures and other statistics found on the Court's web page.

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 along with other applicable statistics. 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.

## **TRAINING and DEVELOPMENT**

Training and Development for Judges, staff and counsel continued in 2020. Some of the courses offered include:

- Continuing Legal Education (Friday Forums) for Assigned Counsel, Public Defender, and Court staff
- Civil Treatment for Employees and/or Leaders (including Sexual Harassment)
- Summer Intern Programming
- Stokes Scholars Programming
- Organizational Development work with TASC
- Onboarding program design
- Curriculum development with Committees: Mentoring, Trauma-Informed Courts
- Curriculum development for Litmos: Leadership 1 and 2, DISC, Ethics, Mentoring, Safety, Onboarding
- ZOOM training for Judges and staff and ZOOM tutorials upon request

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

Community outreach took on a new importance in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By utilizing our Court's website and Twitter account, we were able to keep the public updated on the status of the justice system. This included all Administrative Orders issued due to the pandemic, a real-time update of COVID-19 cases involving any Court staff or visitors to the Court, and changes in operations of our various departments due to the pandemic.

Court in the Classroom, our program for holding hearings in Cuyahoga County middle schools, had to be suspended in early March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to hold a few sessions in 2020, and plan to resume the program in the fall of 2021. First staged in 2014, Court in the Classroom allows real cases to be held in front of 8th grade students, and then follows-up with explanations and a review of the Court. Students can then ask questions of the Judge, attorneys, bailiffs, and court reporters.

In 2020, the Court continued projects under the Community Outreach umbrella including:

- A monthly internal newsletter titled "From The Bench;"
- Increased communication with local media;
- News releases about Court happenings;
- Hosting a student art exhibit in celebration of Black History Month in February. A number of students donated their work to be displayed in our hallways;
- Marking Mental Health Awareness Month by hosting an on-line art exhibit by clients of Recovery Resources, an organization dedicated to serving those with addictions;
- An ongoing clothes drive through Planet-Aid to collect items for men and women being released from prison and starting their re-entry journey;

COVID-19 forced us to suspend a few programs, which will resume in 2021 or 2022. These include 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; and the Harvest For Hunger food drive events to benefit the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

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 2020, 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.

*COLLEEN BROWN,  
DIRECTOR OF FISCAL  
OPERATIONS*

# FISCAL REPORT



The 2020 actual General Fund expenditures of \$49,865,335 represent funding for the Judicial Administration, Magistrates, Court Services, and Probation/Psychiatric Clinic budgets. The General Fund for Cuyahoga County supports the majority of the Court's operations. The Court is constitutionally entitled to reasonable allocation for its operations. The 2020 General Fund expenditures listed by individual budget are as follows:

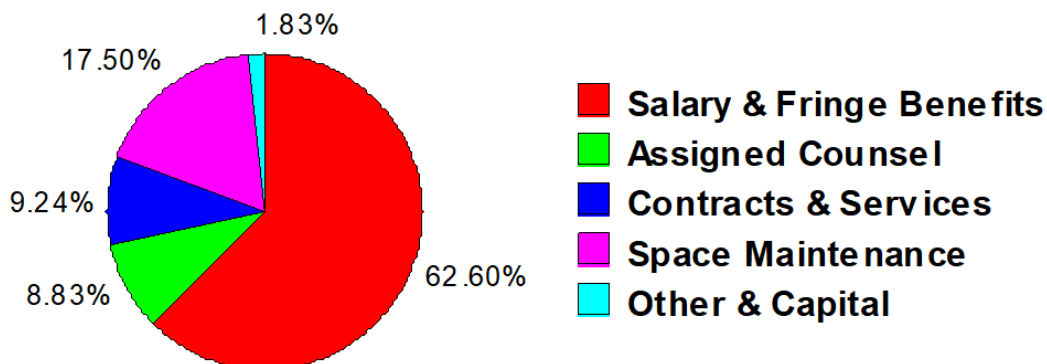
**Judicial Administration Budget \$25,793,798** - This included funding for the following departments: Judicial, Administration, Bailiffs, Jury Bailiffs, Jury Commission, Judicial Staff Attorneys, and Judges' Secretaries.

**Magistrates Budget \$1,880,330** - This included funding for the following departments: Dispute Resolution and Magistrates.

**Court Services Budget \$8,097,833** - This included funding for the following departments: Central Scheduling, Court Systems, Data Entry, Court Reporters, Criminal Records, and Information Systems.

**Probation/Psychiatric Budget \$14,093,374** - This included funding for the following departments: Probation and the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

## COMMON PLEAS COURT 2020 - GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



<b>Salary &amp; Fringe Benefits</b>	31,216,684	62.60%
<b>Assigned Counsel</b>	4,403,155	8.83%
<b>Contracts &amp; Services</b>	4,607,562	9.24%
<b>Space Maintenance</b>	8,726,885	17.50%
<b>Other &amp; Capital</b>	911,049	1.83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,865,335</b>	<b>100%</b>

The chart summarizes the Court's General Fund Expenditures for 2020. 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 499 full and part-time staff, inclusive of 34 elected judges.

The second largest category, Space Maintenance, has increased by 77.6% over 2019. 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 the Court's control.

In 2020, the total number of arraigned indigent defendants was 5,225; of that total, 2,090 were then assigned to the Public Defender's Office at the time of arraignment. The Assigned Counsel expense listed above is not adjusted for reimbursement by the State of Ohio to the General Fund for these costs, estimated at 85% for the first half of 2020. The rate decreased from 85% to 80% during 2020.

# INFORMATION SYSTEMS

*THOMAS ARNAUT,  
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION  
SYSTEMS*



## **Staff**

Assistant Director  
Systems Analyst  
Network Manager  
Network Engineer  
Network Administrator  
Network Technicians

Court Technology Specialist  
Probation Information Systems Specialist  
Office Manager  
2 Office Assistants  
Project Manager  
2 Programmers

## **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, laptops and tablets, 48 network servers, 12 local area networks, all connected through the county's wide area network. Applications range from the Court's primary case management system, web applications, web sites, as well as 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 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, court operations adjusted to accommodate limited in-person court proceedings. The Court took numerous actions to minimize person-to-person contact.

Information Systems increased its support and training for staff working offsite using laptops and video conferencing technologies. Additionally, the Court acquired large portable displays, computers and webcams for each courtroom. This enabled courts to have hybrid hearings where some participants attended online while others were in the courtroom.

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

### **Network & Computer Services**

·The Court's server infrastructure consists of 7 physical servers 5 of which will be virtualized in the coming year. The data capacity of the storage array for the virtual environment remains at 61 terabytes. We are currently utilizing 12.8% of that capacity or roughly 7.8 terabytes.

·42 new moveable large screen MondoPad systems were deployed for all 34 courtrooms, 2 for the conference rooms in the Justice Center Annex, 2 for the Old Courthouse, 1 for the Jury Sequester room, 2 for the CBCF and 1 for the 12th floor education center. This improves court proceedings and enables better communication inside and outside of the courtroom when a streaming video connection is used.

·180 new laptops were purchased and distributed to all Probation Officers allowing them to perform their jobs remotely.

·Retiring physical fax machines and moving to a RightFax scalable fax server solution reduces the cost of hardware, toner and paper. Users now fax directly from business applications and workstations. This speeds document delivery while improving integration with the workflow.

·An upgrade our disaster recovery appliance and larger capacity cloud storage accommodates ever growing data needs.

### **Technology Support and Training**

·The Court's Computer Help Desk staff cleared thousands of computer and printer related support requests. Technology training and application troubleshooting was continuous, supporting the new court operations and procedures for working from home. Supporting and training of judges, bailiffs and staff attorneys on new MondoPad hardware. Also supporting the Court's case management system, Windows, Office applications, Zoom video and audio connections, wherever court staff are working.

·To support modern flexible work environments, the court continues to develop a continuous learning culture within the organization:

- Technology training resources are available both in-person onsite and online
- Online instructional content, courses and videos are on the Court's Learning Center intranet
- User support for Microsoft Office and the Justice Information System is provided on site and remotely

Security screening systems are located at entrances continue to provide security for Court proceedings and Probation operations. Specialized training for the security screening equipment is ongoing and supports staff when needed. This improves efforts in identifying visitors with possible contraband and enhances security for Court staff.

## **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. Court Systems also provides training and assistance to judges and staff who choose to enter journal entries themselves.

·The Court Systems area produced 6,889 journal entries in 2020. A 54% drop from 14,917 journal entries completed in 2019. The difference is a direct result of delayed court hearings and case activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Solutions & Innovation**

·Reminder Texting Service: A new texting service integrated with the Court's case management system has proven its value by providing timely updates, Court dates, trial reminders, and notifications to those affiliated with each case. Information is now texted to parties' cellphones who have agreed and approved of the optional service.

·Common Pleas Court Website and Intranet: Information Systems continues to support the public and staff with current and relevant information. Working alongside Community Relations, we continue to provide support updates and new website features that enable timely public and staff communications.

·Court Learning Center: Technical information developed in support of staff working remotely proved critical in 2020. Online professional development provides staff access to training materials 24/7 at anytime and anywhere. The Court's Learning Center helps keep staff on track with new technology, software applications, continuing legal education, and compliance courses. The system provides remote access to training materials, improves compliance and the learning experience.

·Document Scanning and Archiving: Information Systems continues 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. Information Systems works with departments to implement proper archival methods through analyzing their processes, assisting with document scanning, providing proper network storage and microfilming records when necessary.

·Courtroom Visual Displays: Whether the court proceedings are online, in the courtroom or both, large 85" portable displays provide easier viewing of digital evidence and online video testimony. Deployment of additional audio systems provide improved audio and sound during video calls since people are masked and supporting proper distancing protocols.

·Language interpretation: New headsets for language interpretations during hearings deployed to interpreters in courtrooms. Headsets allow the interpreter to have some distance between parties during a courtroom hearing. This improves communication and allows for efficient hand-offs between interpreters when multiple translators are needed.

·Improved Sound and Technology Systems: New portable audio enhancement and sound reinforcement systems support Zoom calls and hybrid court hearings during the pandemic in 2020 and beyond. Additional audio reinforcement equipment supports the voir dire of the jury and other court hearings. A variety of flexible technology solutions continues to support the varied requirements of each courtroom and trial. These technologies support safe distancing and the CDC guidelines for in-person interactions at the court.



*MARIA NEMEC,  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER*

# ADULT PROBATION



*STEPHANIA PRYOR*  
Deputy Chief  
Probation Officer

*TAMMY SHERMAN\**  
Deputy Chief  
Probation Officer

\*Replaced Jim Starks who retired in May of 2020

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.

## STAFF

19 – Supervisors (3 vacancies)

152 – PO's (6 vacancies)

1 – Training Specialist

1 – Executive Secretary

1 – Clerical Supervisor

11 – Clerk Typists

4 – Admin Aides  
(includes 1 vacancy)

1 – Fiscal Supervisor

3 – Cashiers

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 make positive changes in behavior, 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 Reports

1,697 completed

- Thorough investigation of current offense
- Criminal history check
- Risk assessment 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 risk and special population considerations
- 28 days to complete a Bail PSI, 21 days to complete a Jail PSI

### Post-Sentence reports

533 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

1,137 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

34 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 consideration 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
- Summary of Petitioner's rationale for CQE request

## PRETRIAL SERVICES

### COURT SUPERVISED RELEASE (CSR) PROGRAM

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

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

Court Supervised Release	
Individuals released from jail under CSR as a condition of bond	1,956
Individuals under CSR as of December 31, 2020	863

# DIVERSION PROGRAMS

## PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office implemented the Pretrial Diversion Program in conjunction with the Court of Common Pleas in March 1993. The program, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 2935.36, accepts 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, and the maximum allowable restitution amount is \$7,500. The Pretrial Unit provides services to the County Prosecutor's Pretrial Diversion Program. Services currently consist of:

1) 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 2020, 411 defendants were placed into Diversion; 243 individuals were in Diversion as of December 31, 2020.**

## EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EIP)

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) targets first time offenders with a pending felony drug charge and provides them with appropriate drug treatment services within 45 days of arrest. The goal is early intervention and treatment for those offenders who are in need of substance abuse, and/or mental health services. Offenders are placed on Court Supervised Release (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.

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) provides substance use assessments for all defendants participating in EIP. Participants may also be referred for drug and alcohol treatment and case management services. To complete the program successfully, offenders must complete at least six months of project supervision, be drug free for at least 90 days, and satisfy other court ordered requirements.

**In 2020, 16 offenders were placed into EIP; 13 individuals were in EIP as of December 31, 2020.**

## INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION

This specialized program is designed to meet the unique needs of probationers with minimal prior criminal histories, who have significant substance abuse and/or mental health problems that contributed to the underlying offense for which they are charged. Probationers who file a motion for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction, prior to entering guilty pleas, are required to complete a thorough substance abuse and/or mental health evaluation at an accredited community based treatment facility, and receive a recommendation for the program by their assessing counselor. The Court will refer potential offenders to the Court Psychiatric Clinic or accredited drug/ alcohol treatment agency for eligibility assessment. The Clinic advises the Court of their recommendations and the Court makes final determination for program participation.

Upon successful completion of the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction program, which requires a minimum of one (1) year of supervision, the indictment is dismissed and all records of the offense can be later sealed, if deemed appropriate by the Court.

The offender's defense attorney may request that the Court consider the offender for referral to the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction program (O.R.C. 2951.041), if an offender alleges that, at the time of committing the criminal offense with which the offender is charged, the offender had a mental illness, was a person with an intellectual disability, and that the mental illness status as a person with an intellectual disability, was a factor leading to that offense

Eligibility is based on the criteria outlined in ORC 2951.04.1. Acceptance into this program requires that the offender enter a guilty plea to the pending charge. However, further criminal proceedings are stayed pending successful completion of the program.

**In 2020, there were 365 referrals to the ILC program. At the close of 2020, there were 262 active ILC cases**

## 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. Officers utilize a Behavioral Response System (BRP) matrix to respond to both pro-social and non-compliant behavior.

### OHIO RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ORAS)

The Probation Department utilizes the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The University of Cincinnati developed the ORAS 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. Seventy percent (70.1%) of the 5,282 defendants on probation as of December 31, 2020, have an ORAS Risk Score.

Extreme High	High	Moderate	Low Moderate	Low	Total
80	1,012	1,567	234	828	3,721
2.15%	27.20%	42.11%	6.29%	22.25%	100%

### END OF THE YEAR STATISTICS

<b>Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2020</b>	<b>5,282</b>
<b>Defendants on probation as of December 31, 2019</b>	<b>6,549</b>
<b>Highest-level conviction is a felony</b>	<b>4,437 (84%)</b>
<b>Highest-level conviction is a misdemeanor</b>	<b>845 (16%)</b>



## DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PROBATION/COMMUNITY CONTROL BY SUPERVISION GROUP

<b>Bottle</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Moderate Risk - Evidence Based	711	13.46%
High Risk (GRPD)	601	11.38%
Moderate Risk - Regular Probation	507	9.60%
Domestic Violence Unit	449	8.50%
Low Risk	362	6.85%
Mental Health Unit	354	6.70%
Low / Low Mod - Traditional Probation - Westside	287	5.43%
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction	262	4.96%
CBCF	243	4.60%
Sex Offender Unit	197	3.73%
Electronic Monitoring GPS	193	3.65%
Low Moderate Risk	192	3.63%
Criminal Non Support	177	3.35%
Criminal Non Support – Intensive Supervision (FCNS)	167	3.16%
Developmental Disabilities Unit	158	2.99%
Moderate Risk - Intensive Supervision	90	1.70%

Drug Court Track 1 (Diversion)	46	< 1%
Veterans Court	42	< 1%
Intensive Supervision for Misdemeanor	42	< 1%
Interstate Compact – Courtesy Supervision	40	< 1%
DRUG COURT MAT TRK 1 DIV	34	< 1%
RECOVERY COURT TRK 1 DIV	33	< 1%
Employment	23	< 1%
Extreme High Risk	22	< 1%
RECOVERY COURT TRK 2 NON-DIV	16	< 1%
Drug Court Track 2 (Non Diversion)	11	< 1%
Re-Entry Court	10	< 1%
Gun Violence Intervention	8	< 1%
DRUG COURT MAT TRK 2 NON-DIV	5	< 1%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SUPERVISION CASES

Defendant Age	Total	Percent
Between 18 and 22	510	9.65%
Between 23 and 27	948	17.94%
Between 28 and 32	1044	19.76%
Between 33 and 37	793	15.01%
Between 38 and 42	655	12.40%
Between 43 and 46	347	6.57%
Between 47 and 51	386	7.30%
Between 52 and 56	272	5.15%
Between 57 and older	327	6.20%
Under 18	1	0.03%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5282</b>	

Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian	3	11	14
Black	623	2881	3504
Hispanic	32	106	138
Other	21	94	115
White	399	1112	1511
	<b>1078</b>	<b>4204</b>	<b>5282</b>

In 2020, an additional 218 offenders were accepted for courtesy supervision from counties within the State of Ohio; offenders sentenced to community control in various Ohio counties, but residing in Cuyahoga County.

22% of the probation population was female.

In 2020, there were 146 active defendants with military experience.

Military Branch	Total
Air Force	10
Army	53
Coast Guard	2
Marines	30
National Guard	15
Navy	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>

### **LOW RISK SUPERVISION**

Low Risk (Group A) currently has one officer supervising approximately 350 offenders. Defendants in this group report every six 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 2020, the Low Risk Unit was supervising 362 offenders.**

### **LOW MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION**

Low-Moderate Risk (Group B) currently has two officers supervising approximately 300 offenders. 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 2020, the Low Moderate Risk Unit was supervising 287 offenders.**

### **MODERATE RISK SUPERVISION**

Moderate Risk (Group C) is comprised of 12 officers and two supervisors. Offenders 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 offender criminogenic needs and corresponding Evidence Based programming. In addition, officers are trained in Case Planning, Motivational Interviewing, and the Stages of Change.

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

**At the close of 2020, the Moderate Risk Units were supervising 1,308 offenders.**

### **HIGH RISK SUPERVISION PROBATION**

The High Risk Probation (Group D) program's purpose is to divert eligible felony offenders, from incarceration in Ohio 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, and varying urinalysis schedules, designed for the most effective rehabilitation of the offender.

**At the close of 2020, there were 643 people in the High Risk Unit ; 42 of which were misdemeanor offenders.**

### **EXTREMELY HIGH RISK SUPERVISION**

Extremely High Risk (Group E) Offenders 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 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 with the County Sheriff's Department and county provider agencies in the close monitoring of these offenders. This officer employs non-traditional surveillance hours, including working evenings and weekends for the most effective supervision.

**At the close of 2020, the Extremely High Risk Officer was supervising 22 offenders.**

### **TRADITIONAL SUPERVISION**

Offenders sentenced to a higher 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 2020, there were 287 offenders supervised at the traditional supervision level.**



## OTHER SUPERVISION OPTIONS

### MISDEMEANOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAM/JAIL REDUCTION (MASP)

MASP provides a community-based alternative to incarceration. The program began as an informal agreement with Garfield Heights Municipal Court in 1997 to 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. In 2000, the program became eligible to all 12 suburban municipal courts in Cuyahoga County with the assistance of Ohio Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding.

The MASP Investigation Officer receives referrals from the municipal courts for possible entrance into this program. Investigation includes a comprehensive criminal history check, offender interview, social situation verification, assessment and supervision needs, Pretrial risk assessment, and any collateral information that is made available by the referring court. The MASP Investigation Officer coordinates with local service providers for assessment and treatment referral for substance abuse and mental health needs. Upon release from jail, the MASP Supervision Officer in the Common Pleas Court's Pretrial Services Unit provides supervision and urinalysis testing in the community.

**In 2020, 62 defendants were placed into the MASP/Jail Reduction. Approximately 31 defendants were active in the program on any given day.**

### MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (MHDD) PROGRAM

The MHDD Unit assists 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. The program provides Judges with an alternative to prison commitment. The MHDD Unit assists severely mentally ill and/or developmentally disabled offenders in receiving behavioral health services for their disability, addressing criminogenic risks, reintegrating into the community, and successfully completing probation.

Probation staff are trained in assisting MHDD offenders to face their most common barriers in the community, provide supervision and enforcement of the conditions of community control sanctions while supporting compliance with psychiatric treatment recommendations. The incorporation of judicial and clinical staffing has also aided in facilitating cooperation among the offenders within the MHDD Unit. The MHDD Unit is currently staffed by 13 specially trained officers, a Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Specialist, and two supervisors. The MHDD Unit allocates nine officers to supervise clients with severe mental illness and four officers to supervise clients with developmental disabilities. The unit had previously housed a pretrial officer who supervised pretrial clients who met MHDD eligibility; however, in 2020, this position was moved to the Pretrial Services division in accordance with best pretrial practices.

The average caseload of the thirteen post-conviction officers is 41 offenders, with a recommended duration of two years of community control sanctions. Additionally, in 2016, the Cuyahoga County Probation Department applied for and received a three-year grant from the United States Department of Justice to fund a position known as Crisis Intervention/ Behavioral Health Specialist (CIBHS). A goal of this full-time position is to increase the Department's consideration of non-jail/community based responses for crisis and mental health stabilization and to reduce utilization of and dependence on the County Jail for such situations when appropriate. Hired in the 2017, the CIBHS resides in the MHDD Unit, but assists officers throughout the Probation Department with crisis de-escalation, risk screening, community linkages, and case consultations. The CIBHS has developed and delivered trainings on Mental Health Awareness, Suicide Awareness, and De-escalation Techniques within the Probation Department and throughout the Court.

The MHDD Unit continued its collaboration of clinical staffing with officers and community behavioral health agencies to ensure therapeutic approaches to the offenders' community control experience. Officers work closely with several community agency providers through bi-weekly or monthly clinical staff meetings with forensic case managers, licensed social workers, and licensed counselors from Recovery Resources, Murtis H. Taylor, FrontLine Service, Signature Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), and Matt Talbot Inn residential treatment center.

The pandemic and consequent social distancing measures affected the unit's ability to conduct in-person Court and clinical staffings in 2020. As a result, the unit quickly transitioned to a virtual medium to maintain regular contact with the Court and community providers.

Contracted service providers include the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (approximately 31% of offenders supervised in the MHDD program are assessed with developmental disabilities) and Recovery Resources, selected in cooperation with the ADAMHS Board, which co-funds the program, to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric services, medication management, and support services.

Officers continued to have working relationship with St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Community Assessment Treatment Services, Cleveland Clinic-Lutheran Hospital, The MetroHealth System, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Cleveland Police CIT officers, Mobile Crisis, Oriana House, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Empowering Integrated Care Solutions and other treatment providers and community support networks.

**In 2020, there were 512 people sentenced to supervision in the supervision the MHDD Unit: 354 Mental Health and 158 DD offenders.** This includes those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (80%) as well as those who plead down from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction.

### **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 three specially trained probation officers and a treatment component. An average sex offender caseload size is 65 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 76 sex offender assessments and for 77 offenders to receive treatment services in 2020. An integral part of the program is polygraph testing used for verification of client progress and compliance. Due to COVID-19 related issues, five offenders submitted to a polygraph examination in calendar year 2020.

**In 2020, there were 197 offenders with felony and or misdemeanor convictions sentenced to the Sex Offender Unit.**

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT**

The Domestic Violence Unit is comprised of 10 specially trained officers and a supervisor. The unit provides intensive supervision for offenders 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.

In 2020, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court started a High-Risk Domestic Violence Court after receiving a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The High Risk Domestic Violence Docket, overseen by Judge Sherrie Miday, accepts dangerous, felony-level cases of intimate partner violence as indicated by the presence of high risk lethality factors such as the use of strangulation or a firearm in the offense.

Justice System partners such as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Public Defender and Witness/Victim Services work collaboratively with the Court to reduce risk of further injury to victims. A docket coordinator assists the High Risk Docket Judge in the operations of the High-Risk DV Court. From the Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department, a specially trained pre-trial officer and post sentence probation officer utilize the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA), as well as the ORAS to supervise the defendants utilizing evidence-based practices. Defendants will complete a cognitive-behavioral program specifically for domestic violence offenders. Regular team staffing and compliance hearings are held to gather input from the DV Court Team of probation officers, an assistant prosecutor, defense counsel, an advocate, and domestic violence program facilitators to assist the Judge in closely monitoring cases.

**In 2020, there were 449 defendants sentenced for supervision in the Domestic Violence Unit., active clients as of December 31, 2020, were 468.** This number includes those with a felony conviction, as well as those who plead down from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction (generally an M1). Average caseload size, including felony and misdemeanor cases, is approximately 52 defendants per officer.

### **NON-SUPPORT SPECIALIZED CASELOAD**

The Non-Support Specialized Caseload provides 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 recognizes the importance of expanding the continuum of sanctions for individuals with non-support offenses to decrease prison commitments for technical violations and avoid 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 promote 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. These are necessary to instill the internal motivation and skills necessary for offenders to become productive, law-abiding citizens, thereby reducing recidivism and decreasing the incidence of incarceration.

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 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. For offenders who do not generally require intensive supervision and programming, there is also a Basic Non-Support caseload. However, moderate or high risk offenders supervised on the Basic Non-Support Unit may be referred for NS programming if needed.

**In 2020, there were 167 offenders sentenced under supervision to the Specialized Non-Support Caseload and 177 offenders to the regular Non Support caseload.**



## **GPS MONITORING**

In 2014, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, in conjunction with Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, implemented active GPS monitoring in an effort to more closely monitor and respond to offender non-compliance in the community and to increase the court's use of GPS Monitoring as an alternative to incarceration. The GPS Monitoring Program provides an option to keep offenders in the community while restricting their movements to approved locations or keeping distance from victims' residences.

The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas determines who is eligible for Electronic Monitoring. GPS Monitoring is either a function of pre-trial services or post sentence as a community control sanction.

### **Of approximately 1,562 offenders placed on GPS Monitoring in 2020:**

69% (1,079) placed as a condition of bond and Court Supervised Release  
31% (483) placed as condition of Community Control Sanctions. Of those:  
- 91% (440) were ordered as original Condition of Community Control Sanctions  
- 9% (43) were ordered for non-compliance of Community Control conditions

### **Of the total amount of offenders placed on GPS Monitoring in 2020:**

87% (1,363) successfully completed  
13% (199) unsuccessful. Of those:  
- 61% (121) resulted in an arrest  
- 39% (78) absconded from GPS monitoring.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department provides the GPS monitoring equipment and monitoring surveillance in collaboration with Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department. To defray the cost for indigent offenders, along with other program costs, the charge is \$8.00 per day for GPS Monitoring.

### **In 2020, \$68,858.65 were collected in GPS fees.**

### **At the beginning of 2020, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department was monitoring 300 clients.**

- During the second quarter, the Court asked for an increase of offenders in the program, raising the number of offenders being monitored to 325
- In the third quarter, there was a need to reduce the jail population due to rising COVID-19 concerns, causing the number of monitored offenders to rise to 425
- The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, along with the Court of Commons Pleas, decided to again raise that number of offenders being monitored to 625

With the growing number of offenders monitored, the Sheriff's Department reinstated the Electronic Monitoring Unit as a stand-alone unit in December 2020, with a primary focus on GPS monitoring and response. The unit consists of 12 deputies and two sergeants; divided into four shifts with continuous operation. The Adult Probation Department continues to operate as a specialized unit and consists of one supervisor, three pretrial officers, three supervision officers, one case management officer and one jail installer.

## **ALCOHOL MONITORING**

The purpose of the Alcohol Monitoring Program is to prohibit offenders from consuming alcohol.

### **In 2020, approximately 186 offenders received alcohol monitoring:**

- 16% (29) as a condition of bond and Court Supervised Release
- 84% (157) as a condition of Community Control Sanctions

The Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department provides alcohol monitoring equipment as well as monitoring services. To defray the cost for indigent offenders and for other program costs, the charge to offenders is \$10 per day for Alcohol Monitoring.

**In 2020, there was a total of \$15,748.80 collected in Alcohol Monitoring fees.**

The Alcohol Monitoring unit continues to operate as a specialized unit and consists of the same staff that make up the GPS unit: one supervisor, three pretrial officers, three supervision officers, one case management officer and one jail installer.

#### **GPS MONITORING AND ALCOHOL MONITORING**

**In 2020, nine offenders received simultaneous GPS and Alcohol Monitoring.** To defray the cost for indigent offenders and for other program costs, the charge to offenders is \$10 per day for GPS and Alcohol Monitoring.

#### **WORK RELEASE**

Release from the facility for individuals in the Work Release Program is only for verified purposes (e.g., work, education, vocational training, and substance abuse treatment). Placement into the Work Release Program occurs either at the time of sentencing or at the time of a Probation Violation/Community Control Violation Hearing. State-funded beds at the Salvation Army house offenders sentenced to Work Release. CCA funding provides the WR/EM Unit with a supervisor and three full-time supervision officers, including a lead officer who assists with administrative oversight of the program.

#### **VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

The Violence Intervention Program (VIP) is a pilot initiative implemented in August 2018. Utilizing the Drug Court Model, it is presided over by Judge Brendan Sheehan. The program aims to reduce the incidence of violence and the potential of death by firearm by targeting felony offenders arrested in possession of a gun. It will do so by increasing the vocational and employment opportunities for VIP clients through customized interventions that utilize neighborhood outreach experts coupled with wraparound services including substance, mental health, education, and work. The strategy is to engage VIP clients in alternative types of intervention programming and expose them to opportunities and the potential for a lifestyle they did not think was possible.

Violence Intervention Program is a voluntary, court-supervised, comprehensive collaborative effort that targets felony offenders who are arrested in possession of a firearm and are in need of intervention-based wraparound services that include regular court appearances in front of a judge, a specialized VIP Probation Officer, mentors, and vocational and employment opportunities. A panel of the partners screens applicants for eligibility.

Clients are required to participate in the VIP for a minimum of 12 months, and submit to individualized, frequent, random, and observed drug testing protocols as directed by the VIP Court Judge. A VIP Treatment Team, which includes service providers, attorneys, and the Probation Department, provide ongoing, timely and accurate information and feedback addressing a VIP client's overall performance. The VIP Judge, in consultation with the VIP Treatment Team, ultimately determines a VIP client's advancement during, and graduation from, the VIP.

Mentors from Peacemakers of Cleveland work with VIP clients as "violence interrupters" and outreach specialists to provide crisis intervention, interrupt violence, and diffuse incidents of possible retaliation. They provide alternative lifestyle options and programming designed to expose them to pro-social activities, job and vocational skill building life skills and relationship building. OhioMeansJobs/Cleveland-Cuyahoga County will provide resources and information that assist VIP clients in moving toward financial independence through employment. Its programs and services include education, job training, and job search assistance.

**At the end of 2020, eight offenders were supervised in the Violence Intervention Docket.**

## **COGNITIVE SKILLS PROGRAMMING**

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, teaching 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 how to work through difficult situations without engaging in criminal behavior.

The program has gender specific programming, to address the unique needs, issues and learning styles of women.

**In 2020, 419 offenders received SCOPE programming.**

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

The Cleveland Municipal Court provides domestic violence education for offenders charged with misdemeanor and/or 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 Cleveland Municipal Court locations; the Justice Center Downtown, Cleveland Probation Department's East Side Office and Cleveland Probation Department's West Office. The Community Corrections Act grant from ODRC funds the DIET program through a yearly contract with the Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board.

The DIET Program offers a support group comprised of successful graduates who 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 2020, the DIET program received 623 referrals; 316 from the Cleveland Municipal Court, 247 from the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, and 60 from the suburban courts. Euclid referred the most participants from the suburban courts. Due to the pandemic, the Support Group had 32 participants.**

In 2020, the DIET Program Facilitators and other Court Staff were trained in the University of Cincinnati's Cognitive Behavior Interventions for Interpersonal Violence Program. The curriculum will begin in 2021.

The low risk offenders are required to complete eight sessions; moderate risk, 26 sessions; and high risk, 30 sessions. **In 2020, all of the groups transitioned from in-person sessions to exclusively Zoom.**

## **COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

The primary CBCF utilized by contract is The McDonnell Center, a community-based correctional facility. The McDonnell Center provides comprehensive programming to address offender criminogenic needs such as chemical dependency, education, employment, cognitive behavior therapy, and family relationships. The program progressively integrates higher-risk offenders back into the community while, at the same time, reducing prison overcrowding and recidivism. Eligibility requirements were revised in 2015 to allow moderate risk offenders.

Most offenders sentenced to the CBCF are concurrently supervised by the CBCF supervision officers, or officers from specialized units. The CBCF Supervision Officers have work stations at The McDonnell Center and an office at the Justice Center. 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 plans and Community Control expectations once they are 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-trainings and joint Probation and Judicial Orientations for newly admitted residents.

**In 2020, 406 male offenders were admitted to the McDonnell Center and 74 female offenders were admitted to the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County. On any given day, there are approximately 107 males and 11 females serving a CBCF sentence.**

The court does place offenders in other State funded CBCF facilities, dependent on various factors including but not limited to, offense types, failure at the local CBCF, female specific CBCF programming:

Summit County CBCF-Oriana for females, 52 admissions,  
Northwest (Bowling Green-Males), 7 admissions  
Lorain/Medina CBCF-Males, 2 admissions  
Lucas County CBCF-Toledo, 1 admission

### **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.

**In 2020, the Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department submitted the names of 126 offenders for apprehension (down from 208 in 2019).** Programs funded by the Community Corrections Act (CCA) submitted 104 requests for arrest and regular supervision programs submitted 22 requests.

The total number of arrests for CCA generated Capias and Probation Warrants was 103, representing a 99% arrest rate. The total number of arrests for regular supervision Capias and Probation Warrants was 21, representing a 95% arrest rate.

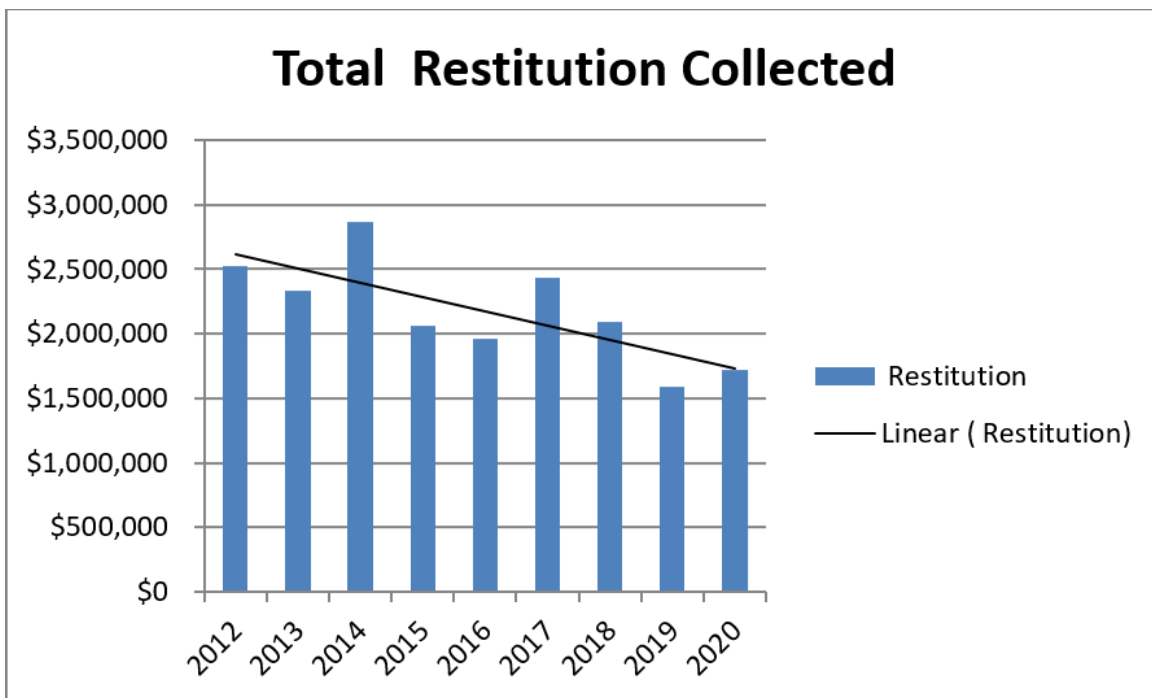
Warrant Unit Deputies are routinely dispatched to treatment facilities to apprehend noncompliant probationers. Of the 126 names submitted by Cuyahoga County Probation Staff to the Sheriff's Department Warrant Unit for apprehension, 61 were for apprehension at The McDonnell Center and 20 were for apprehension at Community Assessment Treatment Services (CATS).

### **RESTITUTION**

The Restitution Unit of the Adult Probation Department had a very successful year in 2020. Some of the accomplishments were posting the Unclaimed Funds Report in early January 2020 for crime victims to review for potential payments; the passing of the 2019 State Financial Audit with no audit findings or items discussed in an Audit Management letter, and continuity of services being provided in spite of the Court's COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

TOTAL 2020 FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS				
			\$ Increase or Decrease	% Increase or Decrease
	FY 2019	FY 2020		
Restitution Payments	\$1,589,551.94	\$1,715,929.86	\$126,377.92	8.0%
Home Detention Fees	\$67,249.40	67,858.65	\$609.25	0.9%
Alcohol Monitoring Fees	\$16,164.20	15,748.80	(\$415.40)	-2.6%
Probation Supervision Fees	\$504,992.32	442,323.96	(\$62,668.36)	-12.4%
Clerk Fees (Court Cost)	\$1,228.70	1,357.50	\$128.80	10.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,179,186.56</b>	<b>\$2,243,218.77</b>	<b>\$64,032.21</b>	

The spike in restitution in FY 2014 and FY 2017 can be attributed to large payments made for several cases. The decrease in FY 2020 Supervision Fees collections is primarily due to the Court's shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While there are normal fluctuations for restitution payments each year, the overall trend is a decline from 2012.



**In 2020, the Restitution Unit received payments by credit cards for \$1,186,808.94, an increase of 133.1% over the 2019 credit card payments of \$509,094.75.** This increase is primarily due to the Court shutdown related to COVID-19 pandemic. This shutdown dramatically increased the use of the Court's online payment system.



## STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

CCA funding reimburses salary and a portion of fringe benefit costs for the Probation Department's Training Specialist. The Staff Development and Training Program's most important objective is to provide training and enhance professional standards for probation staff in Ohio CCA-funded programs, striving to meet all CCA program standards regarding training. Additionally, it provides this service for non-CCA funded staff to insure compliance with the mandated training requirements of H.B. 86. The 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 total of 60 line staff and supervisors volunteer to implement many of the components of the Training Program.

**In 2020, the Probation Department moved to web-based learning due to the unprecedented circumstances brought by COVID-19.**

The Line Staff and Supervisors provided approximately 67.25% of the training hours in 2020. This percentage is a decrease of 19.75% from 2019 due to the web-based learning transition. This is still an increase of 13.25% provided in 2014. 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.

**During 2020, the total number of training hours provided was \$8,058.89. The cost for outside training in 2020 was \$1,104.79.**

Evidence-Based Practices	2020 Training Hours
Risk Assessment	370.75
Needs Assessment	333.50
Case Planning	501.75
Criminal Thinking Scales	267.25
Motivational Interviewing	58
Responsivity Issues	183.50
Supervision Strategies & Programming	234.50
Relapse Prevention Strategies	4
Principles	0
Ethics	1
General EBP	236
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2190.25</b>
Correctional Practices	2020 Training Hours
CCH Training	44
Cross Training	17.75
Diversity	605.50
Laboratory Training	2
Special Docket: Mental Health	18.25
Management/Supervisor	208.75
Meetings	945
New Hire Orientation	814
Outside Conferences	30.50
Policy & Procedure	0
Recordkeeping/Documentation	70.25
Safety	504
Webinar Training/Learning Center online courses	2608.64
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5868.64</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,058.89</b>

## COMMON PLEAS COURT - PROBATION DEPARTMENT LABORATORY 2020

The Probation Department Laboratory performs drug of 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.

A combination of funding from the Community Corrections Act grants, the Court of Common Pleas, and user fees paid by other agencies using the laboratory sustain the Adult Probation Laboratory. Outside agencies contracting for laboratory services include CATS (Community Assessment Treatment Services), Cleveland Municipal Court, Euclid Municipal Court, Garfield Heights, Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Probation Departments, Early Intervention Program, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) and the Domestic Relations Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

The laboratory currently has 10 employees and is open from 8:00am – 5:45pm. The laboratory is closed on Friday.

### NUMBER OF URINE SPECIMENS AND TESTS PERFORMED 2009 – 2020

Year	Total Specimens	Change	Drug Tests	Change
2020	50,263	(-45.37%)	482,592	(-41.16%)
2019	92,000	(-9.6%)	820,202	(-2.8%)
2018	101,805	(-3.4%)	844,012	2.4%
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%)

1. Does not include creatinine test for 2019 = 92,000

2. Does not include creatinine test for 2020=50,263

\*March 2020 – COVID Pandemic caused Laboratory to go to staffing 2-3 days per week. Laboratory reopened full time July 2020.

The Probation Department Laboratory subscribed to proficiency testing from the American Association of Bioanalysts and scored 100 percent (%) in testing accuracy in 2018. The Laboratory 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.

Urine Drug Screens	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total Subjects</b>	23,845	17,514	16,893	15,980	15,236	14,858	10,578
<b>Total Specimens **</b>	87,898	89,237	92,813	105,471	101,805	92,000	50,263
<b>Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs</b>	15,844	16,847	18,262	21,828	19,320	20,768	11,195
<b>% Specimens Positive for One or More Drugs</b>	18.0%	18.9%	19%	20.6%	18.9% <sup>3</sup>	22.5%	22.2%

Percent Positive by Drug	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cocaine	3.7%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.9%	3.2%	3.75%	2.6%
Marijuana	12.7%	10.8%	10.6%	1.0%	11.6%	10.6%	14.0%	13.3%
Opiates	4.5%	3.8%	3.5%	2.0%	1.6%	0.9%	1%	.5%
Phencyclidine (PCP)	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	2.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.95%	1.3%
Amphetamines	1.3%	2.1%	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	2.0%	2.0%
6-Acetylmorphine (heroin)	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Oxycodone		1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.95%	.33%
ETG - alcohol				8.3%	7.5%	7.7%	7.4%	7.7%
Fentanyl				1.0%	1.3%	0.9%	0.95%	1.7%
Benzodiazepine							2.0%	2.6%

Specimens are tested for two to nine 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. The laboratory added benzodiazepine testing December 2019.

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

Hair Testing	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Specimens	155	118	124	121	117	131	115	63
Negative	128	94	98	93	80	94	81	48
Quantity Not Sufficient	0	0	2	6	1	5	1	2
Positive	27	24	31	22	36	32		13
Cocaine	11	11	12	24	51	25	4	21
Marijuana	11	9	15	10	18	15	13	7
Amphetamines	0	0	2	3	9	12	0	2
MDMA (Ecstasy)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Methamphetamine	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	1
Morphine	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0
Codeine	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
6-AM*	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Phencyclidine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### 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.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Specimens	598	541	707	837	632	792	302	301
Positive Specimens	26	23	39	67	35	48	19	19
% Positive Specimens	4.3%	4.3%	5.5%	8.0%	5.6%	6.0%	6.2%	6.3%
**Tests (4/specimen)	2392	2164	2828	3348	2528	3163	1208	1204

## 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. Test results are presumptive only, and all specimens are retested when the instrument is available.

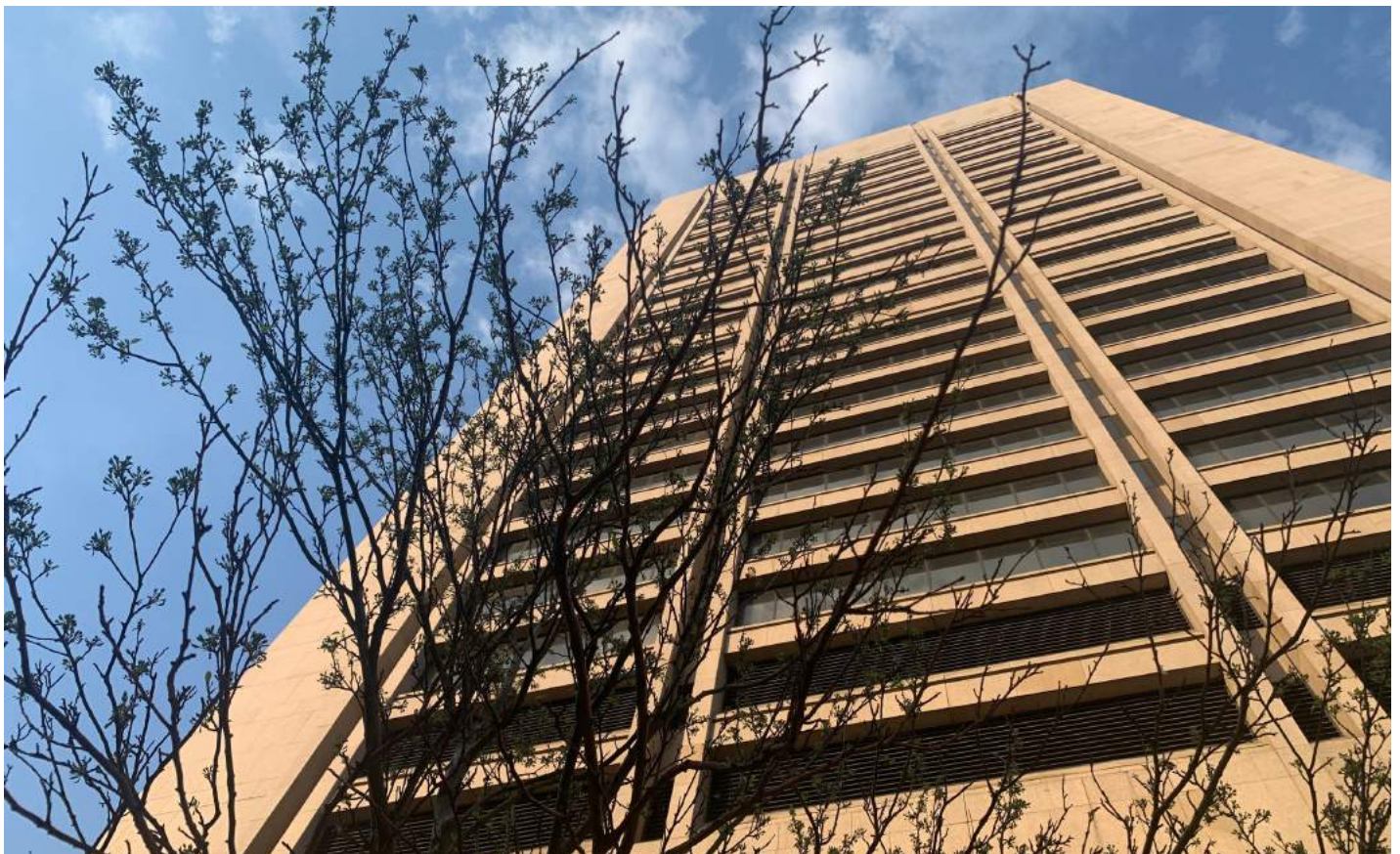
## REFERENCE LABORATORY TESTING

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

Total tests: The tests performed by Metro Health consist of cocaine confirmation, opiate confirmation ,amphetamine confirmation, THC confirmation and PCP confirmation 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.

Testing sent to Redwood Toxicology consist of all 29 panel fentanyl confirmations, ETG confirmation, K2 and Kratom testing

	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020
	METRO	REDWOOD	METRO	REDWOOD	METRO	REDWOOD	METRO	REDWOOD
<b>Total Tests</b>	8188	2336	8181	1044	7412	1297	1655	718
<b>Positive Tests</b>	1323	351	1441	365	2898	513	777	482
<b>% Positive Tests</b>	16.2%	15.0%	17.6%	34.9%	39%	39.5%	46.9%	67.1%



*REBECCA B. WETZEL,  
ADMINISTRATOR*

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION



*COURT MEDIATORS*

Matthew Mennes  
Michael Biglow

*STAFF*

Two Administrative Assistants

The Dispute Resolution Department provides multiple methods of dispute resolution for the Court: civil mediation, arbitration, and business mediation. To say the least, 2020 was an unusual year.

After the March 22 Stay At Home Order, the department began conducting mediations by phone and then Zoom. In cooperation with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA), the Dispute Resolution Department held Virtual Settlement Weeks in May and Virtual Settlement Days on the second Friday of each month, June through December. By utilizing volunteer mediators from the CMBA, the department was able to provide hearings for over 100 civil cases that would have languished because of the shutdown. The mediators participated with the CMBA Dispute Resolution Section in How to Conduct Zoom Mediations training for the volunteer mediators in early April. The mediators also assisted several judges and staff attorneys on learning how to conduct Zoom hearings.

The mediators continued the outreach to the community that they have done over the years. Some of the events included being virtual guest speakers at The Ohio State University School of Law and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, as well as CLE conferences. In June, Rebecca Wetzel participated with a specialized docket work group of the Supreme Court of Ohio to make a report and recommendations to the Justices regarding the need, and options, for Dispute Resolution in Eviction and Foreclosure cases. In August, Matt Mennes left the court and, for the remainder of 2020, dispute resolution operated with two mediators. For the sixth year in a row, the Department experienced an increase in civil mediation referrals.

## **MEDIATION**

Mediation is the most widely used method of dispute resolution 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 an agreement. As an impartial participant, the mediator does not advocate for a particular outcome. The mediator does 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 referred directly by the Judges. In 2020, while the number of referrals did increase, the settlement ratio fell a bit. A number of factors contributed to the decrease including the shutdown, the suspension of trials, and virtual rather than in-person hearings being the norm.

### **Statistics & Analysis for 2020**

Total Cases Referred to Court Mediation	2,360
Total Cases Mediated	1,209
Total Cases Settled by Mediation	619
Percentage of Settlements	51%

## **BUSINESS MEDIATION**

Business mediations are conducted pursuant to Local Rule 21.2. Judges may refer any business case to the department for mediation. The department notifies the parties of the referral and provides them with three names from the list of eligible mediators. The parties rank their choice and return the ranking sheet to the department. The Dispute Resolution 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 ten days of the hearing.

### **Statistics & Analysis for 2020**

Total Cases Referred to Business Mediation	31
Total Completed Mediations	19
Total Settlements	5
Percentage of Settlements	26%

## ARBITRATION

The original method of dispute resolution is arbitration. Cases involving claims that are \$50,000 or less per claimant are amenable to arbitration. Judges refer cases to the department where a panel of three arbitrators is assigned. The chairperson of the panel notifies all parties 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, the department prepares a final judgment entry reflecting the arbitration award.

### MANDATORY ARBITRATION STATISTICS FOR 2020

Total Cases Referred	68
Arbitration Referral Vacated	0
Net Total Arbitration Referrals	68
Report & Awards Filed	40
Total Appeal de Novo Filed	11

### FINAL ENTRIES

	2020
Arbitration Cases Settled (no fees paid)	19
Awards Reduced to Judgment	23
Bankruptcy	0
<b>TOTAL FINAL ENTRIES</b>	<b>42</b>

### PERCENTAGES 2020 (Based on 68 net referrals)

Arbitration Cases Settled before Hearing	27%
Arbitration Cases Appealed	16%
Arbitration Awards Appealed	27%
Arbitration Awards Reduced to Judgment	57%

## SUMMARY

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

MARY KAY ELLIS,  
CENTRAL SCHEDULING  
SUPERVISOR

# COURT SERVICES



## STAFF

Assistant Supervisor/  
Courtroom Assistant

Re-Entry Program  
Administrative Assistant

Courtroom Assistants (10)

Visiting Judge Bailiff

Floating Courtroom  
Assistants (3)

Receptionists (2)



The Central Scheduling Office is located on the 11th floor of the Justice Center Tower. This department of 18 employees assists the Judges in docket management, record keeping, scheduling of cases, and the preparation of criminal and civil journal entries.

## **COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **COURTROOM ASSISTANTS**

The Courtroom Assistants are responsible for scheduling criminal and 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. Courtroom Assistants are able to create criminal and civil journal entries for their Judges, bailiffs, and staff attorneys, and continue to be an integral part of the courtroom team, while helping to relieve the load from other staff.

The Courtroom Assistants are an essential part of each courtroom team, 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 bailiff's return. 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 2020, 5,926 vouchers were prepared, examined for errors, and submitted for distribution of funds.** This figure represents a decrease from previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in reduced court activity.

## **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 (those who take dictation may be called upon to do so, but it is no longer a requirement), typing various documents that include 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 who are assigned to five Judges. The Department works as a unit, filling in for each other during absences, as well as assisting each other with heavy workloads.

The secretaries also attend periodic training classes to upgrade their skills, including the use of new software and installation of new programs.

## VISITING JUDGE PROGRAM

The Visiting Judge Program is managed by the Supervisor of Central Scheduling and consists of four retired Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges and six retired out-of-county Judges called in for special cases. The Supervisor of Central Scheduling maintains records and prepares monthly and annual reports on this program for submission to the Administrative Judge and Court Administrator. In 2020, in addition to the specialized Asbestosis/Workers' Compensation and Asbestos dockets, the Visiting Judge Program disposed of 15 civil cases. Of those, seven cases were disposed of by settlement, which results in a 50% 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 2020, 10 criminal cases were disposed. Collectively, the Judges were in trial a total of 32 days.**

Please note that the Visiting Judge Program's numbers were reduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUDGE	CIVIL CASES DISPOSED	CRIMINAL CASES DISPOSED
<b>Barber, James</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Burnside, Janet</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cosgrove, Patricia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gibson, Joseph</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Haas, John</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hanna, Harry</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Kelsey, Reeve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>McDonald, Fred</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>McGinty, Timothy</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>McMonagle, R.J.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pollex, Robert</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## ASBESTOS/WORKERS' COMP ASBESTOS DOCKET

The specialized Asbestos docket and Workers' Compensation Asbestos docket are presided over by Visiting Judge Harry A. Hanna. At the beginning of 2020, the pending case load was 497. The total number of pending cases at the end of 2020 was 512. There were 41 new cases filed in 2020. **Judge Hanna disposed of 26 cases in 2020.** Since January 2014, the Asbestos Docket has been reduced by 4,639 cases.



*GWENDOLYN BENNETT,  
BOND COMMISSIONER*

# CRIMINAL RECORDS



*ASSISTANT BOND  
COMMISSIONER*  
Gregory Burger

STAFF  
Office Assistants (6)  
Bail Investigators (6)

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

## 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 4,103 bail investigations during 2020.**

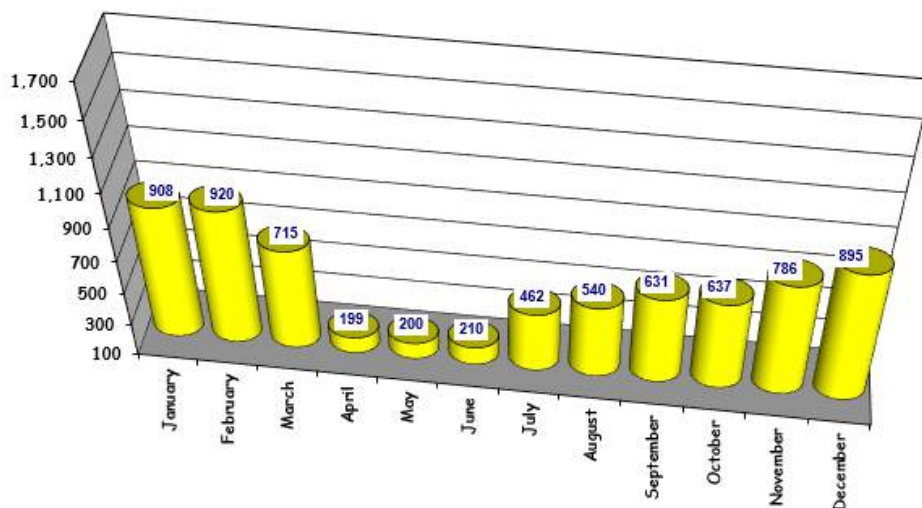
## ARRAIGNMENTS

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. 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 may also issue *capias* (arrest warrant) for defendants who fail to appear at the scheduled arraignment.

At the conclusion of the arraignments, the staff updates the case files and forwards the files to the trial judge who has been assigned. E-mails are automatically sent to the attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants.

**During 2020, there were 11,568 scheduled arraignments.** The 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.

**Common Pleas Court Monthly Felony Arraignments  
2020**



## FIRST APPEARANCE DOCKET

In 2020, defendants bound over to Common Pleas Court from Municipal Courts were referred for a First Appearance in Common Pleas Court. The main purpose of the 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.

### 2,025 First Appearances were held in 2020.

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.

The staff of the Criminal Records Department works closely with other departments, but most specifically with the Sheriff, Clerk, and Prosecutor 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>YEAR to DATE ARRAIGNMENT STATS</b>													
<b>YTD Monthly 2020</b>	ARRAIGNMENT DATA												<b>YTD TOTAL</b>
	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
<b>Total Scheduled Bails</b>	808	923	843	265	100	46	498	582	577	668	1007	1134	7451
<b>Total Scheduled Jails</b>	509	489	381	196	204	182	304	358	350	387	330	427	4117
<b>Total Scheduled</b>	1317	1412	1224	461	304	228	802	940	927	1055	1337	1561	11568
<b>Bails Arraigned</b>	443	465	356	33	40	33	222	261	307	290	504	521	3475
<b>Jails Arraigned</b>	465	455	359	166	160	177	240	279	324	347	282	374	3628
<b>Total Arraigned</b>	908	920	715	199	200	210	462	540	631	637	786	895	7103
<b>Total Capias</b>	219	325	205	1	1	2	119	196	140	195	198	238	1839
<b>Total Cont.</b>	190	167	304	261	103	16	221	204	156	223	353	428	2626
<b>Retained Atty.</b>	167	172	166	19	27	27	112	130	140	221	204	185	1570
<b>Assigned Atty.</b>	724	734	528	180	173	183	35	410	477	489	582	710	5225
<b>PD Assigned</b>	261	242	213	74	58	62	129	167	189	204	209	282	2090
<b>TOTAL SCHEDULED</b>	1317	1412	1224	461	304	228	802	940	927	1055	1337	1561	11568
<b>MONTHLY YEAR to DATE</b>		2729	3953	4414	4718	4946	5748	6688	7615	8670	10007	11568	

Capias % of Scheduled bails      27.1%

% ASSIGNED TO PD      40%

# MAGISTRATES

*STEPHEN M. BUCHA III,  
CHIEF MAGISTRATE*



*ASSISTANT CHIEF  
MAGISTRATE*

Kevin C. Augustyn

STAFF

Magistrates (9)

Office Manager

Receptionist

Magistrates' Clerical Assistants (5)

The Court's mission is to provide a forum for the fair, impartial and timely resolution of cases. The Magistrates Department works hard to achieve this mission. **The Magistrates disposed of 25.8% of the court's civil cases, utilizing less than 3.4% of the court's budget.**

The magistrates' diverse case load entails adjudicating most of the Court's often complicated and emotionally fraught foreclosure, partition, and quiet title cases. Additionally, most of the Judges refer Civil Stalking Protection Order cases to the magistrates. The magistrates serve as the primary backup to nearly all Judges who do not automatically refer such cases. Some Judges refer other types of civil matters, such as preliminary injunction hearings or administrative appeals, to the magistrates. The magistrates are also available to the Judges for consultations on matters related to foreclosure and real estate law in general. This work requires intensive docket management, extensive research, and detailed written opinions. **Overall, the magistrates were referred 27.9% of the Court's civil cases and were responsible for 25.8% of the Court's civil dispositions in 2020.**

The magistrates' involvement begins upon referral of a case, shortly after filing, and continues through trial or other disposition. The magistrates 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 COVID pandemic significantly affected the operations of the magistrate's department in 2020. Governmental and quasi-governmental agencies and, in some instances, mortgage servicers themselves, enacted moratoriums on mortgage foreclosures throughout the year, cutting the number of mortgage foreclosures adjudicated by the department by more than 30%. Making up for these losses, in actual work load if not number of cases, tax foreclosure filings increased significantly and the magistrates handled a large share of the court's civil stalking protection order cases. Tax foreclosures increased by nearly 5%. The magistrates held a total of 730 hearings in civil stalking protection order cases, and held at least one hearing in 77.3% of such cases filed with the court in 2020 (518 of 730 cases).

Throughout the pandemic, magistrates have been on duty daily and have been present at the courthouse handling in-person hearings as necessary. They have truly been on the front lines of this crisis.

In addition to adjudicating cases, the Magistrates Department serves the people of Cuyahoga County and the legal community in myriad ways. Magistrates take part in educational forums around the county and field thousands of phone calls and in-person visits by self-represented 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 assists homeowners in exploring ways to save their home or to make a smooth transition to other living arrangements. Magistrates Department personnel 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.

Others serve on the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College planning committee, have contributed to Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College curriculum project, and have appeared as speakers in numerous Judicial College seminars and other continuing legal education courses. 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.

This impressive record of service shows that the magistrates have done their part to achieve the Court's mission. From its peak staffing levels in 2010, the department has been reduced in size by 31%. Additionally, as the result of the retirement of two magistrates, the department operated with just ten magistrates for a large part of the year. The department uses the resources allotted to it very efficiently. For the most recent year that budget information is available (2019), the magistrates disposed of 25.8% of the court's civil dispositions while being allocated less than 3.4% of the court's overall budget.

In order to place the statistics reported herein in proper context, below is a thirty year summary of the Magistrates Department's statistics.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Referrals</u> 1	<u>% Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Reinstates</u> 2	<u>% Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Referrals &amp; Reinstates Combined</u>	<u>% Change From Previous Year</u>	<u>Supplementals</u> 3	<u>% Change From Previous Year</u>	<u>Decrees</u> 4	<u>% Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Dispositions</u> 5	<u>% Change from Previous Year</u>	<u>Net Case Gain/Loss</u> 6
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
2018	5754	10.4%	245	-18.6%	5999	8.9%	28482	-9.4%	3613	-8.5%	5926	-16.3%	173
2019	5927	3%	183	-25.30%	6110	1.9%	27693	2.80%	3862	6.90%	5998	1.20%	112
2020	4252	-28.3%	101	-44.8%	4353	-28.8%	19937	-28%	2603	-32.6%	3916	-34.7%	437

(1) This column represents all cases referred to the Magistrates which includes all of the Court's Foreclosure, Quiet Title and Partition cases, and some of the Court's Civil Stalking Protection Orders. Foreclosures represent 90%± of all cases referred to the Magistrate's 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, trial, vacated reference, real estate tax contract stays and bankruptcy stays.

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



*BRUCE J. BISHILANY,  
CHIEF COURT REPORTER*

# COURT REPORTERS



*ASSISTANT CHIEF COURT  
REPORTERS*

Robert P. Lloyd  
Kellie Roper

STAFF

Court Reporters (38)  
Administrative Assistant

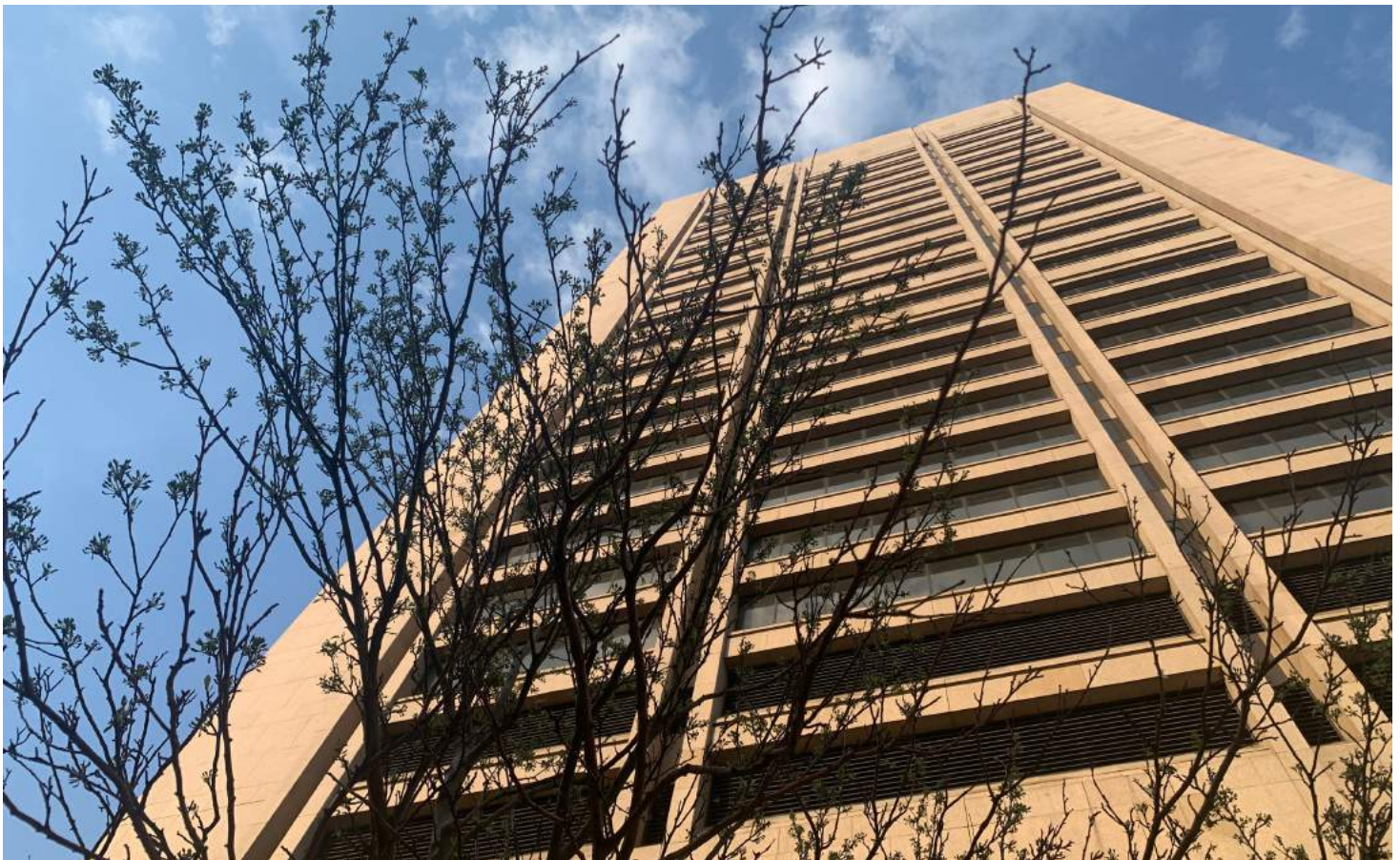
**In 2020, 17,646 job cards were filed representing court reporter attendance at trials, pleas, sentencings, motions, hearings, and other related matters in both civil and criminal cases.** In addition, the Court Reporters Department reported 11,568 arraignments and diversions, and a similar number of cases in Grand Jury. On average each member of the Department stenographically reported over 1,015 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 so that they are able to participate fully in the judicial process and in order for the County to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

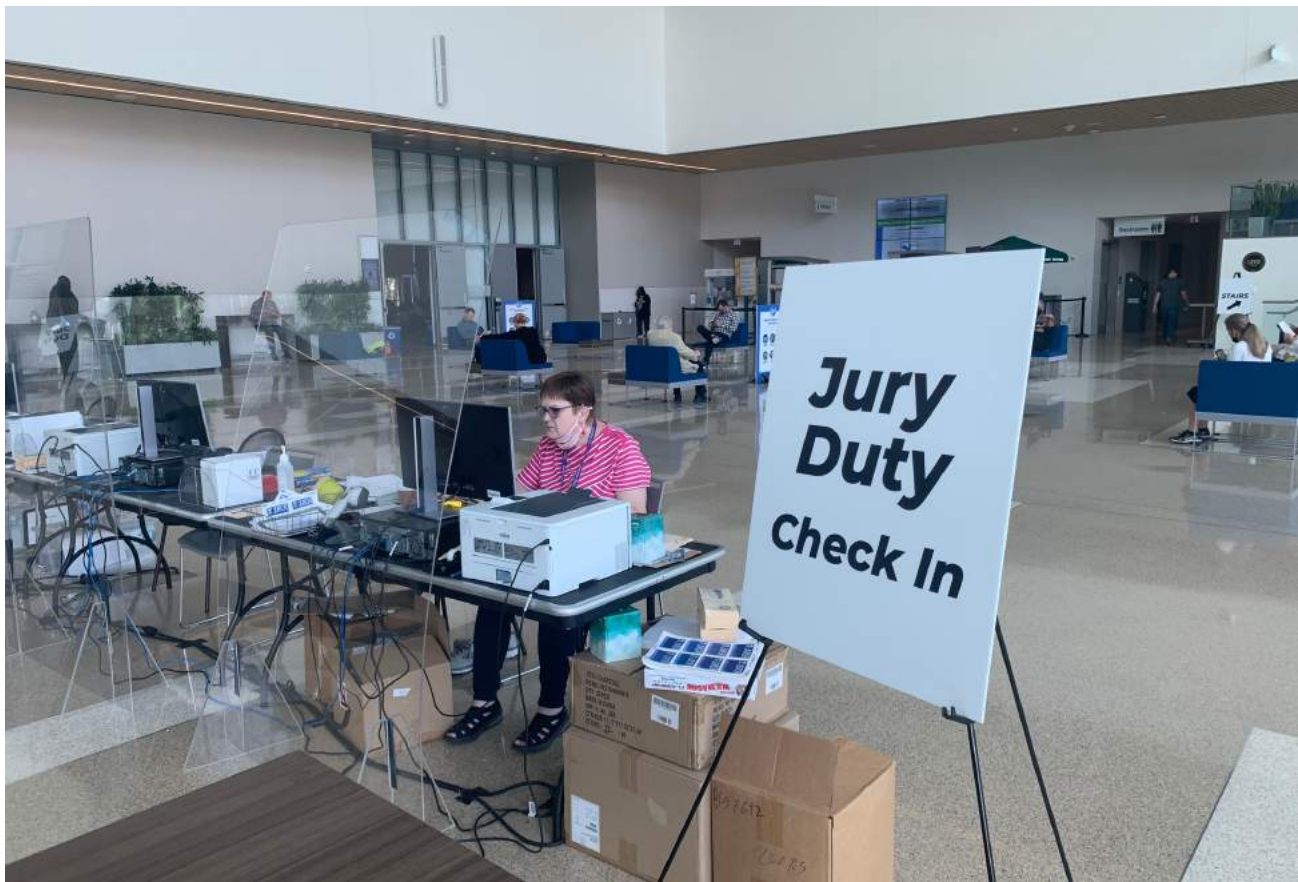
The Court Reporters Department continues to provide Realtime reporting to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas on trials.

The onset of the COVID-19 shutdown in March of 2020, and the ensuing public health crisis, brought a new set of challenges to the Court and the Court Reporters Department with regard to record making. The Department quickly recognized the need to implement an alternate method of providing its services in certain scenarios. Although the Reporters continued to appear at in-court proceedings, albeit on a limited basis as determined and scheduled by the Court, they became proficient in the use of Zoom teleconferencing when the court proceedings needed to be held remotely. The employment of Zoom has proven successful, despite technological difficulties at times, and the Department reported approximately 1,200 cases via this method.



*PATRICIA I. BITTNER  
VERONICA L. ADAMS  
CO-DIRECTORS JURY BAILIFF*

# JURY COMMISSION



## *STAFF*

Jury Bailiffs (2)  
Assistant Jury Commissioner  
Jury Commissioner (2)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, trials were suspended from April through August, 2020, and then again in December, 2020.

Our goal remains the same; to reduce the cost of jurors and gain more effective utilization of jurors.

In comparison to 2019, there was a slight increase in the number of jurors that were called in, and a decrease in the number of juror days. The number of jurors who spent more than the five day minimum decreased dramatically. Our goal this year is to try and utilize the jurors in a way that if possible we can get them out at their five day term or less so that we can stay within our budget.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, prospective Grand Jurors reported in January, July and October. 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.

**JUROR UTILIZATION - CRIMINAL 2020**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	28	25	20	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	81
Trials	20	13	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	47

**JUROR UTILIZATION - CIVIL 2020**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	8	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Trials	8	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

**CAPITAL CASE JURY TRIAL - 0;**  
**NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS OVER 5 - 335;**

**NUMBER OF JURORS - 3,245;**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF JUROR DAYS - 10,024;**

**JURY COMMISSION**

**JURY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	2200	2650	3550	2700	0	0	0	3400	3400	6200	8500	3000	35600
Report	1010	986	585	0	0	0	0	0	301	264	99	0	3245

**PETIT JURORS DRAWN 35600**  
**GRAND JURORS DRAWN 3675**  
**SPECIAL JURORS DRAWN 0**  
**TOTAL 39275**

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

**JUROR UTILIZATION - CITY 2020**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Panels	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Trials	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Drawn	2000	2000	2500	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0	1500	1000	10500
Report	97	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136

*MICHAEL H. ARONOFF, PSY.D.*

*INTERIM DIRECTOR*

# PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC



## *STAFF*

Part-time Neuropsychologist  
Chief of Psychology  
Part-time Psychiatrists (11)  
Chief Social Worker  
Office Manager  
Full-time Psychologists (2)

Assistant Office Manager  
Full-time Social Workers (2)  
Office Assistant  
Part-time Psychologist  
Transcriptionists (3)

## **OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Conducting the daily activities of the Court Psychiatric Clinic in 2020 was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some activities were conducted remotely, while others were on-site. It was often difficult for clinicians to evaluate jail defendants due to a number of them being placed in quarantine or exposure isolation for extended periods, thus preventing their transport to the Clinic. Although, initially, interviews via telehealth platforms were attempted, this proved difficult due to the number of evaluators working at the Clinic and space/technological limitations.

Beginning in April 2020, in order to minimize exposure/contact risk, the full-time psychologists began conducting in-person evaluations of jail defendants at the Court Psychiatric Clinic on a rotating basis. Over time, defendants residing in the community were permitted to be evaluated at the Clinic. During the pandemic, the social workers conducted the bulk of their evaluations (Mental Health Court Eligibility, Probation Reports, Intervention in Lieu of Conviction) over the phone, but would occasionally conduct in-person interviews at the Clinic as well. By June 2020, the part-time psychiatrists and psychologists resumed their regular schedules (i.e., 4 hours/week). Clerical staff also reported to the Clinic on a rotating basis and were able to process referrals, obtain medical records, and submit reports to the Court on a timely basis. The three transcriptionists, who already worked from home prior to the pandemic, continued to type evaluations dictated by clinicians.

## **CLINICAL STAFF**

Nichole Livingston, Psy.D. served as Interim Director until October 2020, at which time she resigned from the Court Psychiatric Clinic. Thereafter, Michael Aronoff, Psy.D. assumed this position.

In November 2020, John Tilley, Psy.D. was hired as a full-time psychologist. Also in November 2020, part-time psychiatrist Adrienne Saxton, M.D. resigned from her position at the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

All clinical staff (psychiatrist/psychologist/neuropsychologist/social worker) provide direct evaluation services to the Court of Common Pleas and Probation Department.

## **CLERICAL STAFF**

The clerical staff worked diligently in 2020 to prepare clinical reports in a timely manner. Three transcriptionists continued to work from home. 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 continued to process referrals and 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. Office Manager Molly Kelly continues to work closely with 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 facilitated reports being completed and delivered in a timely manner. Finally, Clinic staff worked with ISD to further refine the process of entering data for statistical forms mandated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

## **COURT CLINIC REFERRALS**

During calendar year 2020, the Court Psychiatric Clinic received 1,153 referrals. This number represents a 56% decrease in referrals over the 2,636 received in 2019. The significant decrease in referrals was due to the reduction of court services and suspension of jury trials secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **SENATE BILL 285/122 "SECOND OPINION" EVALUATIONS**

For the 24th year, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services provided funding to enable the Court Psychiatric Clinic to conduct Senate Bill 285/122 "Second Opinion" evaluations. Clinical staff conduct the evaluations at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (Northfield, Ohio) or the Warrensville Developmental Center (Highland Hills, Ohio) on defendants who have been adjudicated either 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." The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services funds the Court Psychiatric Clinic in the amount of \$122,000/year to conduct these evaluations. The funds are administered through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County. In 2020, Court Psychiatric Clinic staff completed 29 Senate Bill 285/122 "Second Opinion" evaluations, a slight increase of 7% from the previous year.

## **COMPETENCY AND SANITY EVALUATIONS**

In 2020, competency and sanity evaluations constituted 35% of the total referrals to the Court Psychiatric Clinic. Competency evaluation referrals totaled 285 for the year, representing a decrease of 51% from 2019. Sanity evaluation referrals for 2020 totaled 124. This represents a decrease of 54% from 2019.

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

Referrals for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction evaluations totaled 254, a 61% reduction from those received in 2019. The Social Work staff completed the vast majority of these reports, which in addition to substance use, require the examiner to consider factors such as mental illness, intellectual disability, and human trafficking/prostitution victimization in the assessment.

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

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 10 referrals for House Bill 180-Sexual Predator Evaluations, a 67% decrease from 2019. 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 testimony at court hearings. Sexual offender evaluations continue to be one of the most labor-intensive examinations conducted at the Court Psychiatric Clinic.

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

The Court Psychiatric Clinic received 420 referrals for Mitigation of Penalty evaluations in 2020. This represents a 58% decrease from 2019. The Clinic received 23 referrals for Probation reports, a decrease of 49% from 2019.

## **COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC TRAINING FUNCTIONS**

The Court Psychiatric Clinic maintained its affiliation with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Two groups of Forensic Psychiatry Fellows (three in each cohort), pursuing fellowship training under the supervision of Stephen Noffsinger, M.D. rotated through the Court Psychiatric Clinic during the academic years of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

The Court Psychiatric Clinic also maintained its association with the Mandel School of Applied Social Science (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University and had Social Work students placed at the Court Psychiatric Clinic for 24 hours per week during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court Psychiatric Clinic was unable provide educational seminars and other experiences to students/trainees of various disciplines in 2020, as it has for several decades. These activities will resume once they are permitted.

**THE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO FORENSIC EVALUATION CENTER DIRECTORS**

In 2020, Interim Director Nichole Livingston and Chief of Psychology Michael Aronoff were active in the Association of Ohio Forensic Evaluation Center Directors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they participated in monthly Zoom meetings with other center directors, explored the possibility of developing collaborative research projects, and helped plan an upcoming two-day continuing education webinar to be attended by staff of forensic psychiatric centers throughout the state.

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

During 2020, the Court Psychiatric Clinic continued to focus its resources on fulfilling its primary mission of preparing thorough, timely, and useful clinical assessments of defendants referred by the Common Pleas Court and Probation Department despite the various challenges encountered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC (01/01/20 – 12/31/20)  
NUMBER OF REFERRALS**

Competence to Stand Trial-2945.371(A)	285
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371(A)	124
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06(B)	420
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	8
Movement to Non-Secured Status–S.B. 285	29
House Bill 180	10
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	254
Reports for Probation-2951.03	23
Miscellaneous	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,153</b>

**COURT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC  
COMPARISON OF REFERRALS  
2019 & 2020**

	2019	2020	% Change, +/-
Competence to Stand Trial-2945.371 (A)	584	285	-51%
Sanity at the Time of the Act-2945.371 (A)	269	124	-54%
Mitigation of Penalty-2947.06 (B)	1009	420	-58%
Civil Commitment-2945.40 & 5122.01	18	8	-56%
Movement to Non-Secured Status-S.B. 285	27	29	+7%
House Bill 180	30	10	-67%
Intervention in Lieu of Conviction-2945.041	654	254	-61%
Reports for Probation-2951.03	45	23	-49%
Miscellaneous	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>-56%</b>



*CHAIR,  
JUDGE BRENDAN J. SHEEHAN*

# CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD



**ADMINISTRATORS**

Martin P. Murphy  
Linda Lagunzad

**407 PRISON DIVERSION**

Stephania Pryor,  
Program Director

**408 JAIL DIVERSION**

James Starks,\*  
Program Director

\*Retired in May of 2020

## Mission Statement

*Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board strives to develop and support community corrections programming in Cuyahoga County to enhance public safety and the protection of victims.*

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

- Provide effective alternatives to incarceration
- Seek and secure funding and resources
- Provide oversight of all grant funding
- 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. The Court's Adult Probation Department administers most of the Court's local community sanction programs. The staff includes two Substance Abuse Placement Coordinators, a Research Planner, a Case Management Specialist, a Fiscal Officer, three Office Assistants, and a Record Check Specialist.

**During FY 2020, the Board administered 407 and 408 CCA grants to fund and staff local community corrections programs.** In addition to the annual base CCA funds, as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the State provided the 2020-2021 Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Program grant initiative for reduction in prison commitment for non-violent F4 and F5 offenders and the 2020-2021 T-CAP (Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison) initiative to support efforts to comply with new sentencing regulations for certain F5 offenses. The Corrections Planning Board also oversees a significant amount of funding from other sources including federal grants from Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), as well as the County Office of Re-Entry.

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. Cuyahoga County has reduced the number of prison commitments from 20% of all ODRC commitments in SFY 2010 to 11% in SFY 2020. Cuyahoga County, whose population is 10.5% of the State population, historically contributes approximately 19% of the statewide total of non-residential diversions. In FY 2020, local community sanction alternatives resulted in diversion from incarceration for 3,471 criminal offenders.

The Cuyahoga County CCA programs and the Corrections Planning Board have been the recipients of numerous awards to recognize their contributions to community corrections. Most recently, in 2019 both Deputy Chief Probation Officers received the Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. The Probation Management Team and CPB Administrator actively participate in the CCA Directors Organization. In addition, the Chief Probation Officer serves on the Board of Trustees/Executive Board Members of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC).

Several projects are funded 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 Corrections Planning Board 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 for several state and federally funded grants.

## CORRECTIONS PLANNING BOARD ROSTER OF MEMBERS

Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan, Chair  
 Administrative and Presiding Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court  
 January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

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

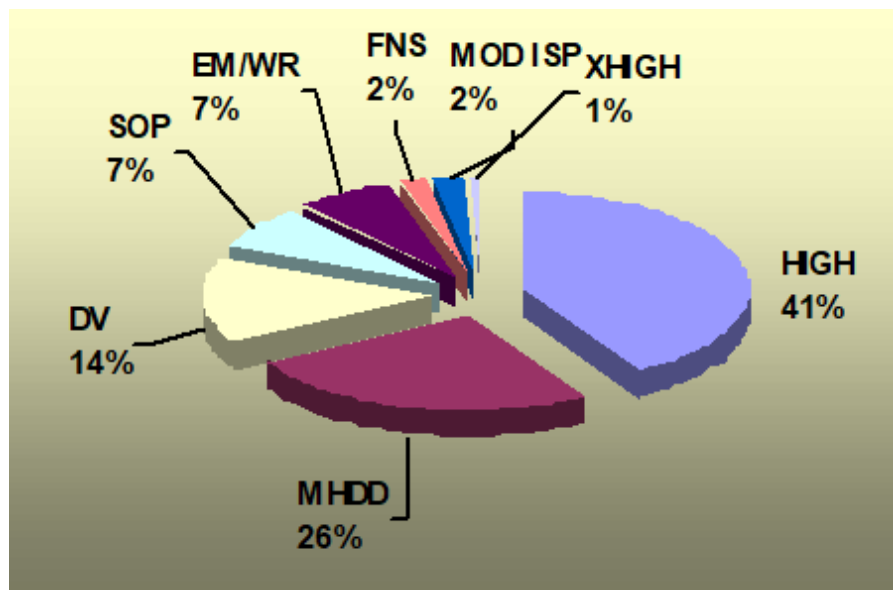
## 407 INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAMS

For program descriptions and 2020 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, programming and services including cognitive skills development programming, Apprehension Unit services, the Staff Training and Development Project, Substance Abuse Case Management, and drug testing.

### FELONY DIVERSIONS ACHIEVED IN 2020

<b>562</b>	High Risk Supervision
<b>348</b>	Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD)
<b>227</b>	CBCF Supervision
<b>194</b>	Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
<b>95</b>	Electronic Monitoring/Work Release (EM/WR)
<b>94</b>	Sex Offender Program (SOP)
<b>30</b>	Moderate ISP
<b>27</b>	Felony Non-Support (FNS)
<b>8</b>	Extreme High Risk Supervision
<b>2</b>	Recovery Court
<b>1,587</b>	TOTAL Felony Diversions



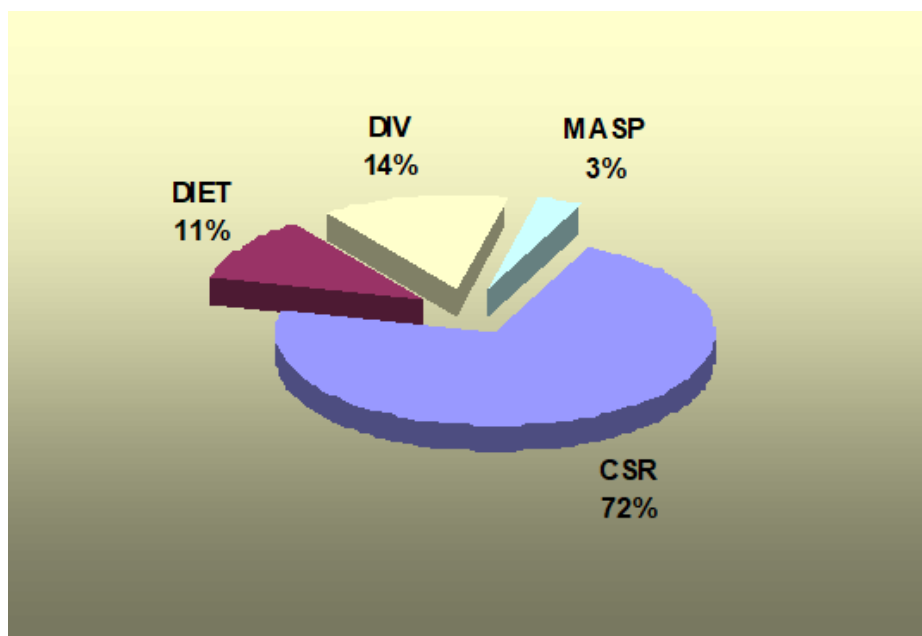
## 408 JAIL REDUCTION PROGRAMS

For program descriptions and 2020 figures, please see the Probation Department Report.

The Jail Population Reduction Project began as a Community Corrections Act 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. 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 408 grant provides staff and resources for several programs, as well as a treatment coordination specialist.

### JAIL DIVERSIONS ACHIEVED IN 2020

<b>562</b>	High Risk Supervision
<b>348</b>	Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD)
<b>227</b>	CBCF Supervision
<b>194</b>	Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
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<b>2</b>	Recovery Court
<b>1,587</b>	TOTAL Felony Diversions



## **STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

Probation Department supervision fees, as well as CCA, SAMHSA and BJA grants, fund training. 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 training standards. Staff regularly meets grant requirements for training hours with innovative training events utilizing in-house facilities and offering a variety of pertinent topics.

The Staff Training and Development Program developed an EBP curriculum for staff skill development, a comprehensive Safety Training Program that began in 2014, and a Technology Training curriculum among others.

In 2020, the Probation Department moved to web-based learning due to the unprecedented circumstances brought by COVID-19. The Line Staff and Supervisors provided approximately 67.25% of the training hours in 2020. This percentage is a decrease of 19.75% from 2019 due to the web-based learning transition. This is still an increase of 13.25% from what was provided in 2014. During 2020, the total number of training hours provided was 8,058.89.

The cost for outside training in 2020 was \$1,104.79.

- 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 evidence-based practices and service delivery.
- All support staff met the departmental standard of 10 hours of training per year.

For description of specific trainings offered in 2020, please see the Probation Department Report.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM**

The Substance Abuse program targets offenders with drug and alcohol problems. The 407 grant funds the Substance Abuse Case Manager tasked with referring and managing offenders placed in various residential substance abuse treatment programs. The Case Manager coordinates all offender referrals for residential substance abuse assessment and treatment services. The newly created Case Management Specialist assists the Case Manager. Referrals are based on evaluation of Bail Bond Investigation reports, Pre-sentence Investigation reports, Risk/Needs Assessment, and Alcohol and Drug Assessment. Referrals can also be a condition of probation. The Case Manager makes treatment referrals when requested for drug dependent persons requesting Intervention in Lieu of Conviction under O.R.C. 2951.041.

The Corrections Planning Board also manages treatment contracts not funded by CCA dollars: Common Pleas Court treatment contract, the Halfway House Initiative and the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board Jail Reduction contracts. Due to the continuing opiate/heroin epidemic in the community, in FY 2020, 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 2020, 578 offenders (a 29% decrease from 2019) were placed into residential drug/alcohol treatment programs through the Probation Department/Correction Planning Board's Centralized Case Management program utilizing various funding sources:**

- County contract
- ODRC
- Medicaid
- ADAMHS Board
- Other

Placements were made to the following agencies:

- Catholic Charities - Matt Talbot Inn & Matt Talbot for Women
- Community Assessment and Treatment (CATS)
- Salvation Army – Harbor Light Residential Treatment Program
- Salvation Army – Harbor Light HWH Program
- ORCA House
- Oriana House CCTC HWH
- HUMADAOP/Casa Alma
- Hitchcock House Center for Women
- Other CBCF (Northwest, Lucas County)

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).

On February 1, 2011, the Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) opened in Cuyahoga County. **In 2020, 320 male defendants were placed in the The McDonnell Center; a 40% decrease compared to 2019 figures. In addition, 54 female defendants were placed in the Cliff Skeen CBCF in Summit County; a 38% increase compared to 2019 placements.**

To comply with court orders, the Centralized Case Manager referred 1,291 offenders to Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) for assessments, case management and referral to treatment (includes re-referrals), a 27% decrease compared to 2019. In addition, 145 offenders were referred to TASC for assessments at the PSI stage; a 61% decrease compared to referrals made at the PSI stage in 2019.

Effective November 8, 2010, the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) division transferred from the BOCC Department of Justice Affairs to the Common Pleas Court Corrections Planning Board (See TASC Section of the Annual Report for 2019 figures).

#### **408 TREATMENT 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 2020, the Treatment Coordinator used various funding sources to place 41 defendants into residential treatment, a 73% decrease over 2019 placement numbers of 152.** The drastic decrease is attributable to the effects of the pandemic: non-violent inmates released quickly from the County Jail; treatment facilities delaying or stopping referrals, and a decrease in drug cases.

The 408 Treatment Coordinator also serves 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, court coordinators, 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, the Coordinator sets up 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.

## **DRUG TESTING LABORATORY**

To provide drug testing for CCA and other probation programs, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Drug Testing Laboratory operates under several funding sources including Court funding, Community Corrections Act funding (\$40,158), SAMHSA grants (\$7200) and TASC HHS Funds (\$6,046). A portion of Community Corrections funding covers reagents and drug testing fees. A contract (June 30, 2019 through June 30, 2022) for instrumentation and reagents was awarded to ThermoFisher Scientific, Inc. (formerly Microgenics). (Please see Probation Department Report for 2020 figures).

*(Below: New Judges and staff tour the Drug Lab)*





*RONDA BLANEY,  
TASC MANAGER  
MS, LSW, ICDC-CS*

# TASC

## TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES TO STREET CRIME



### *STAFF*

Clinical Coordinators (4)  
Fiscal Officer  
Program Officers (2)  
Assessment Specialists (23)  
Office Assistants (2)

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) is a nationally recognized program model. It is designed to break the addiction-crime cycle of recidivism by providing Substance Use Disorder treatment services for 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. All justice-referred clients receive a comprehensive biopsychosocial diagnostic clinical assessment, which becomes the foundation for treatment recommendations and ongoing services. 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. TASC 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.

In March 2020, we experienced a nationwide pandemic. In consideration of everyone's safety, TASC suspended operations for several weeks. We utilized the time to readjust to what would become the new normal for the rest of the year. TASC clinicians, all licensed by the state of Ohio, received permission to provide services via Telehealth. TASC purchased Zoom account subscriptions, affording clinicians the opportunity to provide services to clients from the safety of their homes. Later in 2020, we were able to return to the office on a rotating basis, but continued to utilize Telehealth as we carefully adhered to best practices as outlined by the Centers For Disease Control.

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, Cuyahoga County 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 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, and successfully renewed this accreditation in both 2016 and 2019.

TASC serves non-violent, substance abusing, adult offenders who are referred to us by the criminal justice system on both the misdemeanor and felony levels. Referrals come from Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Cleveland Municipal Court. TASC 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 Master's Degree educated, and licensed by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board and/or the Ohio Chemical Dependency Board. All TASC clinical staff have been trained on American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Dimensions and the appropriate use of the criteria in clinical decision-making and treatment planning.

## **ASSESSMENT**

TASC assessments are conducted at the following stages in the criminal justice continuum: Diversion and Post Sentence. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, TASC assessors conducted bail assessment via Telehealth and jail assessments behind glass. The assessor determines whether a substance use disorder exists using DSM 5 criteria, and then recommends the appropriate treatment intervention based on ASAM Dimensional Criteria. TASC utilizes an in house MDA (multidimensional assessment) for all clinical assessments. The computer generated program allows clinicians to expand narrative fields to include more detailed data on each individual. The tool also includes additional exploration of current and historical trauma.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Assessment Specialists develop individualized case plans to assist clients in meeting treatment recommendations as identified in the substance abuse assessment. The TASC Assessment Specialists link clients to treatment facilities and assist in removing any barriers that might interfere with the individual successfully completing treatment. TASC licensed staff provide crisis intervention and individual counseling when appropriate. TASC Assessment Specialists are also able to assist offenders with the Medicaid applications should the need arise.

## **NON-INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

TASC provides a Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment program for males. TASC groups transitioned to a Zoom beginning April 2020 and extended through the remaining calendar year. The six-session group meets weekly for two hours. Participants are required to attend online 12-step meetings and submit to random urinalyses. Participants 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. TASC also utilizes the Gorski Relapse Prevention evidence based practice program.

## **INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

TASC currently provides two Intensive Outpatient Treatment programs via Zoom . Our MATRIX Model Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program is recognized by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) 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, three hours each day, for eight weeks, which is followed by four weeks of aftercare.

The second program is the Women's Trauma, Recovery and Empowerment Model (TREM), Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program. TREM combines the TREM Model and a Trauma-Informed Addictions Treatment Model. This program has been temporarily suspended and should resume Spring 2021. 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 psychoeducational and cognitive behavioral techniques in an actively supportive group context.

The Trauma-Informed Alcohol and Drug Treatment Model is 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.

## **JAIL FEMALE INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT**

Through a grant received from the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board in 2019, TASC implemented an evidence-based behavioral health program for females incarcerated in the County Jail, and diagnosed with having an Opioid Use Disorder. Multiple participants in the TASC IOP program concurrently receive Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through MetroHealth Medical Center. This services combination is consistent with the U.S. HHS - SAMHSA guidance for best practice intervention services with Opioid Dependent clients. On an annual basis, this program has capacity to serve a maximum of approximately eighty clients annually. This program has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions as set forth by the County jail with programing set to resume when safe to do so.

**2020 TASC REFERRALS**

<i>Referral Source</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
	<i>Referrals Received</i>	<i>Referrals Received</i>	<i>Referrals Received</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PRETRIAL</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION</i>	<i>404</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>129</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court PROBATION</i>	<i>1,441</i>	<i>1,782</i>	<i>1,095</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court DRUG COURT</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court RECOVERY COURT</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court VETERAN'S COURT</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Common Pleas Court INTERVENTION IN LIEU OF CONVICTION</i>	<i>315</i>	<i>412</i>	<i>204</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>2,655</i>	<i>2,967</i>	<i>1,616</i>
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court PROBATION</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Cleveland Municipal Court DRUG COURT</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Women's Jail IOP (referred by Cuyahoga County Warden's Office)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>2,820</i></b>	<b><i>3,096</i></b>	<b><i>1,643</i></b>

MEGHAN E. PATTON  
*SPECIALTY COURT  
ADMINISTRATOR*

# SPECIALTY DOCKETS



STAFF  
Coordinators (4)

MHDD Jail Liaison Specialist

Administrative Assistant

*JUDGE NANCY  
MARGARET RUSSO*

# RE-ENTRY COURT



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 re-commitments 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 2020:                   \$660,132.20**

**REEC savings to taxpayers from 2007 through 2020:   \$14,464,135.16**

These savings are calculated conservatively, using only the established per diem rate for prison commitment, and does 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.

The REEC also 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 and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

Graduates are followed for a three 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.

REEC currently 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 Court of Common Pleas, our participating Judges, and to the taxpayers of Cuyahoga County, for their support of the REEC.

Judge Nancy A. Fuerst  
Judge Michael J. Russo  
Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams  
Judge Maureen Clancy

# COMMERCIAL DOCKET



Effective January 1, 2018, the Commercial Docket was re-established with broad support from the legal community under the newly enacted Superintendence Rule 49. Ohio courts with more than six judges may elect to establish such a docket and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, General Division, is one of two jurisdictions in Ohio with this specialized docket.

Judge Nancy A. Fuerst, Judge Joseph D. Russo, Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams, and Judge Maureen Clancy currently serve staggered three year terms and preside over any civil cases which involve disputes among business entities, owners, shareholders, partners, sole proprietors or members.

The Commercial Docket Judges are required to complete 12 of their 40 required continuing education hours on commercial issues and report their case activity to the Ohio Supreme Court.

**In 2020, 399 new cases were assigned to the Commercial Docket. That number includes Commercial Docket and Commercial Docket with foreclosures.**



# DRUG COURTS



## *DRUG COURT*

Judge David T. Matia

## *RECOVERY COURT*

Judge Joan Synenberg

## *DRUG COURT*

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell

"Drug Court's mission is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity"

## **HISTORY AND OVERVIEW**

The Cuyahoga County Drug Court program was established in May of 2009. The mission of the Drug Court Program is to provide judicial intervention, treatment and intensive supervision to individuals who have committed criminal acts as a direct or indirect result of their substance use disorders. The Drug Court Program was created through Local Rule 30.2 for assignments of criminal cases to Drug Court dockets. The Cuyahoga County Drug Court Program takes participants in any stage of the case process system.

Clients that suffer solely from substance use disorder will participate in the traditional tracks of the Drug Court Program, while those that suffer from substance use disorder and trauma related mental health issues will participate in the Recovery Court Program.

In January of 2015, the Common Pleas Court expanded the existing Drug Court Program under Judge David T. Matia to add a second track that not only handles substance use disorders, but trauma related mental health issues. The Honorable Joan Synenberg, who served for five years as a Mental Health Court Judge, oversees Recovery Court.

The Common Pleas Court was awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA grant in 2016 to begin a third docket to the Drug Court Programs. Judge David T. Matia took on an additional docket that handles those who suffer from opioid use disorders with immediate access to Medication Assisted Treatment to assist with their drug use. In November of 2019, Judge Nancy McDonnell was welcomed to the Cuyahoga County Drug Court team to preside over Judge David T. Matia's tradition track. The addition of Judge Nancy McDonnell enables further participants to enter the Drug Court Programs with specialized tracks to assist in their needs.

The ideal participant for Drug Court is one who suffers from moderate to severe substance use disorders, finds themselves involved in the criminal justice system and wants the assistance of a non-adversarial approach to the judicial system. All clients referred for eligibility in the Drug Court Programs are triaged and accepted into the most appropriate program. Drug Court has two different tracks that participants may enter. The first track is designed for those individuals who have only one prior felony conviction. These participants will be eligible for diversion upon completion of the program. Track 2 is designed for those with three or less prior felony convictions. Participants that enter track 2 will not receive the benefit of diversion after completion, but will receive all the same enhanced services. All potential participants will take part in a clinical assessment that will determine diagnosis and recommended treatment course. The clinical assessment will also determine which docket is most appropriate for the individual. Priority is given to those high-risk participants' (e.g. current IV-drug use and pregnant women).

## **FUNDING**

In September of 2020, Cuyahoga County Recovery Court completed their three-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA grant. This grant reward utilized funding for staff salary, training and treatment services provided to Recovery Court participants. The court successfully enrolled 135 participants into the project and maintained 85% follow-up rate for the Government Performance and Results Acts which a requirement for the grant.

All three dockets continue to receive Addiction Treatment Program funds awarded by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These funds assist certified Drug Court Programs to pay for treatment, sober living placements and all other funds needed to treat individuals in recovery.

Judge David T. Matia's docket continues to operate using a five-year award provided to the court by the Department of Health and Human Services Substance abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. These funds assist the court in staff salary, medication-assisted therapy, treatment, and training.

## TEAM MEMBERS

The Team is comprised of a Judge, Coordinator, TASC Case Managers, Probation Officers, Prosecutor, Public Defender and Treatment Liaisons. This collaborative Team is responsible for the daily operations of Drug Court and meets weekly for staffing and status review hearings.

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas has three judges who preside over three different programs under the Drug Court Program umbrella. Judge Joan Synenberg handles cases that are eligible for Drug Court, but have underlying trauma related mental health issues as well as substance use disorder. Judge Nancy R. McDonnell handles all cases that are eligible for Drug Court that do not suffer from trauma related mental health issues and those that do not have an opioid use disorder. Judge David T. Matia oversees those individuals that suffer from opioid use disorders that could benefit from Medical Assisted Treatment.

The Drug Court Judge chairs the team meetings and runs the status review hearings each week providing ongoing judicial interaction with each participant. Judges in Drug Court programs are the final decision-maker, especially concerning incentives, sanctions, phase advancement and successful completion or termination from the drug court programs.

Coordinator Molly Leckler oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the Drug Court Judge and court administration. The Coordinator monitors service provider agreements, contracts, and services to participants. The Coordinator ensures that the treatment team members follow program policies, procedures, and assists in the availability of professional education.

The team prosecutor incorporates a non-adversarial approach while pursuing justice and protecting public safety and victims' rights. The prosecutor screens cases early on for potential referrals to the Drug Court Programs.

The team public defender incorporates a non-adversarial approach while recognizing the distinct role of defense counsel in preserving the constitutional rights of the Drug Court participant. The public defender will explain the rights waived by entering the program and discuss possible sanctions and incentives with the participants.

The Case Manager assists participants in the development, utilization and coordination of the treatment plan. Case managers attend all team meetings and status review hearings. Case managers are instrumental in advising the Judge in regard to a participant's progress or struggles. Case managers are responsible for linking clients to appropriate treatment.

The Probation Officer conducts legal eligibility screening and assures that court orders are followed while participating in the Drug Court Program. The Probation Officer provides written violations to the court for formal hearings.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

**The Cuyahoga County Drug Court Program received 147 cases for eligibility in 2020 as compared to 252 cases in 2019.** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, referrals were significantly lower due to lockdown procedures and the number of cases being processed early in the pandemic through the criminal justice system. **Recovery Court admitted 26 participants in the program. Judge Matia's Drug Court Program admitted 26 participants and Judge Nancy McDonnell admitted 17 in the year of 2020.**

Cuyahoga County Drug and Recovery Court Programs held two Graduation Ceremonies during 2020 which is one less than years past due to limited gatherings. Drug Court graduated 34 (Judge David T. Matia, 13 & Judge Nancy McDonnell, 21) clients during the past year. Judge Joan Synenberg graduated 26 participants from Recovery Court.

## **TRAINING INITIATIVES**

The Cuyahoga County Drug Court and Recovery Court teams participated in many different trainings throughout 2020. Most presentations and trainings were held virtually, which allowed staff to expand their knowledge and expertise.

Staff participated in Equity and Inclusion Training: Adult Court Best Practice Standards held by the National Drug Court Institute in collaboration with Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County. The courts hopes to improve access and retention by following the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) toolkit. The Cuyahoga Drug Court and Recovery Court staff also participated in trainings such as Revisiting Phases, Stress Management Toolbox, Show Me the Data: A Profile of Ohio's Specialized Dockets.

The Cuyahoga County Drug Court teams participated in presentations by many of our collaborative partners to maintain contact and communicate changes made to referrals, treatment and programs during the Pandemic. Staff was able to discuss barriers with many of our collaborative partners during monthly virtual meetings and communicate effectively to provide ongoing treatment and services to clients.

## **PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

Cuyahoga County Drug Court and Recovery Court continues to participate in monthly Overdose Fatality Review Stakeholder meetings held by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

Judge David T. Matia created a Northern Ohio Judges meeting to discuss how courts are handling procedures during the Pandemic.

## **COURT IN THE NEWS**

Judge David T. Matia's court earned another three-year certification by the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets.

Judge Joan Synenberg was featured on News 5 Cleveland in March of 2020 to highlight how Recovery Court ensures that participants do not begin to feel isolated or abandoned because of the isolation many clients express during the Pandemic.





Project 180, Drug Court's Alumni group, typically holds monthly sober events for current and prior graduates. Unfortunately, folks were not able to gather in large groups due to COVID-19. Project 180 was only able to hold three events during 2020: Pancake Brunch, tubing at Boston Mills Brandywine, and an outdoor scavenger hunt (top middle). Project 180 helps current participants connect with those that have years of sobriety.

The Drug Court Model is designed to allow participants to have ongoing judicial interaction with their assigned Judge on a bi-weekly basis called Status Review Hearings. Traditionally, these hearings are in-person with the average of three minutes per client, which research has shown to increase successful outcomes of participants. In March of 2020, all three dockets transitioned from in-person staffing and status review hearings to Zoom (lower, middle). This allowed participants and staff to hold weekly status review hearings to maintain compliance with the Drug Court Model. Participants attend court using either their smart phone or computer. Participants are able to encourage their fellow participants by using the chat or emoji function.

*JUDGE HOLLIE L.  
GALLAGHER,  
CHAIR*

# MHDD DOCKET



*JUDGE DEENA CALABRESE*

*JUDGE SHANNON GALLAGHER*

*JUDGE ROBERT MCCLELLAND*

*JUDGE MICHAEL P. SHAUGHNESSY*

*MEGHAN PATTON & PHILIP FLORIAN*  
Coordinators

*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.*

## **HISTORY AND OVERVIEW**

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. The MHDD Court was created through amendments to Local Rules 30, 30.1, and 33. In 2017, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges adopted revised amendments to Local Rule 30.1 allowing for eligible cases to have additional opportunity to transfer into the MHDD Court, including after sentencing an offender to community control sanctions (probation). This amendment allowed for 263 pretrial or probation cases to be transferred during 2020. This is a decrease from the 466 transfers in 2019. The decrease was primarily due to the overall slowdown of criminal justice system in 2020 to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The MHDD Court was established to facilitate 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 severe mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

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 specialty 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 2020 were Judge Hollie L. Gallagher (chair), Judge Robert C. McClelland, Judge Deena R. Calabrese, Judge Michael P. Shaughnessy and Judge Shannon M. Gallagher. Robert C. McClelland stepped down from both the bench and MHDD Court on December 31, 2020. All who had an opportunity to work with him will miss Judge McClelland's presence on the MHDD docket. Judge Deborah M. Turner succeeded Judge McClelland on the docket in 2021.

The five judges oversee the MHDD Court on a voluntary basis, while also carrying non-MHDD criminal and civil cases on their dockets. In 2020, approximately 49% of the MHDD Judges' criminal dockets were identified as MHDD offenders.

The MHDD Court consists of an interdisciplinary team that strives to provide support to the Court and the offenders through a therapeutic approach. Along with the five MHDD Court Judges, the team consists of a variety individuals and programs.

## **FUNDING**

The MHDD Court is funded by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, and is supported by local, state, and federal funding entities.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

### **COURT COORDINATOR**

The Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the judges and court administration. The MHDD Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external partners and providers on an ongoing sustained basis. Throughout the year, the MHDD judges and the coordinator continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission. Meghan Patton has been the MHDD Coordinator since 2015. In December of 2020, Meghan was promoted to the Specialty Court Administrator position. Philip Florian was hired as the MHDD Coordinator. Phil has been a valued member of the team as a forensic liaison and the Court is excited to welcome him to this new position.

### **PRETRIAL TREATMENT COORDINATOR & MHDD CLINICAL COORDINATOR**

The Pretrial Treatment/MHDD Probation Coordinator serves as the clinical point person for identification, eligibility determination and placement for MHDD Court dockets in 2020. This position plays a critical role in the management of the mental health by "flagging" 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.

### **ADULT PROBATION- MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (MHDD) OFFICERS**

The MHDD Probation Unit assists 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 from MHDD Judges and non-MHDD Judges. The unit provides Judges with an alternative to prison commitment. The MHDD Unit helps offenders receive behavioral health services for their disability, address criminogenic risks, reintegrate into the community, and successfully complete probation. Probation staff are trained in assisting MHDD offenders to face their most common barriers in the community, provide supervision and enforcement of the conditions of community control sanctions while supporting compliance with psychiatric treatment recommendations. The incorporation of judicial and clinical staffing has also aided in facilitating cooperation among the offenders within the MHDD Unit.

The MHDD Unit is currently staffed by 13 specially trained officers, a Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Specialist, and two supervisors. The MHDD Unit allocates nine officers to supervise clients with severe mental illness and four officers to supervise clients with developmental disabilities. The unit had previously included a pretrial officer who supervised pretrial clients that met MHDD eligibility; however, in 2020, this position was moved to the Pretrial Services division in accordance with best pretrial practices. The average caseload of the thirteen post-conviction officers is 41 offenders with a recommended duration of two years of community control sanctions.

### **CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE**

The Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office continued to identify four Public Defender Attorneys who oversee the cases assigned to their office on the MHDD Docket, including representing clients at the MHDD Staffing hearings.

### **CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office continued to identify a supervisor to oversee MHDD Court cases through pre-trial to post-conviction. This assistance, starting in 2018, has allowed for more meaningful dialogue between criminal justice agencies and provides consistent oversight of MHDD cases through their agency.



## **MENTAL HEALTH JAIL LIAISON SPECIALIST**

The Court of Common Pleas and the ADAMHS Board created a collaborative position, the Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist. This position, started in July of 2019, is funded by both organizations to assist with identification and linkage of mental health services for MHDD incarcerated clients at the earliest opportunity as possible.

The Specialist works closely with the MHDD Judges, MHDD Court Coordinator, Bond Commissioner's Office, contracted and non-contracted liaisons, MetroHealth's county jail psychiatric unit, the MHDD probation unit, county jail staff, the Public Defender's attorneys and social worker unit and other pertinent staff.

During 2020, the specialist obtained or coordinated 212 mental health records for MHDD Court eligibility review. The specialist was identified as the primary contact to communicate with the MetroHealth's psychiatric unit. The Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist assisted over 973 MHDD and non-MHDD individuals with psychiatric, medical, and medication-assisted treatment needs. It should be noted that this number also includes duplicated defendants' who may require ongoing follow-up or if the same defendant was booked back into the jail. The Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist and liaisons completed 243 reintegration plans during 2020, and coordination was provided to additional defendants.

The MHDD Court Coordinator and The Mental Health Liaison Specialist collaborated with the Court Psychiatric Clinic and MetroHealth's Behavioral Health Manager to identify incarcerated offenders in the county jail throughout displaying acute psychiatric symptoms to streamline competency evaluations and reintegration planning. Further, the Coordinator and Specialist also worked with the MetroHealth's Jail Pharmacy Department to continue the pilot project to allow offenders access to their medications upon release to support continuum of care efforts.

The Mental Health Jail Liaison Specialist and agency jail liaisons were impacted by COVID-19 during 2020. Beginning in March, there were significant difficulties in reviewing MHDD individuals in jail due to the spread of COVID-19. Work on case resolutions, as well as reintegration planning, were conducted in order to resolve cases and assist with decreasing the number of defendants in the jail. MHDD jail lists have been reviewed on an ongoing basis with the MHDD judges and agencies. The Mental Health Jail Liaisons Specialist as well as agency liaisons have been assisting with linkage and reintegration planning.

## **THE ALCOHOL, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ADAMHS) BOARD JAIL LIAISON PROGRAM**

The ADAMHS Board funds the Behavioral Health Jail Liaison program, which provides mental health linkage and reintegration planning efforts to those incarcerated with a severe mental illness in the county jail. Agencies receiving funding for this program during 2020 were Recovery Resources, Metro WRAP, Murtis H. Taylor, and Signature Health.

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the services provided by these providers, both in and out of the courthouse. Liaisons were restricted from their usual in-jail access and, for much of 2020, were limited to using the Securus video connection system to conduct video calls to inmates in the jail. Liaisons were able to attend staff meetings that were held via Zoom, and continued to submit Reintegration Plans to the Judges as requested.

## **CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIAISON PROGRAM**

The CCBDD provides Liaisons to assist in the management of offenders with developmental disabilities while they are in the pretrial process, whether bail or incarcerated, on community control sanctions (probation), or sentenced to prison. CCBDD Liaisons also partner with the Forensic Monitor from Recovery Resources to assist with their role monitoring the progress of individuals under the Incompetent to Stand Trial, Unrestorable status who are under Court Jurisdiction, focusing on individuals whose primary needs are developmental disabilities.

COVID-19 also affected the ability of Liaisons to do their work with the same restrictions faced by liaisons from the ADAMHS Board with no jail access after March and meetings taking place via Zoom.

**NORTHCOST BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE REINTEGRATION PILOT**

The Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare Reintegration Pilot project was created in 2019 to achieve safe community reintegration of low-level felony offenders on the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court docket swiftly upon returning to the county jail from Northcoast Behavioral following a restoration period. This project was possible due to the collaboration of the Court, Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office and the Cuyahoga County Public Defender’s office. Four individuals qualified for this program in 2020.

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

2020 will be remembered primarily as the year of the COVID-19 virus. The pandemic cast a long shadow over all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Intakes to MHDD Probation (MHDD Judges)	368
Terminations from probation (MHDD Judges)	439
Terminations total (MHDD and non MHDD Judges)	505

**COLLABORATIVE MHDD CLINICAL STAFFINGS**

The MHDD officers continued their collaboration with clinical staffing community behavioral health agencies to ensure therapeutic approaches to the offenders’ community control experience. Officers work closely with several community agency providers through bi-weekly or monthly clinical staff meetings with Forensic case managers, licensed social workers, and licensed counselors from Recovery Resources, Murtis H. Taylor, FrontLine Service, Signature Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), and Matt Talbot Inn residential treatment center.

The pandemic and consequent social distancing measures affected the unit’s ability to conduct in-person Court and Clinical staffings in 2020. As a result, the unit quickly transitioned to a virtual medium to maintain regular contact with the Court and community providers.

Contracted service providers include the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (approximately 31% of offenders supervised in the MHDD program are assessed with developmental disabilities) and Recovery Resources, selected in cooperation with the ADAMHS Board, which co-funds the program, to provide mental health counseling, psychiatric services, medication management, and support services.

Officers and team members continued to have working relationship with St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Community Assessment Treatment Services, Cleveland Clinic-Lutheran Hospital, The MetroHealth System, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Cleveland Police CIT officers, Mobile Crisis, Oriana House, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Empowering Integrated Care Solutions, and other treatment providers and community support networks.

**At the close of 2020, there were approximately 538 offenders under active post-conviction supervision by the MHDD Unit.** This includes those whose highest level of conviction was a felony (80%) as well as those who plead down from a felony charge at indictment to a misdemeanor conviction.

## TREATMENT TEAM & COURT HEARINGS

One of the most important features of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (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 staffings. Although MHDD offenders may have a higher amount of minor technical violations due to the complexity of their diagnosis, co-occurring disorder, and criminogenic and socioeconomic needs, the MHDD Court consistently works with the offenders in order to assist them through medication compliance, substance abuse treatment, housing stability, 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 and team members. Community behavioral health partners from several agencies attend the staffing and assist in community development plans. Community and jail liaisons, 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.

Treatment team and court hearings started in-person at the start of 2020 twice a month, but by early March were temporarily paused as the Court adjusted to new social distancing requirements brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after the start of the health and safety restrictions, court and treatment team staffings moved to all virtual gatherings using the Zoom software interface. While not ideal, it did allow the process to continue. Overall, numbers of defendants seen during these staffings dropped compared to the in-person practices, as noted on the chart below. Though the totals dropped over the prior year, the types of cases and percentages of the types of reviews remained consistent. It should also be noted, that some hearings may have been conducted outside of normal staffing to ensure that defendants in jail had hearings held quickly. This may also likely account for the decreased numbers of 2020 staffing hearings.

<b>Statistics and Analysis for 2020</b>		<b>2020 %</b>	<b>2019 Stats</b>	<b>2019 %</b>
<b>Total Staffing Hearings held</b>	324	100%	1058	100%
30-day Review Hearings and New Transfers	31	9.5%	158	15%
Case Review Hearings	70	22%	190	18%
CBCF Pre-Release Hearings	6	2%	29	3%
Compliance / Modification Hearings	15	4.5%	97	9%
Violation Hearings	148	45%	453	43%
Early Termination Hearings	0	0%	11	1%
Terminations	31	9.5%	79	7.5%
Release Plans	1	.3%	12	1%
Other (i.e. CR hearings, Status, etc)	22	7%	29	3%

## **TRAINING INITIATIVES**

COVID-19 had an enormous impact on potential training initiatives in 2020. After March when much of the State of Ohio went into “work from home” status, there were little to no opportunities to do large or even smaller in-person trainings. Local and Statewide conferences were cancelled or were replaced by Zoom-based webinars that could be done in front of a computer. These short and focused webinars provided opportunities for MHDD partners to engage in learning on a wide variety of topics. For example, MHDD Court received monthly invitations from the US Department of Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center for Behavior Health and Justice Transformation on webinars such as “Trauma Training for Criminal Justice Professionals” and “Role of the Criminal Justice System in Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis.” Most of the training opportunities were free and easily accessed on work or home computers. Many of these recorded webinars will continue to be available.

## **ANNUAL MHDD COURT ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION SEMINAR**

The annual Mental Health and Development Disabilities (MHDD) Court Attorney Certification Seminar typically is held in person with a large panel of professionals presenting to a room full of attorneys. COVID-19 precautions required that the MHDD Court modify its approach and in early December 2020, Judge Robert McClelland, Jail Liaison Specialist Lottie Gray and MHDD Court Coordinator Meghan Patton hosted a Friday Forum to do a brief summary of the MHDD Court and Jail Liaison Program over Zoom.

Typically, the MHDD Court Attorney training would host a variety of presenters and panel discussions. This seminar provides attorneys with overviews of the MHDD Court history and policy, mental illness and developmental disabilities diagnoses, the role of community jail Forensic Liaisons, legal and competency issues, Cuyahoga County homeless continuum, and the MetroHealth’s Jail Psychiatric unit policies and procedures.

Attorneys who apply to be on the MHDD Court’s assigned counsel list must attend this training in order to be assigned MHDD Court cases. The goal of the seminar is to provide attorneys with guidance and understanding of MHDD offenders’ clinical needs and legal process. This training is the only annual certified seminar within the State of Ohio for attorneys representing individuals suffering from severe mental illnesses and developmental disabilities and will return as a full online program in 2021 or until pandemic precautions are lifted.

## **PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

Even with much of the region shut down and partner agency staff working from home, the MHDD Court Coordinator continued to find ways to engage with partnership initiatives.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

The Court celebrated its fourth annual Mental Health Awareness Month in May with a virtual 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 artwork and see that through recovery of addiction and treatment of mental illness combined with the artistic process can bring beautiful ideas to light.

**MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**#breakthestigma**



## **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 severe 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 2016, Cuyahoga County Council passed a resolution to support the Stepping Up Initiative within Cuyahoga County. In 2017, a cross-system Sequential Intercept Workshop was held to assist the county in identifying areas for improvement.

Subsequently, Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Taskforce was created. Presently, the taskforce is chaired by the Honorable Hollie L. Gallagher, MHDD Court Chair, Mr. Matt Carroll, County Executive Office's Office, Scott Osiecki, CEO of the ADAMHS Board, and Dr. Julia Bruner of MetroHealth. The co-chairs continued their leadership efforts by preparing to work with the Executive Taskforce. The co-chair identified an individual from their agency to help support the efforts of Stepping Up during 2020.

The Co-chairs held an Executive Taskforce meeting on January 8, 2020 and provided discussion and updates on the following projects:

### **STEPPING UP DATA MATCH PROJECT**

Starting in 2019, one of the more involved Stepping Up projects involved a massive effort to share data between the County-wide homeless system and the County jail. The results of the study will be used by the Cuyahoga Stepping Up team to estimate the number of people cycling between jail, homelessness system providers, and health systems. The report will help inform the Stepping Up team's work and may serve as a model for other Stepping Up Ohio teams to match and analyze the data that exist in their communities.

While receiving aggregate-level data back from the analysis, the Stepping Up team intends to use these estimated numbers assist policymakers in scaling and coordinating appropriate interventions between these systems. By the end of the year, the data match hadn't yet been completed. These efforts will continue into 2021.

### **JAIL SHELTER DIVERSION**

The MHDD Court has partnered with Cleveland Mediation Center to incorporate shelter diversion and mediation techniques when discharge planning for individuals rather than waiting until they are in the community. This short-term intervention can have long-term impact in preventing a person from entering the shelter system. The target population includes incarcerated, currently homeless, or in unstable housing and on pre-trial or probation. Referrals will come from bond investigators, Pre-Trial officers, Probation officers, Judges/Bailiffs, attorneys, and even the inmates themselves. The intention is that the medication Specialist will assist the client in figuring out better or other alternatives than entering the shelter system. These efforts continued throughout 2020 and will again into 2021.

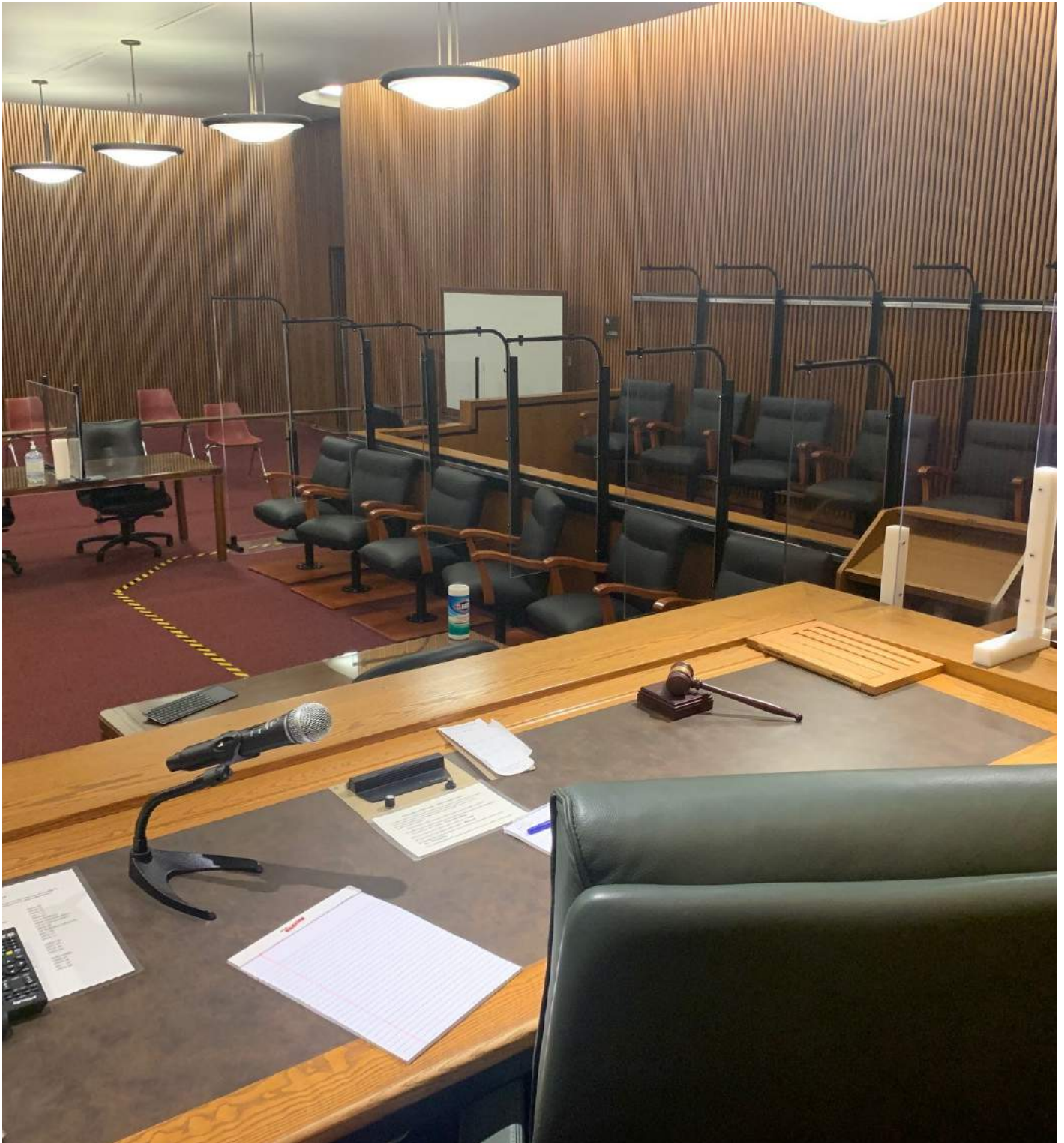
### **RETURNING HOME CUYAHOGA**

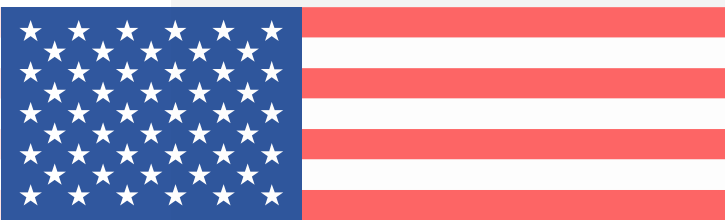
Returning Home Cuyahoga is a partnership between EDEN, Inc, Frontline Services and the MHDD Court. This program began in 2018 with a presentation to the Stepping Up leadership and stakeholders group about the Homeless Continuum and the larger Returning Home Ohio program. From 2018-2019, data was examined to understand MHDD Clients who were the highest utilizers of mental health services who also cycled through the jail as well as hospital systems and were also chronically homeless. In 2019, the following criteria was determined for candidates for this initiative: currently incarcerated in the county jail, on the MHDD docket, homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, frequently incarcerated (3 times in 365 days), a high utilizer of the shelter system and/or hospital system and finally diagnosed with an Axis I mental health disorder. Individuals who met these criteria engage in intensive planning that will end with paid housing, a case plan, assignment to a Frontline Case manager and engagement with peer supports. By the end of 2020, 11 candidates were reviewed and six were successfully housed. More importantly, looking at the candidates who were in the program the longest, all went from multiple hospitalizations and jail stays to none during the year they were involved in the program. The pilot program will continue into 2021.

## COURT IN THE NEWS

COVID and Courts- <https://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/2020/11/cuyahoga-county-common-pleas-court-will-hold-no-jury-trials-until-january-2021-amid-sustained-coronavirus-surge.html>

Diversion Center article - <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2020/12/cuyahoga-county-council-approves-plan-for-diversion-center-to-treat-rather-than-jail-some-crime-suspects.html>





# VETERANS TREATMENT

*JUDGE JOHN J. RUSSO*



*AMANDA WOZNIAK*  
Coordinator

Report compiled by  
Meghan E. Patton, Specialty  
Court Administrator



## **Mission Statement**

*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.*

### **HISTORY AND OVERVIEW**

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a certified Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket with a multi-disciplinary approach made up of criminal justice and behavioral health experts. This unique team offers services tailored to a shared military experience making direct and positive differences for veterans. Data has proven that participation in VTC, in Ohio and nationally, yields less recidivism for veterans.

The Veterans Treatment Court was dedicated on May 29, 2015 under the Honorable Michael Jackson. Following Judge Jackson's retirement, Judge John J. Russo has presided over the court and received certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Docket Commission on September 17, 2019.

There are several crucial components to VTC; regular court staffing hearings with the VTC Judge who interacts with each veteran, phase progression through the program, swift incentives and sanctions to address veterans' needs, regular and random drug and alcohol testing, and the Veteran Mentor Program. Mentors are volunteer veterans who assist the veteran participant in VTC with accountability, support, friendship, and guidance through shared military experience.

As part of our multi-disciplinary team, VTC also has licensed social workers from Veteran's Affairs and TASC, along with other community providers' knowledge about military experience. This team aids the veteran in setting goals and successfully completing the program.

The program is designed to be completed within approximately 18 months, and possibly completing in as early as 12 months. A veteran will move through four phases and be monitored for compliance with case plan requirements by the team, along with randomized drug and alcohol testing. Once a veteran has moved through all phases and completed all community control requirements, there is a Recognition Ceremony held each quarter.

### **LEGAL AND CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY & TRANSFER PROCEDURE**

All 34 of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges have the discretion to transfer a veteran's case to the Veterans Treatment Court. Referrals for eligibility screening may be taken at any time. Once eligibility criteria has been established, the Judge may transfer to VTC after plea for low level felony cases, after sentencing for high level felony cases, any time during community control sanctions or if judicial release is granted.

To be found legally eligible, most offense levels are acceptable; In Lieu of Conviction, Early-Intervention Program, Second Chance Program, and any offense for which a defendant may receive Community Control Sanctions (probation). Sexually-oriented offense or gang-related offense must present compelling circumstances to warrant acceptance by the VTC Judge.

Individuals are clinically eligible for VTC if they have an active substance abuse diagnosis (severe or moderate); or a mental health illness and/or traumatic brain injury with a substance abuse diagnosis (mild, severe, or moderate). Most military discharges are accepted by the Court, however, if veteran received uncharacterized discharge or dishonorable, the Veteran must present compelling evidence to be considered for VTC. A veteran must provide verification of Veteran status through DD214 and, or other governmental forms.

Lastly, an individual must agree to participate by signing the Participation Agreement.



## TEAM MEMBERS

Judge John J. Russo leads Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and presides over all cases transferred to the docket. The VTC Coordinator oversees the operations of the court under the direction of the Judge John Russo and court administration. The VTC 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 VTC judge and coordinator continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission.

The Treatment team commits to service for at least one year to promote consistency and cohesiveness. Team members also include designated public defender, designated veteran prosecutor(s), Veteran Affairs' Justice Outreach Specialist, TASC case manager, probation officer(s), probation supervisor, representatives from Veterans Benefits Administration, Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, and volunteer mentors.

## FUNDING

The VTC is funded by various sources including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through a five year grant, Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, Ohio Mental Health and Addictions Services Specialized Docket subsidies, and Cuyahoga County Council Veterans allocation.

## EVALUATION

Case Western Reserve University assesses the effectiveness of the Veterans Treatment Court as part of the SAMHSA grant services. Dr. Margaret Baughman and the research team conducts a process and outcome evaluation for VTC, both of which have been continuous throughout the duration of the SAMHSA grant.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

As the Court and country dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, Veterans Treatment Court saw a reduction in new intakes due to the stay at home order. However, by the end of the year, and as the Court and cities began to open up again, the referral began to increase. By year's end, 51 individuals were being supervised by the Veterans Treatment Court team.

Throughout the year, the coordinator and team members reviewed 120 potential referrals to Veterans Treatment Court. **During 2020, 23 individuals were admitted into the Court and 41 were either ineligible due to not meeting substance abuse diagnosis criteria or declined participation.**

Of the total intakes in 2020, 22 were males, one was female. 16 newly admitted participants were African American, one was Caucasian, and one individual's race was not identified. The age range was 23 to 67.

In 2020, 10 participants were terminated unsuccessfully. Of those terminations, nine were males, one was female. Five participants were African American and five were Caucasian.

**The court happily graduated 27 Veterans from Veterans Treatment Court in 2020.** Fourteen individuals were African American, eleven were Caucasian, and two individual's race was not specified, two were Hispanic/Latino.

When reviewing the participant's employment of those graduated, 40% were employed at intake while 53.8% were employed at graduation. Most reported stable housing.

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

Through coordinated efforts with the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Department and jail administration, a Veteran's Pod was established in the jail. Veteran defendants can remain together and receive services while in jail awaiting their formal plea into the docket, residential treatment place, or serving court sanctions. This designated pod fosters the ongoing engagement from court and treatment staff.

# HIGH-RISK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

*JUDGE SHERRIE M. MIDAY*



ERIN BECKER  
Coordinator

*“The mission of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court is to reduce the risk of violence and homicide in high-risk cases of intimate-partner violence. A specially-trained, multi-disciplinary team of justice system professionals works collaboratively to improve victim safety by providing resources for victims and intense monitoring and behavioral interventions for offenders.”*

## **HISTORY**

Under the leadership of Administrative and Presiding Judges John J. Russo and Brendan J. Sheehan, in collaboration with Judge Sherrie Miday, the Common Pleas Court identified a unique opportunity to improve the criminal justice system’s response to felony-level cases of intimate-partner violence in Cuyahoga County.

Judge Miday engaged and received the enthusiastic support of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administration and stakeholders, including the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s office, Office of the Public Defender, Adult Probation Department, Bond Commissioner, Witness Victim Service Center, the Sheriff’s Department, Cleveland Municipal Court, Journey Center for Safety and Healing, Legal Aid Society of Greater Cleveland, and Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

With the support of the Ohio Supreme Court and the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women and Center for Court Innovation, stakeholders explored the feasibility of a specialty docket to address dangerous, high-risk domestic violence cases. Encouraged by the results, stakeholders met regularly and developed a plan to implement the specialty docket. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and slowed efforts. However, during the pandemic, incidents of domestic violence increased, as well as the severity of violence reported, and the need for this specialty docket became urgent. On September 8, 2020, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judges voted to adopt Local Rule 30.5 for the establishment of a High-Risk Domestic Violence docket, and on September 28, 2020, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court began accepting its first cases.

## **OVERVIEW**

In order to identify the most dangerous cases of intimate-partner violence, eligibility criteria includes lethality risk factors of the alleged use of a firearm and/or strangulation in the offense. Prior to arraignment, the specialty docket coordinator flags domestic violence cases that meet eligibility criteria, and the case is randomly assigned to one of the 34 Common Pleas Court Judges. Defendant participation is voluntary, and the assigned Judge has to approve transfer of the case to the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket. Participation is not an admission of guilt as defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty and they retain the right to a trial. The emphasis is on victim safety, and not all defendants are granted the privilege of community control supervision (frequently known as “probation”). However, the docket has been designed to safely and appropriately supervise defendants that are released into the community.

Defendants in the community, whether on court-supervised release during the pretrial phase or community control supervision, are closely monitored by the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team. All defendants are ordered to have no contact with the named victims and are placed on GPS monitoring. Exclusion zones are set up around victims’ homes, places of employment, and other frequently visited locations such as homes of victims’ family members. Sheriff’s Department deputies monitor GPS on a 24-hour basis, and they arrest defendants who violate the No Contact orders by entering exclusion zones. High-Risk Domestic Violence Court probation officers, along with the team detectives conduct field visits to defendants’ homes and jobs. During the pretrial phase, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court team members communicate frequently with one another in order to monitor defendant compliance and victim safety.

Defendants who are sentenced to community control are typically given two-year terms of supervision. There are five phases to the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court program. Defendants are required to attend compliance hearings regularly. Intensity of monitoring and frequency of required court appearances decrease as defendants successfully progress through the phases. In order to reduce risk of violence and recidivism, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court program uses evidence-based practices in supervision. Defendants create case plans with their probation officers, which are individualized based on defendants’ specific areas of risk and needs. Risk is assessed using the Ohio Risk Assessment System and the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment.

All defendants are required to complete the University of Cincinnati Cognitive-Behavioral Program for Interpersonal Violence. Additional behavioral interventions are implemented where a specific need is indicated, such as substance abuse or mental health. All defendants are required to submit to regular drug and alcohol testing, obtain full-time employment and satisfy the financial obligations of their case.

The High-Risk Domestic Violence Court team meets weekly to discuss cases and attend compliance hearings. Prior to hearings, the Judge leads the team in case discussions regarding defendants' compliance and victim safety. Risk is monitored on an ongoing basis by the team. The Court responds swiftly and appropriately to all noncompliance and rewards compliance.

The victim advocate outreaches victims early in the case process and maintains communication throughout the duration of the case. Together, they complete the Jacqueline Campbell Danger Assessment to help victims understand the level of risk and to inform safety planning. The advocate provides resources to victims and keep them up to date with case information.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

Judge Sherrie Miday leads the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team and presides over all High-Risk Domestic Violence Court cases. High-Risk Domestic Violence Coordinator Erin Becker oversees the operations of the court under the direction of Judge Miday and court administration. The High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Coordinator interacts with various personnel within the court system and with external partners and providers on an ongoing sustained basis. Judge Miday and Erin Becker established policies and procedures of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court with input from stakeholders, team members, technical assistance provider and after consulting with leaders of other successful Domestic Violence Courts. Together, they continue to identify ongoing needs while incorporating innovative solutions and strategic planning to strengthen operations and ensure continued efforts towards the Court's common mission.

High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Team members commit to serving for at least one year to promote consistency and cohesiveness. Team members include an assistant prosecuting attorney, two public defenders, a court-supervised release probation officer, post-sentence supervision probation officer, victim advocate, two detectives from the Sheriff's Department, as well as the domestic violence program facilitator.

## **FUNDING**

A three-year, \$1 million grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Innovations in Supervision was awarded to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court for the creation of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court docket to handle 50 cases per year, or 150 cases over the life of the grant.

## **EVALUATION**

Case Western Reserve University will assess the effectiveness of the High-Risk DV Court. Jeff Kretschmar, Ph.D., the Managing Director of Case Western Reserve University's Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education and Research Associate Ashley Bukach, MPH, will conduct a process and outcome evaluation of the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court, both of which will be continuous throughout the duration of the project period. The process evaluation will examine whether the proposed High-Risk DV Court model was implemented as intended. The outcome evaluation will measure the effectiveness of the High-Risk DV Court in producing intended change.

## **YEAR IN REVIEW**

**During the three months that the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court operated in 2020, eleven cases were admitted to the specialty docket.** Of those cases, eight were strangulation cases, and three were firearm cases. All defendants were placed on court-supervised release with conditions to have no contact with their victim and were placed on electronic monitoring. One case was sentenced in 2020 and was granted two years of community control supervision on the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court.

## TRAINING INITIATIVES

In March 2020, High-Risk Domestic Violence Team members attended a two-day training to learn how to administer the Colorado Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment. In June 2020, the team participated in a training, Domestic Violence 101 facilitated by Tim Boehnlein of the Cuyahoga County Witness Victim Service Center. In August 2020, the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association to present a two-part training to justice system professionals in Cuyahoga County. Part I of the webinar was facilitated by Forensic Nurse Ruth Downing of Forensic Nursing Network and provided an overview of the physiological effects of strangulation, signs and symptoms, and the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration to improve victim safety. Part II of the webinar focused on the lethality risk factors of firearms in cases of intimate-partner violence and speakers included United States Attorney Michelle Baeppler, Molly Kaplan of Journey Center for Safety and Healing and Chief Public Defender Mark Stanton. In October 2020, Alexandria Ruden of the Greater Cleveland Legal Aid Society trained the team on protection orders and no contact orders in Ohio. Also in October, the team's probation officers, their supervisors and facilitators of the batterers' intervention program were trained to become certified facilitators of the University of Cincinnati Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Interpersonal Violence.

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

In addition to presiding over the High-Risk Domestic Violence Court, Judge Sherrie Miday chairs the Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Task Force, a multi-disciplinary collaborative comprised of leadership from municipal courts, law enforcement and the medical field who are committed to improving victim safety and reducing intimate-partner violence in the community.

## COURT IN THE NEWS

Richmond, M. (2020, 25 September). Cuyahoga County Launches New Domestic Violence Docket. Retrieved from Cuyahoga County Launches New Domestic Violence Docket | News | ideastream

Krouse, P. (2020, 18 October). A Matter of Domestic Violence Intervention. The Plain Dealer, pp. B1

Buduson, S. (2020, 28 November). High-Risk Domestic Violence Court Seeks to Reduce Cuyahoga's High Number of Incidents, Deaths. Retrieved from High-Risk Domestic Violence Court aims to reduce Cuyahoga's high number of incidents, deaths (news5cleveland.com)



## With 25 or more years of service with the Court

Kevin C Augustyn	Assistant Director Magistrates
Teroldlyn D Barkley	Clerk-Typist
Kathleen A Barry	Foreclosure Scheduler
Robert M Beck III	Probation Officer Supervisor
Gary A Bolinger	Probation Officer Supervisor
Michael T Brady	Probation Officer Supervisor
Erika D Bush	Office Manager
Jarvis A Clark	Probation Officer
Rachel Colbert	Probation Officer
Mary J Cooley	Assistant Court Reporter
Laura W Creed	Coordinator Legal Support
Michelle L Davis	Executive Secretary
Mary Kay Ellis	Supervisor
Winston L Grays	Probation Officer Supervisor
Sertarian B Hall	Lab Assistant
Mary M Hayes	Probation Officer
Eric J Hess	Assistant Law Librarian
Lisa M Hrovat	Assistant Court Reporter
James M Jeffers	Probation Officer
Kathleen A Kilbane	Assistant Court Reporter
Michelle L Kozak	Cashier/Bookkeeper
Catrina M Lockhart	Probation Officer
Nicholas P Marton	Systems Analyst
Laura M Martz	Clerk-Typist
Tracey L McCorry	Probation Officer
Steve E McGinty	Probation Officer
Timothy J McNally	Probation Officer
Denise J McNea	Probation Officer
Stephen G Noffsinger	Psychiatrist PT
Floyd B Oliver	Probation Officer
Evangelina Orozco	Bail Investigator
Susan M Ottogalli	Assistant Court Reporter
Patricia A Parente	Probation Officer
Janna R Phillips	Probation Officer Supervisor
Gregory M Popovich	Court Administrativeistrator

Stephania A Pryor	Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Kellie M Reeves-Roper	Assistant Chief Court Reporter
Cheryl A Russell	Administrative Aide I
Michael P Scully	Probation Officer
Melissa M Singer	Probation Officer Supervisor
Brian J Thelen	Probation Officer
Nicole D Thomas	Probation Officer
James M Toth	Probation Officer Supervisor
Armatha A Uwagie-Ero	Clerical Supervisor
Margaret M Wagner	Probation Officer
Kimberlee B Warren	Probation Officer
Rebecca B Wetzel	Administrator

### **With 20 to 24 years of service with the Court**

Veronica L Adams	Jury Bailiff Co-Director
Thomas P Arnaut	Director Information Systems
Michael H Aronoff	PT Interim Clinic Director
Lisa S Austin	Probation Lead Officer
Mary Jo Baden	Assistant Court Reporter
Patricia I Bittner	Jury Bailiff Co-Director
Stephanie Branch	Probation Officer Supervisor
Monica R Brown	Clerk-Typist
Angie D Bryant	Probation Officer
Stephen M Bucha III	Director Magistrates
Michael A Cain	Probation Lead Officer
Michael P Caso	Chief Social Worker
Joseph I Cassidy	Probation Officer
John B Coakley	Probation Officer
Shaunte Dixon	Probation Officer
Marlene Ebner	Assistant Court Reporter
Brian S Ely	Substance Abuse Case Manager
Vivian E Eskridge	Probation Officer
Leila Fahd	Courtroom Assistant
Teresa L Faulhaber	Assistant Law Librarian
Anna M Foley	Bailiff
Julianne M Fritz-Marshall	Probation Lead Officer

Keith L Fromwiller	Bailiff
Kevin M Gallagher	Probation Lead Officer
Michelle R Gordon	Lab Assistant
Margaret A Hastings	Bailiff
Aileen M Hernandez	Psychiatrist PT
Michelle M Hoiseth	Probation Officer
Robert A Intorcio	Assistant Court Reporter
Amy R Jackson	Magistrate
Sean A Kincaid	Probation Officer
Richard P Kraft	Probation Officer Supervisor
Jessica E Lane	Clerk-Typist
Paul R Ley	Assistant Director/Senior Analyst
Paul H Lucas	Magistrate
Wendy L McWilliam	Probation Officer Supervisor
Timothy G Meinke	Assistant Court Reporter
Patricia A Mingee	Payroll Officer/HR Administrative Assistant
Nakia U Mitchell	Probation Officer
Eric D Moten	Probation Officer
Patricia A Palmer	Bailiff
Cheryl C Parker	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kathleen A Patton	Cashier/Bookkeeper
Kerry L Paul	Assistant Court Reporter
James R Rodio	Psychiatrist PT
Loretta Ryland	Research Planner
Patricia K Schmitz	Clerk-Typist
Mary E Schuler	Assistant Court Reporter
Kelli A Summers	Probation Officer
Pamela Thompson	Office Assistant
Shontrell Thompson	Probation Officer
Mathew J Urbancich	Probation Lead Officer
Jennifer E Vargics	Office Assistant
Latanya R Wise	Clerk-Typist

### **With 10 to 19 years of service with the Court**

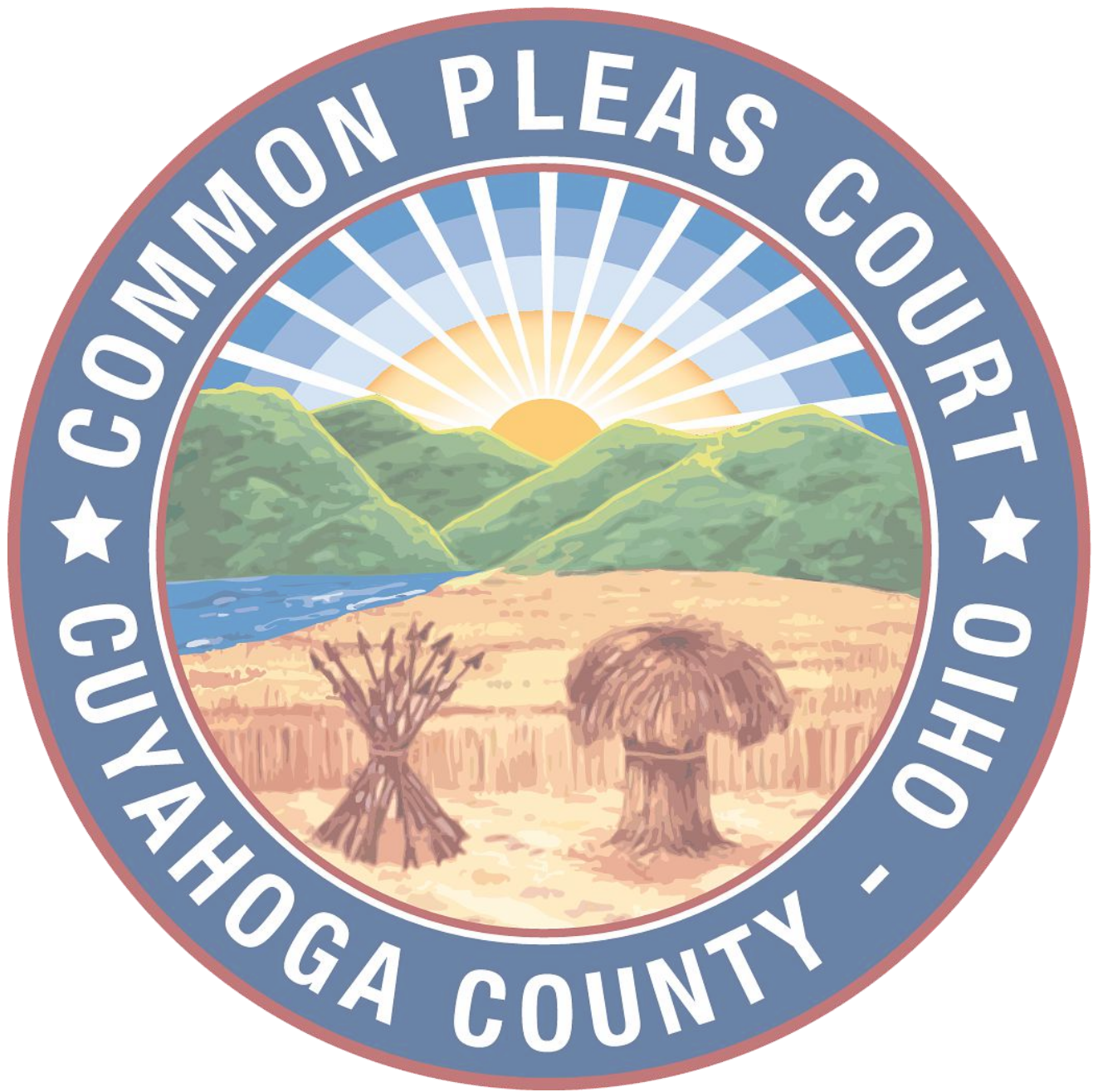
Gerald Abbadini	Assistant Court Reporter
Jessica L Alvarado	Probation Officer



Jessica Amos	Bailiff
Rhonda L Andres	Assessment Specialist
Barbara A Apanites	Probation Officer
Kelly Barr	Probation Officer
Kathleen M Barrett	Office Assistant
Nannette P Barrett	Assessment Specialist
Erin E Becker	Coordinator DV Court High Risk
Tion Benn	Probation Officer
Rose M Bennett	Bailiff
Gwendolyn T Bennett	Bond Commissioner
Renee M Bianchi	Office Assistant
Ronda Blaney	Manager
Maria Grazia Bonezzi	Foreclosure Scheduler
Christopher R Bonezzi	Probation Officer
Ronald P Borchert	Bail Investigator
Maureen M Broestl	Assistant Chief Judicial Secretary
Nicole Byron	Probation Officer
Brendan Campbell	Bailiff
Weddie D Carroll	Probation Officer
Jose B Casiano	Probation Officer
Luann Z Cawley	Assistant Court Reporter
Cathleen A Cerny-Suelzer	Psychiatrist PT
Marchila Chapman	Probation Officer
Jacqueline E Cheatwood	Probation Officer
Angela D Collins	Probation Officer
LaToya D Cook	Administrative Aide II
Michael P Cooney	Probation Lead Officer
Don D Crump	Probation Officer
Angela R Cudo	Assistant Court Reporter
Christopher E Day	Magistrate
Meghan E Disbrow	Administrator Special Dockets/Courts
Marcella A Distad	Judicial Staff Attorney
Kamil Drutel	Network Administrator
Kathleen M Dugan	Law Librarian
John T Dyke	Magistrate
Teresa A Egan	Program Officer 3
Omer Farhat	Probation Officer

Julie K Farrell	Bailiff
Charise M Flowers	Receptionist
Melissa A Foster	Clinical Coordinator
Iris Jennifer Franklin	Psychologist PT
Ann Marie Gardner	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kenya R Gray	Probation Lead Officer
Erricka L Grays	Probation Lead Officer
Celeste M Hodous	Probation Officer
Arlene HudsonBey-Lewis	Assessment Specialist
Jayne L Jakubaitis	Judicial Staff Attorney – Administrative Judge
LaToya M Jones	Probation Officer
Kari L Jones	Probation Officer
Michelle C Jones	Assistant Court Reporter
Karen M Jopek	Probation Officer
Bill S Kavourias	Probation Officer
Andrea R Kinast	Deputy Court Administrative/Court Ops
Monica C Klein	Magistrate
Mary Nell Komara	Foreclosure Scheduler
Gregory L Koterba	Assistant Court Reporter
Carla V Kuhn	Assistant Court Reporter
Amanda LaBanc	Probation Officer
Molly Leckler	Coordinator Drug Court
Robert P Lloyd	Assistant Chief Court Reporter
Walter J Luc	Bail Investigator
Deena M Lucci	Bailiff
Renee W Maalouf	Probation Officer
Debaniece A Maddox	Office Assistant
Timothy Malik	Probation Officer
Mikel M McCormick	Probation Officer Supervisor
Kelly M McTaggart	Administrative Assistant
Althea L Menough	Probation Officer
Marija Mergl	Judicial Staff Attorney
Laura A Miller	Bailiff
Jennifer K Moody-Davis	Substance Abuse Case Manager
Scott A Moorman	Judicial Staff Attorney
Sabrina M Nelson	Judicial Secretary
Maria Nemec	Chief Probation Officer

Felicia V Norwood	Assessment Specialist
Philip M Novak	Probation Lead Officer
Matthew W O'Brien	Probation Officer Supervisor
Dara L Opala	Assessment Specialist
Sarah J O'Shaughnessy	Bailiff
Elise M Panehal	Office Assistant
Patrick T Phillips	Probation Officer
Maureen Povinelli	Assistant Court Reporter
Michael T Rahm	Probation Officer
Molly W Rakic	Probation Officer
Lauren M Rivera	Probation Officer
Lyndsy Roser	Probation Officer Supervisor
Marybeth Sammon	Office Manager
Nancy Scarcella	Judicial Staff Attorney
Thomas W Sedgwick	Lab Assistant
Patrick M Shepard	Probation Officer Supervisor
Dylan E Shepherd	Probation Lead Officer
Tammy L Sherman	Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Timothy P Smith	Office Assistant
Joy Ellen Stankowski	Psychiatrist PT
Leslie A Svoboda	Probation Officer
Minerva Torres	Probation Officer
Carlos L Torres	Probation Officer
Sarah M Tuggey	Probation Lead Officer
Tracy L Vargo	Assistant Court Reporter
Lisa A Villanueva	Probation Officer
Margaret G Wallison	Bailiff - Asbestos
Ilene E White	Assistant Court Reporter
Ritamarie White	Probation Officer
Christopher A Wise	Probation Officer
Donna L Woods	Assessment Specialist
Michael G Yezbak	Probation Officer



**Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court**

**General Division**

**1200 Ontario Street**

**Cleveland, OH 44113**

**216-443-8560**

**<https://cp.cuyahogacounty.us/>**