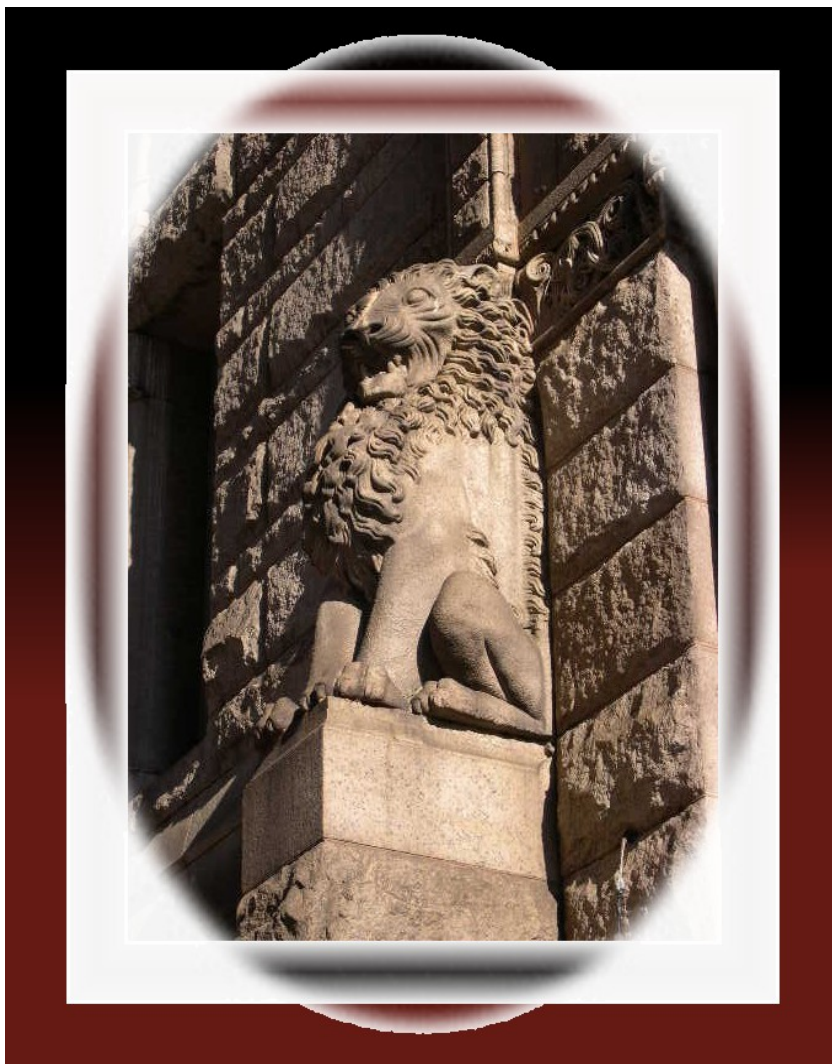


Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Cover Photo

The cover photo is a view of the Allegheny County Courthouse from the elevated lobby windows of the Frick Building across Grant Street. The bronze lion is one of a pair sculpted by A. Phimster Proctor in 1902, originally placed outside the Frick Building's Grant Street entrance. In 1911, the lions were taken inside when Grant Street was leveled.



The lion shown above is one of two flanking the Grant Street entrance to the courthouse. Sculpted in Melford granite and styled in a Byzantine costume reminiscent of the Classical-Renaissance-Academic tradition, the lions are a design of world-famous courthouse architect Henry Hobson Richardson.

– Photographs taken by Gina Haas



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President Judge and District Court Administrator

Message from the President Judge

The end of 2003 marked my fifth and final year as President Judge. The past five years allowed me the great privilege of serving the citizens of Allegheny County as President Judge of one of the finest courts in the Commonwealth.

During my tenure as President Judge, we achieved many successes in the pursuit of a more efficient, effective, and responsive judiciary. Our much anticipated Criminal Information and Management System (CIMS) was completed, numerous improvements to our jury system were introduced, personnel policies governing employee responsibilities were refined, and the reorganization of our minor judiciary were but a few of our initiatives. Of equal significance, much planning and development was initiated that laid the

groundwork for future improvements to the organization and structure of the judiciary, the diversity of our juror pools, and coordination of services among the three branches of government.

I would like to thank all of the judges, district justices, and employees of the Court. I have been honored by their support and cooperation in the efforts to provide high quality services to the public. Without their loyal commitment, achievement of our objectives would not have been possible.

Lastly, I wish to offer my sincere best wishes to my successor, Judge Joseph M. James. The Court and the citizens of Allegheny County can be confident that his devotion to the underlying principles of a fair and impartial judiciary will serve our community well.



Robert A. Kelly
President Judge



Raymond L. Billotte
District Court Administrator

We are pleased to present to the citizens of Allegheny County our 2003 Annual Report of Court operations.

Please take a few moments to look over the following pages that highlight the Court's achievements and outstanding programs. The successful resolution of hundreds of thousands of cases brought before the Common Pleas Judges and District Justices despite increasing caseloads and judicial vacancies is a credit to the dedication of our judicial officers and employees.

The Court made significant advances in two of our previously identified objectives of 2002. Last year, we reported the completion of a comprehensive study of our minor judiciary, and in January of 2003, we began implementation of those recommendations by consolidation of four district justice offices and creating a new court in the Monongahela Valley. An additional four courts will be consolidated over the next four years. District justices serving the City of Pittsburgh were also asked to preside over cases in the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court while maintaining the current caseloads. We applaud them for assuming this additional burden and thank them for their cooperation.

We again initiated improvements in our jury system. Advanced technology was introduced to improve our efficiencies of selecting jurors and mailing and processing an enormous amount of questionnaires. We also introduced an online service to allow prospective jurors the ability to respond to the questionnaire via the Internet. Finally, jurors were offered parking discounts at a number of downtown lots.

We would like to applaud three members of our organization who were recognized for their outstanding work in 2003. Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin, recipient of the "Espirit Children's Service Award," Judge James R. McGregor, recipient of the Amen Corner's "Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence," and Wendy Hayes, secretary to Judge David R. Cashman, winner of the "Lucchino Award for Distinguished Service," are congratulated for their outstanding service to their profession and community.

Two thousand three was a year of many judicial transitions. The Court welcomed newly elected Judges David N. Wecht, Jill E. Rangos, and Christine A. Ward to the bench. We also bid a fond farewell to Senior Judges J. Warren Watson and Michael J. O'Malley, whose tenure on the bench spanned three decades. Their dedicated service will be sorely missed.

Lastly, Justice Max Baer was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in November 2003. Justice Baer's devotion to the Common Pleas Court as Administrative Judge of the Family Division and in the Civil Division was characterized by innovation, compassion, and a tireless pursuit of Court improvements. The citizens of Pennsylvania will be served well by his elevation to the State's highest Court.

Robert A. Kelly *Raymond L. Billotte*



Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County – Fifth Judicial District

CIVIL DIVISION

Hon. R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.
Hon. Eugene B. Strassburger, III
Hon. Robert P. Horgos
Hon. Alan S. Penkower
Hon. Judith L.A. Friedman
Hon. Joseph M. James
Hon. W. Terrence O'Brien
Hon. Paul F. Luty, Jr.
Hon. Cynthia A. Baldwin
Hon. Max Baer
Hon. Ronald W. Folino
Hon. Timothy Patrick O'Reilly
Hon. Robert J. Colville

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Gerard M. Bigley
Hon. Donna Jo McDaniel
Hon. Jeffrey A. Manning
Hon. Robert C. Gallo
Hon. Kathleen A. Durkin
Hon. David R. Cashman
Hon. John A. Zottola
Hon. Lawrence J. O'Toole
Hon. Donald E. Machen
Hon. Robert E. Colville
Hon. Lester G. Nauhaus
Hon. Kevin G. Sasinowski
Hon. Guido A. DeAngelis

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

Hon. Walter R. Little
Hon. Robert A. Kelly
Hon. Lee J. Mazur
Hon. Frank J. Lucchino

FAMILY DIVISION

Hon. Cheryl Lynn Allen
Hon. Kathleen R. Mulligan
Hon. Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr.
Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark
Hon. Kim D. Eaton
Hon. Michael A. Della Vecchia
Hon. Randal B. Todd
Hon. David N. Wecht
Hon. Christine A. Ward
Hon. Jill E. Rangos

SENIOR JUDGES

Hon. S. Louis Farino
Hon. Livingstone M. Johnson
Hon. Lawrence W. Kaplan
Hon. Bernard J. McGowan
Hon. James R. McGregor
Hon. James H. McLean
Hon. Raymond A. Novak
Hon. Michael J. O'Malley
Hon. J. Warren Watson



(Seated): Robert A. Kelly, President Judge

(Standing L-R): Gerard M. Bigley, Administrative Judge—Criminal Division; Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr., Administrative Judge—Family Division; Joseph M. James, Administrative Judge—Civil Division; and Frank J. Lucchino, Administrative Judge—Orphans' Court Division.



Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County



Pictured (L-R):

Row 1:

Kim D. Eaton
Christine A. Ward
Ronald W. Folino
Gerard M. Bigley
Robert A. Kelly
Timothy Patrick O'Reilly
Cynthia A. Baldwin
Judith L.A. Friedman

Row 2:

Michael J. O'Malley*
Eugene B. Strassburger, III
Livingstone M. Johnson*
Robert P. Horgos
Kevin G. Sasinoski
Joseph M. James
Kathleen A. Durkin
W. Terrence O'Brien

Row 3:

Lawrence J. O'Toole
R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.
Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr.
John A. Zottola
Paul F. Luty, Jr.
Jill E. Rangos
Guido A. DeAngelis

Row 4:

Michael A. Della Vecchia
Alan S. Penkower
Walter R. Little
Cheryl Lynn Allen
Kim Berkeley Clark
Randal B. Todd
David N. Wecht

Row 5:

Raymond A. Novak*
Robert J. Colville
Robert E. Colville
Lawrence W. Kaplan*
Lester G. Nauhaus

Not Available for Photo:

Max Baer	Robert C. Gallo	Jeffrey A. Manning	Bernard J. McGowan*	Kathleen R. Mulligan
David R. Cashman	Frank J. Lucchino	Lee J. Mazur	James R. McGregor*	J. Warren Watson*
S. Louis Farino*	Donald E. Machen	Donna Jo McDaniel	James H. McLean*	

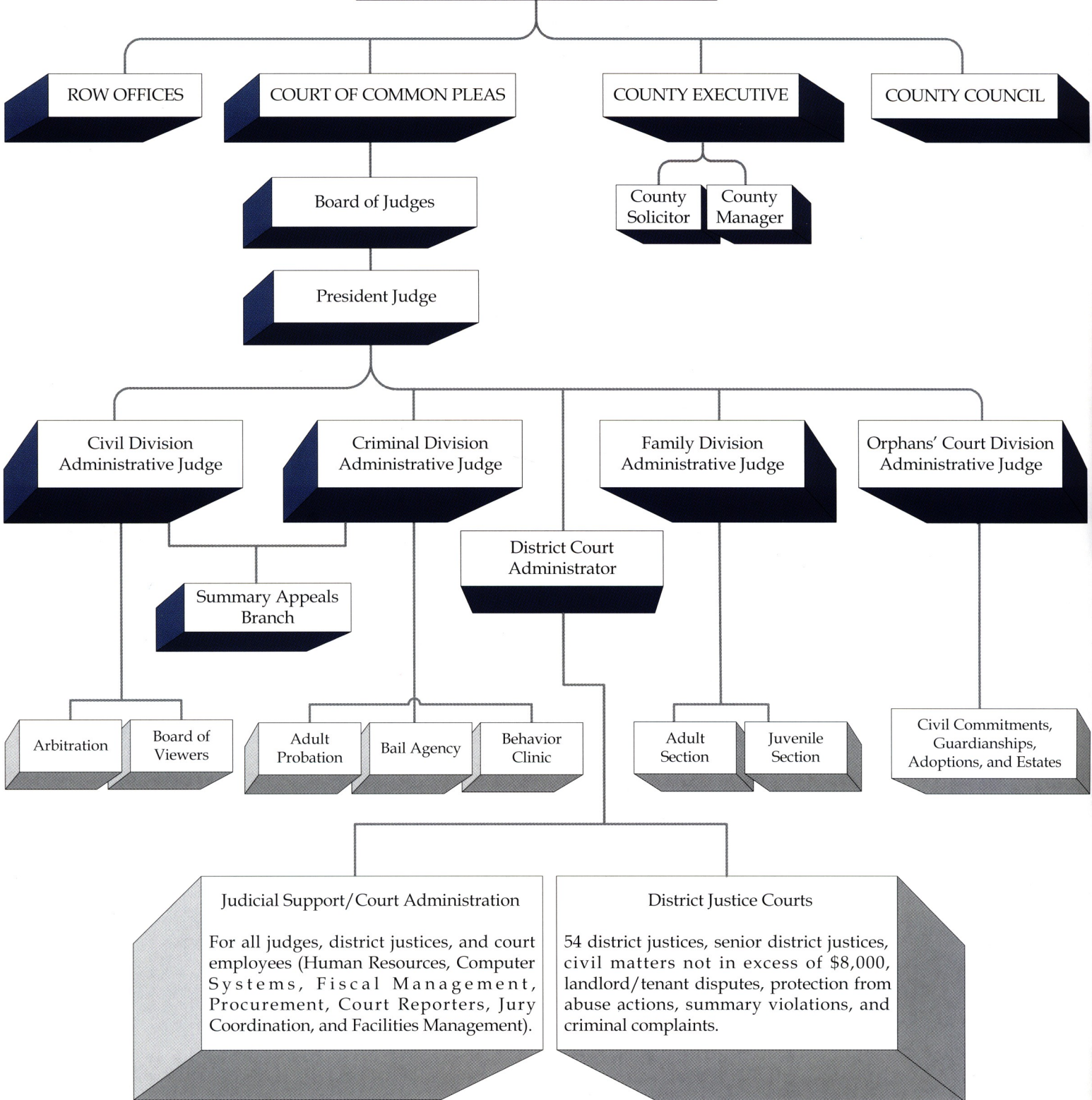
*Denotes Senior Judge



Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Allegheny County
Court of Common Pleas
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ELECTORATE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY



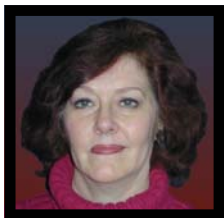
Court Administration



Frick Building — Grant Street — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Court Administration

Court Reporters



Jo Lynne Ross
Manager

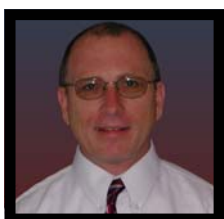
By year's end, the Office of Court Reporters had four fewer full-time reporters due to retirement, relocation, and a job change. This, however, did not have an adverse effect on scheduling reporters for courtrooms. Transcript production and delivery occasionally took longer but, overall, transcripts were

completed timely and of customary high quality. As software changes were introduced, reporters attended continuing education classes and spent considerable out-of-court hours adapting to those changes.

Family Court's Audio Room, supervised by Vince Massaro, operated efficiently with three assigned court reporters and other staff who timely produced and filed Family Court transcripts. Despite increased in-court time, the majority of transcripts requested from Family Division were produced by approximately half of the Court Reporters' Office personnel.

Employees of the Court Reporters' Office consistently demonstrate professionalism and dedicated commitment, often working overtime when necessary to produce transcripts within constrained time limits. Recognizing the importance of this office in the judicial process, Court Reporter personnel are meeting the challenges with which they are confronted.

Human Resources



Charles Kennedy
Manager

During 2003, the Human Resources Office wrote Family Medical Leave and Work Hours policies. These policies were recently approved by the court. Although policies have traditionally been circulated in hardcopy to departments, a plan was

developed to provide employee access to all personnel policies through an intranet link on the court's website. A new employment application was also designed and will be accessible to applicants through the internet.

(Pictured Above)

A war rally held in the Allegheny County Courthouse courtyard on September 20, 1943.

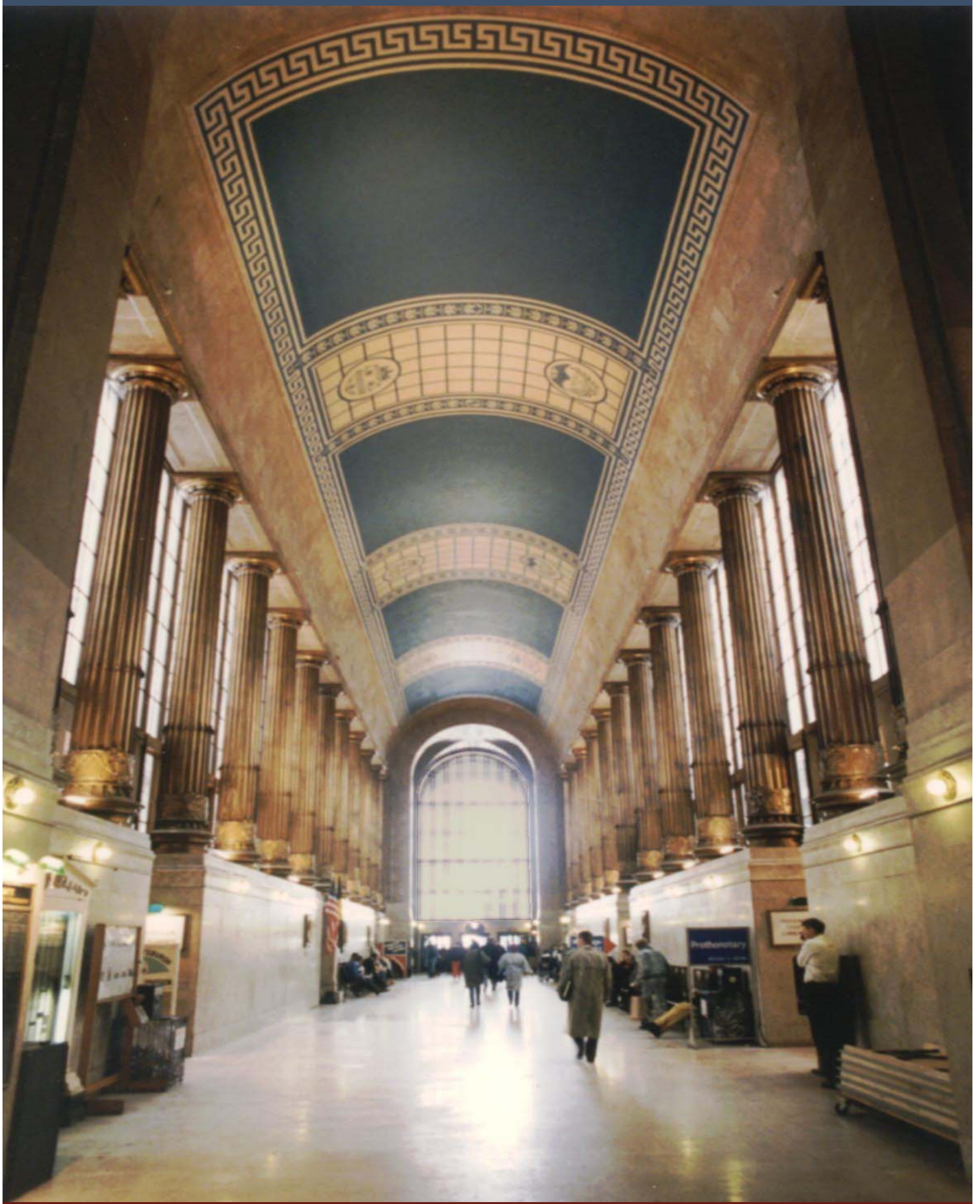
In honor of their service in the United States armed forces, the following court employees were called to military duty:

- ★ Brian Barnhart
- ★ Trent Gallagher
- ★ Norman Wesolowski
- ★ Joseph Zalar
- ★ Matthew Zalar

(Pictured Above)

The war rally held on June 25, 1945 spilled onto Grant Street in front of the City-County Building.





City-County Building — Grant Street — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Civil Division

The Civil Division welcomed the Honorable Robert J. Colville to its ranks and disposed of a record number 9,955 cases in 2003, up from the record of 9,538 set in 2002. The division continued its practice of bringing thousands of cases promptly to trial. The average time from date placed at issue to disposition was reduced from 14 months to 12.8 months and, in some instances, cases came to trial within 6 months of the issue date.

Senior Judges S. Louis Farino and Livingstone M. Johnson continued to carry full dockets and their availability was instrumental in keeping the docket current. Additionally, the Honorable Jeffrey A.

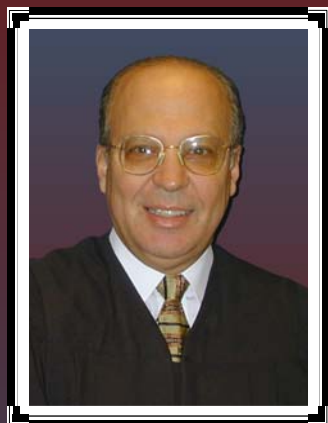


Clair R. Beckwith
Manager

Manning, Criminal Court judge, gave Civil Division two weeks for civil jury trials. Also pitching in from the Family Division to provide two weeks of their time for jury trials were the Honorable Cheryl Lynn Allen, Randal B. Todd, Michael A. Della Vecchia, and Kathleen R. Mulligan.

The key to the success of the division continues to be the hard work of judges and support personnel. The Honorable Eugene B. Strassburger, III, has created a Calendar Control practice that runs like a well-oiled machine. His ability to settle cases is legendary. The other judges have also contributed to

(Continued on page 9)



Joseph M. James
Administrative Judge



Standing (L-R):

Row 1:

Ronald W. Folino
Judith L.A. Friedman
Cynthia A. Baldwin
Timothy Patrick O'Reilly
Robert P. Horgos
Eugene B. Strassburger, III
R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.

Row 2:

W. Terrence O'Brien
Joseph M. James
Alan S. Penkower
Robert J. Colville
Paul F. Luty, Jr.
Livingstone M. Johnson*

Not Available for Photo:

Max Baer

*Denotes Senior Judge



the incredible success in settling nearly 90 percent of the cases listed for trial.

Certain judges continued to provide expertise in specialized areas of the law. The Honorable R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., presided over Friday "Happy Hour" contested discovery motions and the complex litigation docket. The combined use of daily Motions Court and Friday discovery motions contributed to the ability to bring cases quickly to trial.

Administrative Judge Joseph M. James heard all pre-trial motions in asbestos litigation. Once the trial list was created, Judge Strassburger took over. Asbestos cases were tried in conjunction with the general trial list. Additionally, Judge James continued to hear all zoning appeals, election disputes, and preliminary objections in eminent domain cases.

Arbitration disposed of a record 8,661 cases in 2003. With the appeal rate at 37 percent, Arbitration provided

(Continued on page 10)

Judge Baldwin Honored with Espirit Children's Service Award

The Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin, a Court of Common Pleas judge since January 1990 currently serving in the Civil Division, was honored by the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County with its 2003 Espirit Children's Service Award. Assigned to the court's Family Division for the first 10 years of her judicial career, Judge Baldwin assisted in adjudicating cases in its Juvenile Section.



Cynthia A. Baldwin

Judge Baldwin was recognized for her efforts on behalf of children with emotional/

behavioral disorders and their families as an advocate for development of programs and services within the juvenile justice system that offer them treatment, services, and supervision. The association's Executive Director Brenda E. Lee said that the judge was chosen to receive the award due to her diligence in ensuring that children with emotional behavior disorders who appear in Juvenile Court are treated fairly and receive the necessary support to reduce recidivism.



(L-R): Judges Ronald W. Folino, Alan S. Penkower, Eugene B. Strassburger, III, and R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. at The Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association Judicial Roundtable held on October 14, 2003.

CIVIL ACTIONS FILED

Against Property Owner	249
Asbestos Silicas	141
Asbestos/FELA	3
Assault & Battery	16
Contract	963
Defamation	11
FELA	15
Medical/Hospital Liability	273
Motor Vehicle Accident	987
Multiple Civil Action	1,220
Other Tort	721
Other Traffic Accident	17
Product Liability	41
Sci Fa sur Municipal Lien	1
Sci Fa sur Tax Lien	1,782
Toxic Substances	3
Total of New Case Filings	6,443



final dispositions for over 5,400 cases. This continued success is a direct result of the outstanding work of Supervisor Francis Grzelka and his staff. Judge Wettick continued to hear arbitration motions on Fridays.

dispose of thousands of appeals in an effortless manner. Through the efforts of the judges and support staff of the Civil Division, the public was well-served and litigation was promptly brought to trial.

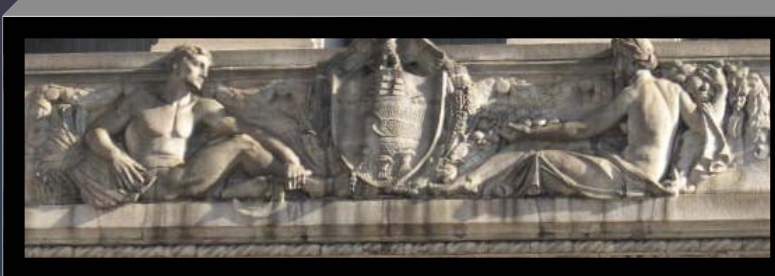
The Board of Viewers disposed of thousands of tax appeals while keeping the condemnation docket current. Administrative Chairman Michael E. McCarthy, Esquire, continued to fine-tune the innovative electronic docket that allows the board to



City-County Building Architectural Representation of the City and County Governments

Above the entrance to the City-County Building are symbolic architectural sculptures of the City of Pittsburgh and County of Allegheny. Sculpted of stone by Charles Keck in 1915-1916, the classically draped figures of the reliefs, male on the left—female on the right, are balanced on opposite sides of each government seal. The male figure represents industry and labor; the female figure, with lamp and books at her feet, holds tablets that are presumed to contain written laws structured upon knowledge and enlightenment. Garlands of symbolic laurel and oak encircling the seals complete the design of the allegorical friezes.

The distinctive elevator doors of the City-County Building, sculptor unknown, are painted metal. The flanking panels depict the architectural histories of the county's courthouses and city's government buildings in a circular triptych. Encircled on the left from top to bottom: courthouse completed in 1794 held by an infant; courthouse completed in 1841, destroyed by fire in 1882, held by an adolescent; and the current courthouse held by an adult. On the right-side panel are representations of the three city halls.



Civil Division

CASES FILED AND DISPOSED		
	Filed	Disposed
TRESPASS—GENERAL		
Asbestos Silicas	141	23
Asbestos/FELA	3	1
Medical/Hospital Liability	273	376
Product Liability	41	44
Toxic Substances	3	1
Subtotal:	461	445
OTHER TRESPASS—GENERAL		
Against Property Owner	249	245
Assault & Battery	16	16
Defamation	11	10
FELA	15	21
Other Tort	721	383
Other Traffic Accident	17	16
Subtotal:	1,029	691
TOTAL Trespas:	1,804	1,419
OTHERS		
Amicable Ejectment	11	2
Contract	963	867
Declaration of Taking	144	8
Declaratory Judgment	104	82
Ejectment	733	441
Equity	211	109
Equity—Lis Pendens	94	59
Equity—Partition	3	3
Mandamus	15	7
Mechanic's Lien	117	26
Mortgage Foreclosure	4,148	3,985
Motor Vehicle Accident	987	967
Multiple Civil Action	1,220	963
Pre-computer Case	0	61
Quiet Tax Title & Real Estate	87	6
Quiet Title	44	12
Replevin	58	35
Sci Fa sur Municipal Lien	1	0
Sci Fa sur Tax Lien	1,782	1,186
TOTAL Others:	10,722	8,819
GRAND TOTAL:	12,526	10,238

ARBITRATION			
	2001	2002	2003
Pending on January 1	3,075	3,358	3,083
New Cases Filed	8,393	8,428	8,478
Transferred from Civil Division	496	295	317
Cases Remanded for New Hearing	0	0	0
Cases Disposed	8,375	8,063	8,661
Awards by Boards	2,514	2,325	2,413
Settlements, Non-Pros., etc.	4,972	4,948	5,383
Trial List Cases Disposed by Judge	889	790	865
Pending as of 12/31 (Awaiting Trial)	3,382	4,018	3,217
Appeals Filed	905	853	897
Rate of Appeals	36.3%	36.69%	37.17%
Number of Arbitration Boards Served	841	811	884
Number of Arbitrators	2,523	2,433	2,652
Arbitrator's Fee Per Day	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
Total Arbitrators' Fees	\$ 378,450	\$ 364,950	\$ 397,800
Less Non-Recoverable Appeal Fees	\$ 91,165	\$ 82,020	\$ 85,245
Total Costs	\$287,285	\$282,930	\$312,555
Average Arbitrator's Cost Per Case	\$114.27	\$116.28	\$117.85
As of December 31			
Cases with Current Hearing Date	3,231	2,997	2,266
General Docket Cases with Current Hearing Date	127	86	106
Total Cases Pending	3,358	3,083	2,372

AGE OF CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE

Type of Disposition	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Average Age by Month from Case Filing to Disposition*
Settled	9,608	96.51%	12.39
Non-Jury	122	1.23%	22.52
Jury	172	1.73%	28.27
Stricken	14	0.14%	26.58
Others	39	0.39%	12.65
GRAND TOTAL	9,955	100.00%	12.81

*These averages are separately calculated and are not merely the average of the individual figures above. Included in these figures are trial-ready cases and those cases disposed before being certified ready for trial.

BOARD OF VIEWERS

TAX APPEALS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Conciliations	123	13	154	2,563	4,241
Cases Settled	379	771	961	1,707	3,593
Hearings	654	1,011	1,476	551	4,568
Reports Filed	137	161	0	138	185
TOTAL	1,293	1,956	2,591	4,959	12,587
CONDEMNATIONS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
New Petitions	44	114	0	40	125
Hearings	165	113	172	31	54
Views	80	52	44	1,360	120
Reports Filed	0	78	172	5	52
Exception Hearings	4	4	0	23	2
Schedule Reading	4	3	0	9	1
TOTAL	297	364	388	1,468	354





Courthouse — Grant Street — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Criminal Division

On August 4, 2003, the court rolled out the Court Information Management System (CIMS), a fully integrated local criminal information management system. The CIMS project replaced the legacy system ICIS (Integrated Criminal Information System), an archaic mainframe database originally designed in 1985 as a billing and cost program for the Clerk of Courts. Through the years, ICIS was retooled and reconfigured to appear as a case management system, but lacked information retrieval programs, making statistical compilation cumbersome and unwieldy. On the other hand, CIMS is designed to be accessed by many criminal justice agencies, to provide timely posting of dispositions to both the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and Pennsylvania State Police, as well as to provide a public information component.



Thomas C. Green
Administrator

CIMS development began in 1998 with a \$500,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The court retained a vendor to develop and construct the case management system, and the PCCD augmented funding with an additional \$350,000 grant in October of 2001. The project was completed in August 2003. The court's Information Systems

Department had previously wired for fiber optic capability, which accelerated and enhanced the development process.

Standing committees of judges, managers, and employees resolved systemic issues as they arose and worked continuously to tweek and develop CIMS' database and procedural uniformity. Having embraced the concept of the court information system, court

(Continued on page 14)



Standing (L-R):

Row 1:

Raymond A. Novak*
Robert E. Colville
Guido A. DeAngelis
Kathleen A. Durkin
Kevin G. Sasinoski

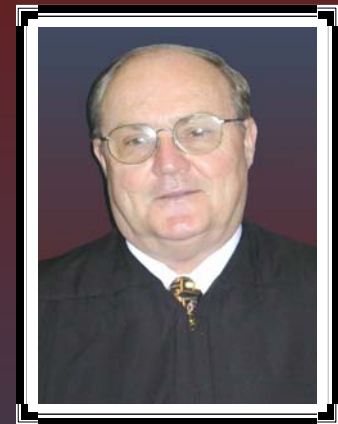
Row 2:

Gerard M. Bigley
Lawrence J. O'Toole
Lester G. Nauhaus
John A. Zottola

Not Available for Photo:

David R. Cashman
Robert C. Gallo
Donald E. Machen
Jeffrey A. Manning
Donna Jo McDaniel

*Denotes Senior Judge



Gerard M. Bigley
Administrative Judge



Criminal Division

employees provided invaluable, practical suggestions for improving daily applications of CIMS.

The Honorable Gerard M. Bigley served his fifth year as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division in 2003. The Honorable Guido A. DeAngelis joined the complement of Criminal Court judges in April from his previous assignment in the Family Division.

Continuing the established practice, the thirteen commissioned judges and two senior judges assigned to the Criminal Division disposed of pending cases with customary efficiency.

Criminal complaint filings for 2003 totaled 18,618, slightly more than a one percent increase from the previous year total of 18,405. Filings have remained at a relatively constant level for the past four years. Drug and alcohol cases totaled 8,982 in 2003 and continue to account for the largest category of crimes charged, 48.1 percent of complaint filings for the year.

Criminal homicide filings increased by over 27 percent from 80 in 2002 to 102 during 2003. Forty-four homicide cases were adjudicated, including 17 guilty pleas. Incarceration was imposed for 25 of 26 homicide defendants sentenced during the calendar year.

More defendants were afforded the opportunity to participate in fast tracking programs in 2003. The court allowed 2,885 defendants to participate in Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) during the year, an increase of 41 from 2002—over 80 percent of the cases (2,302) entering ARD during 2003 were DUI offenses.

The Plea Disposition Quickie (PDQ) Program also experienced an increase from 2002. The PDQ clerk reported that 1,497 pleas were accepted into PDQ, 95 more than the preceding year.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Criminal Division Jury Operations Supervisor, in consultation with the Jury Coordinator's Office, summoned fewer citizens for

(Continued on page 15)

Judge McGregor Honored by Amen Corner

The inaugural presentation of the Amen Corner's "Judge Robert E. Dauer Award for Judicial Leadership and Excellence" was made to the Honorable James R. McGregor, senior judge of the Court of Common Pleas, at the Amen Corner's 44th annual judicial reception on March 25, 2003. The award, created as a tribute to the late Judge Dauer's distinctive reputation for "judicial leadership and excellence," is presented to a judge with those same qualities.

More than colleagues, Judges McGregor and Dauer shared a fond admiration, respect, and an enduring friendship. Appointed to the bench in 1974, Judge McGregor was elected in 1975 and re-elected in 1985 and 1995. After serving in the Family and Civil Divisions, he was assigned to the Criminal Division on August 31, 1975, where he has remained during his tenure as a senior judge that began in 1999. Judge McGregor has presided over more than 20,000 trials and is an active member of the Prison Board and Criminal Justice Task Force. His professional affiliations have included the American Judicature Society; Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges; The Law Club of Pittsburgh; the Allegheny County Bar Association and its Association of Criminal Trial Lawyers, Women in the Law Executive Committee, and ACBA Players; the Pennsylvania Bar Association; and the American Bar Association. He has served as Vice Chair for the Boy Scouts of America East Valley Area Council's Executive Board, Amen Corner's Board of Governors, and Consilium, Inc.'s Board of Directors.

A fraternity of dominantly Republican, prominent, privileged men when founded in 1870, Amen Corner is a casual group with no stated bylaws, rules or regulations that encourages informal discourse. Since the 1980's, Amen Corner has striven to be diversified having a current membership of about 300.



January 9, 1996 – Judges McGregor (R) and Dauer (L) administer the oath of office to each other, having won retention to the bench in the November 1995 election.



jury duty than the year prior. For 2003, 10,427 or 82.4 percent of jurors appearing as summoned were impaneled for voir dire. Citizens selected for jury duty served on 214 trials, 3 more than were conducted in 2002. The court's efforts to monitor juror requirements and to seek efficiencies has continued to pay dividends. Twenty percent fewer jurors were summoned, yet heard more jury trials and the percentage of jurors impaneled for voir dire increased from 72.5 percent in 2002 to 82.4 percent in 2003.

Criminal Court judges appointed private defense counsel for 1,270 cases in 2003. The court paid \$1,655,024 in 2003 to appointees, and counsel provided pro bono defense in 417 cases, realizing a savings to the court of \$175,036.

During 2003, the court hired a jail population control coordinator. Establishment of this position was the result of an understanding between the court and the county for the need to control the population of the county jail. After a search of many qualified candidates, Marsha Hinton began her duties as the court's

coordinator on June 30, 2003. With a background of over 30 years of professional involvement with the criminal justice system, Ms. Hinton brings a wealth of experience to the position and has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues.



Marsha Hinton
Jail Population
Control Coordinator

The primary function of the population control coordinator is to monitor the population of the county jail as impacted by court actions and to provide early court intervention to better manage this population. Other duties include expanding and exploring alternative housing facilities, developing a system to review court-related detainers and a system to review district justice sentences to the county jail. Ms. Hinton also reviews all bond forfeitures to eliminate unnecessary delays in establishing the next court action and assists Criminal Court judges in developing early release practices.



The plaque located above the main entrance to the courthouse reads:

THE CARILLON IN THE TOWER ABOVE
IS DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE MEN
AND WOMEN OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
WHO HAVE DIED IN DEFENSE OF OUR
COUNTRY AND ITS IDEALS

Courthouse tower photo can be seen on Page 12.

Judicial Secretary Receives Lucchino Award

Wendy Hayes, secretary to Judge David R. Cashman, was named the August 2003 winner of Allegheny County's Lucchino Award for Distinguished Service. The award, initiated by Allegheny County Chief Executive Jim Roddey, "recognizes and rewards exemplary performance by county employees who demonstrate outstanding efficiency, productivity and customer service." Ms. Hayes was nominated for this honor by Attorney Leslie Perlow Grossman of the County's Public Defender's Office for her efficiency, courteous disposition, and benevolent assistance.

A graduate of Bradford Business School, Ms. Hayes became Judge Cashman's secretary when he was first appointed to the Court of Common Pleas in 1988. When the judge returned to private law practice in 1991-1992, she became his legal secretary and came back to county service as his judicial secretary when he was elected to the bench in 1992.



(L-R):
Judge Cashman,
Wendy Hayes, County
Chief Executive Jim
Roddey, and Judge
Frank J. Lucchino.

Criminal Division

DISPOSITION REPORT	Complaints Filed	Remand	Nolle Prose/ Dismiss/ Judgment Granted	DIVERSIONARY		ACQUITTALS		CONVICTIONS				SENTENCING		
				ARD	PWV	Judge/ Non-Jury	Jury	Judge/ Non-Jury	Jury	Plea	PDQ	Probation	Incarceration	NFS**
— Crimes Against Persons —														
—Criminal Homicide	102	0	10	0	0	2	6	3	6	17	0	1	25	0
—Robbery	305	1	69	0	0	11	8	6	5	116	0	13	105	0
—Kidnapping/ Unlawful Restraint	25	0	11	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	3	3	3
—Rape	72	0	38	0	0	6	5	2	1	7	0	0	11	0
—Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	22	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	10	0
—Indecent Assault	66	2	6	0	0	2	2	2	0	27	0	61	12	24
—Other Sexual Offenses	90	0	37	5	0	2	0	1	1	86	0	29	49	9
—Aggravated Assault	586	0	217	14	0	23	9	11	5	130	0	22	110	13
—Simple Assault	1,521	5	542	54	0	24	3	23	2	712	16	653	225	206
—Corruption of Minors	76	0	40	6	0	4	0	2	0	48	0	49	14	7
Subtotal	2,865	8	978	79	0	75	34	51	21	1,156	16	831	564	262
— Crimes Against Property —														
—Arson	18	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	6	0
—Burglary	795	3	229	16	1	8	1	6	3	431	11	186	224	78
—Forgery/ Counterfeit	681	3	140	84	1	3	0	5	0	414	10	335	202	47
—Theft	1,582	3	286	117	1	25	3	10	2	762	28	528	242	218
—Retail Theft	712	4	36	19	0	3	0	5	0	494	83	346	244	53
Subtotal	3,788	13	695	237	3	39	4	26	5	2,106	132	1,395	918	396
— Drug/Alcohol Offenses —														
—Driving Under the Influence	4,709	2	126	2,302	0	38	4	31	6	1,657	244	131	1,932	30
—Narcotics/Drug Offenses	4,271	5	615	16	542	45	3	33	13	2,277	212	1,459	1,065	769
—Liquor Laws	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	8,987	7	741	2,319	542	83	7	64	19	3,935	456	1,590	2,997	799
— Crimes Against Public Peace —														
—Criminal Mischief	123	0	13	14	0	1	0	1	0	25	0	21	4	3
—Disorderly Conduct	339	5	21	10	0	0	1	12	0	274	11	232	95	237
—Prostitution	287	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	0	202	58	20
Subtotal	749	5	61	24	0	1	1	13	0	572	11	455	157	260
— Inchoate/Miscellaneous Offenses —														
—Criminal Attempt/ Solicitation	52	0	49	1	5	3	4	1	8	42	0	23	26	14
—Criminal Conspiracy	143	3	31	4	0	2	0	0	3	51	0	38	12	40
—Escape/Default Appearance	135	0	10	0	0	0	0	2	0	77	0	31	45	0
—Firearm Viol./ Offens. Weapons/ Instr. of Crime	408	1	80	0	0	19	0	23	5	272	2	158	134	38
—Vehicular Offenses	734	84	91	84	0	10	2	4	4	224	9	142	103	203
—*All Other Offenses	757	23	243	137	3	32	6	17	4	678	13	249	159	182
Subtotal	2,229	111	504	226	8	66	12	47	24	1,344	24	641	479	477
Grand Total	18,618	144	2,979	2,885	553	264	58	201	69	9,113	639	4,912	5,115	2,194

*Includes offenses related to local ordinances specific to Allegheny County such as boating laws and animal regulations; also Workers' Compensation Fraud, Medical Assistance Fraud, etc.
 **No Further Sentence



Criminal Division – Adult Probation



Robert J. Galardy
Chief Adult Probation Officer

Adult Probation Services' primary responsibility is to assist the court in protecting the community by providing an alternative to incarceration aimed at rehabilitating offenders. Of its 158 full-time staff, 149 are engaged in the supervision of defendants, 9 compile information mainly for presentence and violation reports. An ever-increasing caseload, a record 25,238 in 2003, was divided among 101 probation officers (PO's). The supervision-level division of the cases is determined by assessing the risk, with offenders who pose the greatest risk to the public receiving the highest level of supervision.

Adult Probation Services has designed a computer program to assess risk on each new intake. In addition to this tool, a probation officer reviews each case to make the final caseload assignment. Factors considered in the risk evaluation include prior offenses as well as the current offense. Need is defined by any court-imposed special condition. A combination of the risk/need evaluation and officer judgment determines how long a more serious case receives field center supervision (6, 9, or 12 months). Once a defendant completes the required length of supervision, the case may be transferred to a lower level of supervision as long as the defendant is not in violation. Less serious cases without special conditions are placed on a lower level of supervision directly from intake.

In addition to defendant supervision and investigative reports, Adult Probation Services conducts programs to further its objective of protecting the community. Programs

are designed to educate the public and those on probation in order to curtail offenses; several provide restrictions within which defendants are given an opportunity to rehabilitate.

IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM

The Ignition Interlock Program was as big a success in 2003 as in 2002. Due to a proactive approach with eligible participants, 320 interlock units were installed on Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenders' vehicles, which constitutes a 40 percent participation rate that continues to exceed the national and Pennsylvania state averages. Of the 320 installed, 35 were repeat Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) DUI offenders mandated by the District Attorney's Office.

Last year, 230 clients successfully completed their 12-month ignition interlock requirement. The Pennsylvania DUI Association, as an overseer for the Department of Transportation, routinely mails out end-of-program surveys to all participants. The association reported that of all Allegheny County respondents, not one had any negative comments (with the exception of equipment failure) regarding the program.

Growth is an all-important element of this program, and last year, 100 more units were installed than in the previous year. Indicative of the program's success, Allegheny County continued to lead the state in number of participants that accounted for 11 percent of the total program in 2003.

SAFETY BUG PROGRAM

(Continued on page 18)

	SUPERVISION				TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Absconder	Transferred Out of County	
Probation	8,998	1,669	1,140	1,015	12,822
Parole	459	23	51	25	558
Parole-DUI	584	56	62	87	789
Probation/Parole	1,459	79	139	102	1,779
Intermediate	657	37	0	13	707
ARD	66	1,998	409	126	2,599
ARD-DUI	144	4,645	527	78	5,394
Probation w/o Verdict	411	130	0	6	547
Bail/Bond	43	0	0	0	43
TOTAL as of 12/31/03	12,821	8,637	2,328	1,452	25,238

Level of Supervision (Highest to Lowest)	No. of Defendants per PO
Direct Supervision	
House Arrest	20
Intensive Drug	75
Special Service	150
Field	178
Indirect Supervision	
Intermediate	508 cases/PO
Minimum	1,456 cases/PO
Oversight Supervision	
PA Board of Probation & Parole	3,042



The Alcohol Highway Safety Program (AHSP) continued its Safety Bug Program in 2003. The "Bug," provided every year to high schools in Allegheny County free of charge, visited 15 high schools last year. The program is designed to help educate students about the dangers of drug-impaired driving and encourages them to make responsible decisions regarding alcohol. The program is paid for from fees collected by the Clerk of Courts on all DUI associated costs. In 2003, approximately 2,000 students benefited from this program.

STUDENTS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (SADD)

In November of 2003, AHSP, through the Pennsylvania DUI Association, sponsored 100 students from 43 SADD chapters across Allegheny County to attend the Western Region SADD Conference held at Seven Springs. This was a one-day workshop designed to provide students with various ideas on how to coordinate effective SADD chapters within their schools. The court paid for this program out of collected DUI fees.

PENN DOT-DISTRICT 11

On April 13, 2003, Oakland Catholic High School, in conjunction with Penn Dot District 11, conducted an anti-drinking and driving campaign that culminated with the showing of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) National Multi Media presentation of *Fake ID*. The court also paid for this program out of collected DUI fees.

UNDERAGE DRINKING PROGRAM

Once again in 2003, AHSP supported, through the Regional Alcohol Programs, an underage-drinking program designed to educate young people about the risks and perils of alcohol and other controlled substances. Most participants are referrals made by Allegheny County magistrates as a result of an underage drinking arrest. In 2003, there were 515 registered participants. This program is paid under contract to the Regional Alcohol Programs from collected DUI fees.

SOBER BOWL

Sober Bowl was a new venture for AHSP in 2003. Designed by the Pennsylvania DUI Association, this 13-week program ran during the course of the National Football League regular season and culminated with the Super Bowl,

hence the name. The idea is for high school students to register a pledge not to drink and in return be eligible for weekly prizes and a grand prize drawing after the Super Bowl. Thirty high schools participated this year, reaching over 10,000 students. Cosponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods, AHSP paid for its share out of collected DUI fees.

KEYS FOR LIFE

Another new program in 2003, Keys For Life was administered in cooperation with the Pennsylvania DUI Association. Anti-drug and anti-alcohol inscriptions on 2,000 specialty keys were purchased for high school students. The keys, given away at other AHSP sponsored programs, are intended to be a reminder to students of their pledge to make responsible choices. The most popular key that was cut has been a car key. This program was paid for by AHSP out of DUI collected fees.

DESIGNATED DRIVER BOOTH

A third new program for 2003, the Designated Driver Booth was constructed at the Chevrolet Amphitheater at Station Square for the summer concert series. This project was done in cooperation with Penn Dot District 11, Clear Channel Communications, the Western Alliance Task Force, and AHSP. The idea was to have a place where a person could pledge to be a designated driver, receive free soft drinks during the course of an event, and win the admiration of their



Criminal Division – Adult Probation

family and peer group. Adult Probation staff and DUI literature were made available for this program. A crashed car was brought into six separate shows this summer for not only a visual effect, but for concert-goers to be able to sign their name to the car as a sign of safe decision-making. This program was paid for out of DUI collected fees.

CRN UNIT

Under contract to the court, the Court Reporting Network (CRN) staff was responsible for the conducting of court-ordered evaluations on all DUI cases. In 2003, the staff completed 4,513 evaluations.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

In its fifteenth year, the court's use of electronic monitoring (EM) for supervision primarily focuses on criminal defendants sentenced to Intermediate Punishment and Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) inmates detained for probation/parole violations. EM resources are used also for sentenced

ACJ inmates identified by the court as suitable candidates for transfer to EM on the remaining portion of their jail sentences.

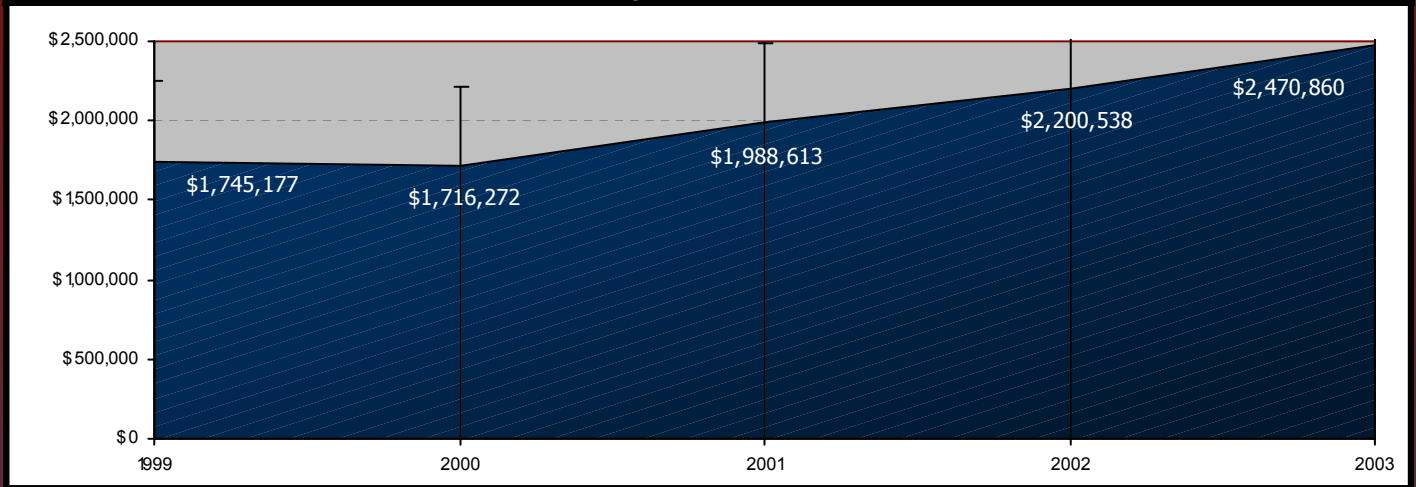
Initiated in 2000, the Bail Agency's pretrial EM program, whereby eligible defendants are transferred from the ACJ to EM as a bond condition while awaiting trial or sentencing, processed 137 defendants in 2003. Administrative aspects of this effort are handled by the Bail Agency while Adult Probation provides the EM supervision. Also, the Family Division's Adult Section places qualified individuals who have failed to comply with support orders on electronic curfew, with Adult Probation providing the EM aspect of this project. Family Division placed 14 clients on electronic curfew in 2003.

EM is an important and growing resource in terms of providing a viable and accountable option for the supervision of suitable populations. Overcrowding at the ACJ

(Continued on page 20)

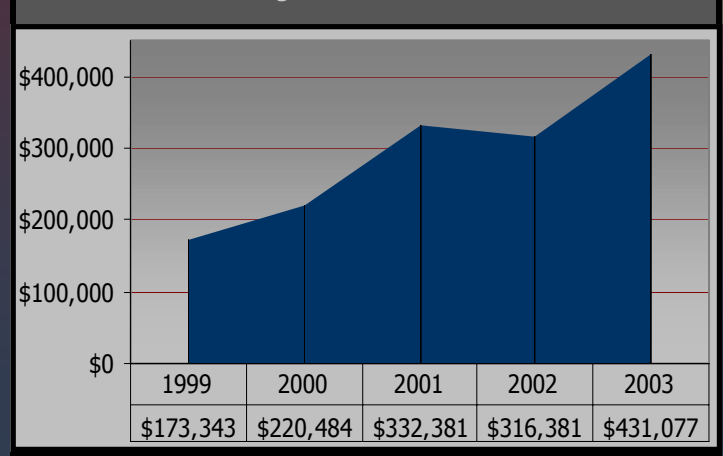
Electronic Monitoring

Act 35 Supervision Fee Collection



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Offenders Served	1,027	1,150	1,453	1,613	1,811
Successful Completions	605	640	886	968	1,081
Currently on Program	280	364	374	462	489
Escapes	22	19	6	7	17
New Arrests	14	9	14	22	11
Removed/Rules Violations	85	135	139	135	146
Jail Days Saved	82,130	85,306	109,105	149,881	180,914

Program Fees Collected



emphasizes the need for effective alternatives to the costly traditional practice of incarceration. During 2003, over 1,800 defendants were supervised on EM, resulting in the saving of over 175,000 jail days and the collection of over \$430,000 in supervision fees. EM fees made it possible to expand the program by 60 defendants in 2003.

DRUG COURT

Allegheny County Drug Court, a collaborative effort of the District Attorney’s Office, Adult Probation, and the Allegheny County Drug and Alcohol Program, completed its fifth year of operation in 2003, graduating a total 174 since inception. Under the direction of the Honorable Lester G. Nauhaus, Drug Court provides the opportunity for addicted defendants to make a commitment to recovery with the assistance of a court-structured support system. Defendants are required to engage in formal treatment while being allowed to participate in positive endeavors such as employment and education. The court closely monitors each defendant’s progress through regularly scheduled hearings, utilizing a system of timely rewards and sanctions in response to an individual’s behavior. Supervision in Drug Court can last up to 2-½ years. The ultimate goal is to re-establish the individual as a

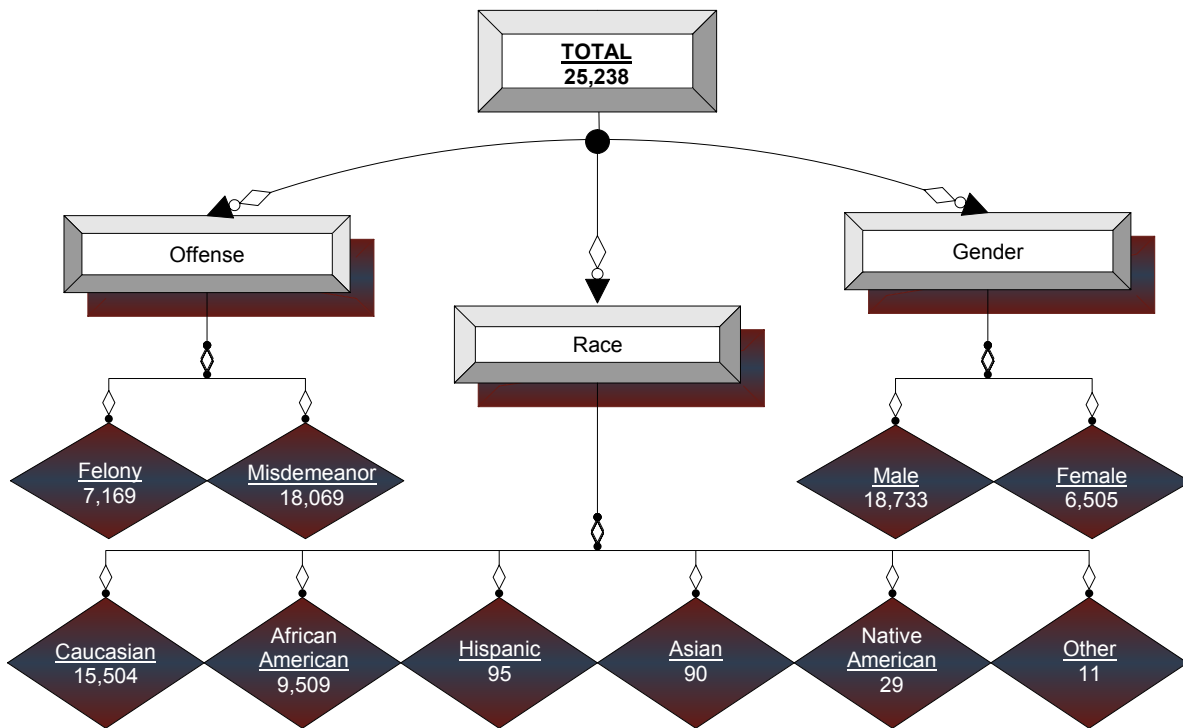
clean and sober member of his/her family and community.

During 2003, 50 defendants entered Drug Court, 34 graduated. As of year’s end, there were 94 defendants under Drug Court supervision. The District Attorney’s Office reports a recidivism rate of 26 percent. The number of entrants decreased this year due to a funding reduction from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency based on budget cutbacks at the state level. A portion of that reduction will be restored in 2004.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADULT PROBATION OFFICE
“RIDE ALONGS” WITH PITTSBURGH POLICE**

Adult Probation has been participating in “ride alongs” with Pittsburgh Police since September 2002. Eleven probation officers, primarily from the Intensive Drug Unit, participated in over 80 “ride alongs” in 2003, accompanying police officers to observe probationers in the community. The outings resulted in 84 contacts made with probationers, 44 searches, and 27 arrests. One of the long-term benefits of the “ride alongs” has been increased and ongoing communication between the two agencies.

PROBATIONERS BY OFFENSE, RACE, AND GENDER





John A. Young
Manager

In 2003, all four components of the Court Bail Agency remained committed to the agency mission of service to the courts, bar, and the general public. Additional emphasis was placed on the alleviation of jail overcrowding through the recommended release of many defendants charged with

non-violent offenses. Listed below are brief descriptions of the Bail Agency components and how they performed in 2003.

CITY/NIGHT COURT UNIT

This component of the Bail Agency is responsible for gathering information upon which magistrates and district justices base their decisions at the time of arraignment. Operating out of an office in the Allegheny County Jail, Bail Agency investigators interview defendants, verify the information provided, obtain copies of the defendant’s criminal history, and check for case dispositions and active warrants, all in preparation for the preliminary arraignment. At the arraignment, the investigator is seated on the bench with the arraigning official, recommending what has been determined to be an appropriate amount and type of bail for those individuals charged with indictable offenses.

In 2003, City/Night Court Unit investigators appeared at the arraignments of 21,326 individuals. Based upon the recommendations of these investigators, the majority of the defendants were released on ROR/Nominal or Percentage Cash Bail.

JAIL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Located in the Bail Agency’s main office, among its many duties, the Jail Investigative Unit is responsible for reviewing the cases of individuals lodged in the Allegheny County Jail in lieu of bail. Upon completing a review of a case, a decision may be reached to present a case in court before a Common Pleas Court Judge for a review of bail. In 2003, Jail Investigative Unit investigators were present at 954 such bail hearings. Of those hearings, more than 52% resulted in the setting of Nominal/ROR or Percentage Cash Bail, with many other bonds reduced or set, thus facilitating their posting.

Other duties performed by this unit include providing information to the courts, members of the bar, and the general public and assisting in the posting of bonds.

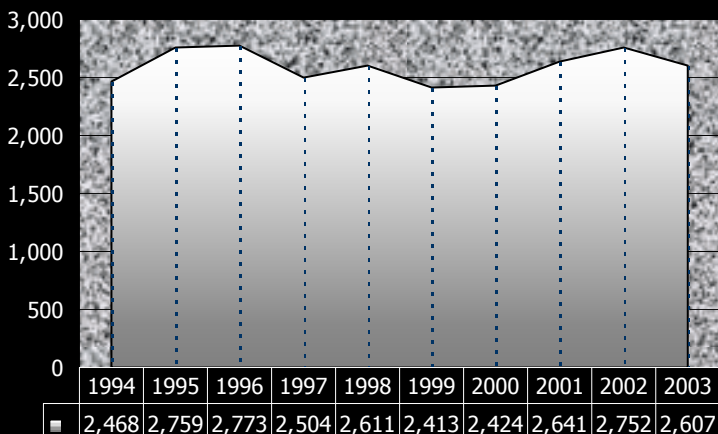
BOND FORFEITURE UNIT

Also housed in the agency’s main office, the Bond Forfeiture Unit is responsible for bringing back into the system those individuals who have failed to appear in court when required. Unit members attempt to resolve cases of bond forfeiture by contacting the individuals, having them report to the Bail Agency, and presenting their cases in court for bail reinstatement. In the case of willful, non-compliant forfeitures, the forfeiture unit staff will work closely with law enforcement officials to have those individuals apprehended; they may later set bail when appropriate. The unit also assists and advises court personnel, defense counsel, law enforcement officials, and the general public in matters where warrants have been

(Continued on page 22)

BOND PRESENTATIONS

Defendants



BOND FORFEITURES

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sentencing	36	35	48	32
ARD	106	147	126	78
Pre-Trial Conference	423	444	475	447
Preliminary Hearing	647	749	895	813
Trial	1,037	1,111	1,210	1,239
Formal Arraignment	1,085	1,349	1,217	1,332



issued.

Investigators working in the Bond Forfeiture Unit appeared at 1,653 proceedings in 2003 at which bond was either reinstated or reset.

PRETRIAL ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT

Begun in December 2000 through a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Pretrial Electronic Monitoring is the result of a cooperative arrangement between the Court Bail Agency and the Allegheny County Adult Probation Office. The project was undertaken as a means of helping to relieve jail overcrowding by providing for the restricted release of persons charged with certain non-violent criminal offenses.

Pretrial Electronic Monitoring personnel review the cases of individuals held in the Allegheny County Jail who are not otherwise eligible for release on reduced bond. Suitable candidates have their cases presented to court

with a request for a modification of bond with the condition that they be restricted to their residences. Compliance is verified through the use of electronic monitoring equipment installed and operated by Adult Probation personnel.

This year, 145 criminal defendants were released into the program, eliminating an estimated 19,334 days of incarceration at an estimated savings of \$1,353,380 (based upon an estimated \$70.00 per day to house an inmate in the Allegheny County Jail).

Two of the ways in which Pretrial Electronic Monitoring benefits the residents of Allegheny County are by:

- (1) Eliminating the cost of housing individuals in the county jail and allowing them to become involved in productive activities such as drug/alcohol treatment, employment, education, etc. and
- (2) Providing restrictions on the movements of



County Office Building (shown below) construction was begun in 1929 and completed in 1931. Architect Stanley Rousch replicated the curvilinear design used in the arches of the main entrances to the Allegheny County Courthouse and City-County Building.

Architectural details of bestiary figures are displayed on the column capitals (shown at top left) and the frieze located above the main entrance. The circular emblem (shown at bottom left) measures 80 inches in diameter and continues the use of medieval figures. The emblems are located on the Ross Street and Forbes Avenue sides of the building and display similar architectural detail as the one pictured below.





Bernice Gibson
Manager

The Behavior Clinic’s primary objective in 2003 was to maintain required service levels while working within Pennsylvania's cost containment initiatives. State legislators, working diligently to find cost savings in the budget, are confronted with shrinking revenues and spending overruns. To reduce

costs, they have decreased the mental health budget by reducing or restricting eligibility for Medicaid programs. However, inmates with mental illness are still afforded the best possible service, and the Behavior Clinic continues to advocate and inform the court about treatment and competency issues concerning each case.

In a speech to the National Press Club, Executive Director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Richard Birkel, Ph.D., describes the situation perfectly.

"When someone has a serious medical emergency such as a heart attack: 911 is called, an ambulance carrying a team of emergency medical technicians arrives. This team provides first aid and transports the patient to the emergency room. The patient is stabilized, assessed and admitted to the hospital. Within 24 hours, the insurance company has been contacted, at least one specialist and probably several have seen the patient, additional tests have been ordered and a well-established treatment protocol has begun. Upon discharge, the patient will have a series of follow-up visits with the treating physician, ongoing tests and long

term rehabilitation as well as illness management education.

In a psychiatric crisis, the police arrive in a cruiser. The patient is restrained and handcuffed. He or she may be transported to the jail or to the emergency room. In the emergency room, the patient may be kept waiting for several hours awaiting evaluation. In some cases, the patient will be strapped to a gurney to prevent them from disrupting the work of the emergency department. The police may leave assuming the patient will be admitted. Instead, after a few hours the police are called back to pick up the patient and the patient is transported to jail. The hospital has refused to admit the patient. This is called 'boarding' psychiatric patients in the jail. "

Placement of psychiatric patients is increasingly difficult due to federal cutbacks in Medicaid and overcrowded emergency rooms. Budget cuts in Pennsylvania have resulted in the closure of many mental health in-patient facilities. As a result, police are regularly transporting malefactors who exhibit mental disorders to jail for care and shelter. Consequently, jails are filling the "health care" gap. This means law enforcement, the jail, and the criminal justice system have become the mental health providers in our city.

How did this happen? It is all too easy to look away from the problem and blame the afflicted or their families

(Continued on page 24)

BEHAVIOR CLINIC ACTIVITY

Court Appearances	86
Evaluations of Defendants Discharged from Mayview State Hospital	55
Involuntary Mental Health Commitments	75
Evaluations by Judicial Request	103
Re-Evaluations (Second Opinions)	126
Psychological Testing	0
Social Histories	136



Criminal Division – Behavior Clinic

for their illness. Using the jail as a health care facility is the most expensive road to take, and it is controlling health care costs through the back door. This is one of the most important challenges now and for the near future.

Our objective is to build a successful collaboration with the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and legislators to establish an appreciation for the direction the health care system is taking. By "boarding" offenders with mental disorders, the jail and the criminal justice system are carrying the burden.

The Behavior Clinic started 2004 without the benefit of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and

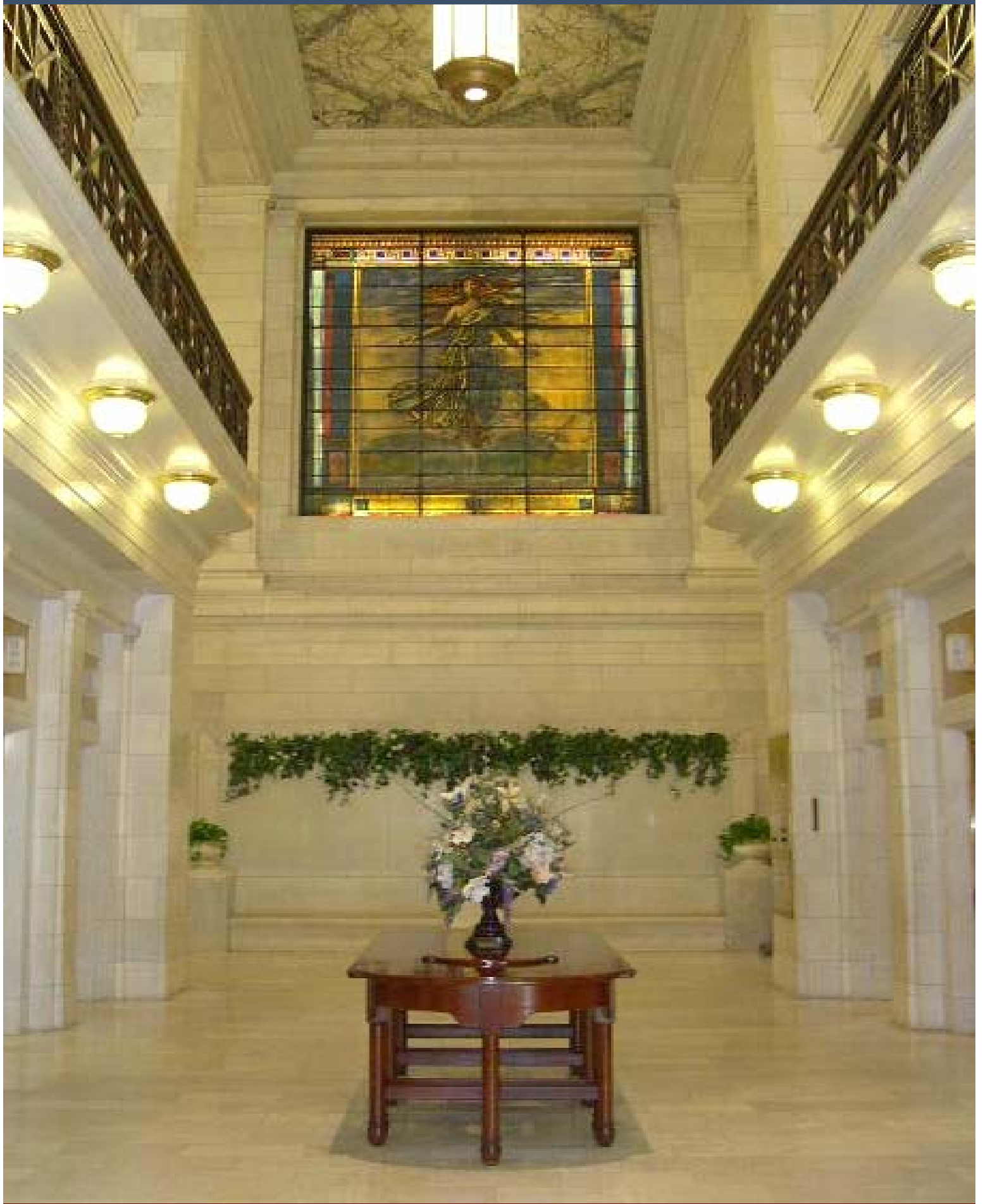
Delinquency Mental Health grant. With the expiration of the grant on December 31, 2003, the social worker staff was reduced from three to two, resulting in service cutbacks. Core services will continue, however, services provided under the grant will be limited.

Goals for 2004 include: 1) improved service in identifying and recommending treatment for jail inmates, developing service delivery strategies, and enhancement of the evaluations and reports at the interface of psychiatry and the legal profession; 2) teaching, by participating in the University of Pittsburgh Medical School Forensic Fellowship Program; and 3) research, by gaining access to scientific data in the area that forms the basis for improving and developing services to the inmates and the criminal justice system.

Evaluations by Offense	2002	2003
Aggravated Assault	245	228
Arson	25	38
Burglary	135	117
Corrupting the Morals of a Minor	24	27
Disorderly Conduct	90	115
Driving Under the Influence	32	22
Endangering the Welfare of a Child	104	117
Harassment	104	94
Homicide	74	104
Indecent Assault	89	113
Indecent Exposure	124	123
Indirect Criminal Contempt	17	3
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	15	25
Kidnapping	15	18
Loitering and Prowling	8	8
Miscellaneous	146	109
Rape	91	98
Reckless Endangerment of Another Person	38	35
Simple Assault	342	308
Stalking	55	81
Terroristic Threats	62	88
Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act	18	16
Violation of Probation	30	19
Violation of the Controlled Substance Act	64	44
TOTAL	1,947	1,950



Orphans' Court Division



Orphans' Court Division

In 2003, the court implemented various measures designed to insure that decedents' estates and guardianships of incapacitated persons are being administered properly and in compliance with court rules and statutes. For example, as discussed in the 2002 annual report for the division, most decedent's estates are closed informally and not by formal accountings that are audited by the court. Because of this trend, court personnel now review all family settlement agreements and receipts and releases that are filed at the Register of Wills Office. Any agreements or receipts that involve minors or incapacitated persons as beneficiaries are closely scrutinized and the personal representative may be directed to file a formal account of his or her estate administration. The court has also implemented procedures to enforce the filing of status reports under Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rule 6.12. One unintended benefit of this enforcement has been the prevention of potential legal malpractice by attorneys who have overlooked files, neglected to file inventories and inheritance tax returns, failed to follow through on family settlement agreements, and who have failed to withdraw as counsel when they ceased acting as counsel for the personal representative when discharged or cooperation and communication from the client stopped. The court is also reviewing whether similar



Paul W. Stefano, Esq.
Administrator

procedures should be used for the enforcement of the filing of inventories and certifications of notice to beneficiaries under Rule 5.6 of the Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rules.

The Guardianship Department has taken a more aggressive role in monitoring the filing and review of inventories and annual reports by guardians of incapacitated persons. To help simplify enforcement, the due dates for the filing of inventories and reports are automatically set for the first and fifteenth of the month after the final order of court has been entered. Guardianship staff members have been working in cooperation with the Court Administrative Office Information Systems Department to install appropriate software programs to streamline the monitoring and enforcement process. Additionally, a guardianship employee who was transferred from the Audit Department specifically to oversee the enforcement process closely reviews all inventories and annual reports. Any discrepancies are reported to the guardianship supervisor and, if necessary, to the judge assigned to the case. Some cases have resulted in the removal of guardians or in the appointment of a guardian *ad litem* to pursue remedial action against the guardian.

(Continued on page 28)



Standing (L-R):

Lee J. Mazur
Frank J. Lucchino
Walter R. Little
Robert A. Kelly

Not Available for Photo:

Bernard J. McGowan*

*Denotes Senior Judge



Frank J. Lucchino
Administrative Judge



Orphans' Court Division

2003 ANNUAL ACCOUNT STATISTICS

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
DECEDENT'S ESTATE	Partial	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	6	-	14
	Final	59	30	43	56	40	45	-	73	43	62	54	43	548
	Total	60	31	43	58	40	47	-	73	43	64	60	43	562
GUARDIANSHIPS	Partial	6	3	-	1	6	3	-	5	1	1	3	1	30
	Final	7	9	6	12	12	6	-	28	6	13	9	13	121
	Total	13	12	6	13	18	9	-	33	7	14	12	14	151
TRUSTS	Partial	5	1	-	23	1	-	-	13	8	3	2	2	58
	Final	5	3	4	2	8	3	-	12	4	6	9	6	62
	Total	10	4	4	25	9	3	-	25	12	9	11	8	120
MINORS	Partial	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	Final	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	5
	Total	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	8
TOTAL AUDITS HEARD		86	47	53	98	67	59	-	132	63	88	83	65	841
AUDITS-PP/CONT.		5	9	6	11	5	6	-	9	7	8	8	5	79
NEW ACCOUNTS		84	46	51	90	68	55	50	57	65	86	73	64	789
DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION		97	37	70	64	86	69	23	87	62	101	58	36	790

ESTATES

AUDIT HEARINGS OF ACCOUNTS

Accounts Filed by Executors, Administrators, Trustees, and Guardians **789**

Small Estates (\$25,000 or less) **145**

TOTAL DECREEES OF DISTRIBUTION **790**

CONTESTED HEARINGS OF ESTATE MATTERS*

Hearings on claims of creditors against estates, exceptions to accounts, questions of distribution involving appeals from decree of the Register of Wills in the grant of Letters of Administration, inheritance tax appraisals and assessments, will contests, proceedings against fiduciaries, termination of trust, delinquent inheritance tax due, miscellaneous hearings, including presumed decedents, absentees, and correction of birth records **334**

ARGUMENT LIST

Exceptions heard by the Court *en Banc* **2**

OPINIONS FILED **22**

PRETRIAL CONFERENCES DOCKETED **433**

RETURN DAYS SCHEDULED **181**

PETITIONS FILED

—Additional Bonds	49
—Appointment of Guardians of the Person and Estates of Minors	48
—Approval of Settlement of Minors' Claims	547
—Lifting of Suspension of Distribution	33
—Sale of Real Estate	112
—Petitions for citation against fiduciaries to file accounts or to show cause why they should not be removed, etc.	252
—Petitions filed by Inheritance Tax Department and citations awarded against fiduciaries to show cause why they should not file Transfer Inheritance Tax Return and/or pay Transfer Inheritance Tax due	132
—Miscellaneous Petitions	638

Total Petitions Filed 1,811

*Excludes guardianship hearings and termination/adoption hearings.



Orphans' Court Division

Several changes have also been implemented in the Adoption Department. The report format used by the adoption investigators has been revised and restructured to give the court more useful and relevant information about the adoptive parents. In addition, adoption investigators now review the Family Division records to determine whether the adoptive parents were involved in a Protection From Abuse action. Because of changes made by the Pennsylvania State Police, the court now permits counsel to run the criminal background checks using the State Police website, however, counsel must sign a verification attesting to the authenticity of the printout that is submitted to the court. A training program has also been implemented for adoption investigators.

The court is continuing its effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the division in conjunction with the existing budgetary constraints. Personnel changes were made that were the culmination of the job audit that was performed in 2002.

With regard to statistics, in 2003 the court heard 789 audits of accounts and 145 small estate petitions as compared to 824 audits and 200 petitions in 2002. These numbers underscore the decision to review family agreements and receipts and release as discussed above.

In the Guardianship Department, petitions for appointment of guardian declined from 419 to 302, a decrease of approximately 28 percent from 2002. The number of emergency guardians appointed also declined nearly 65 percent in 2003 when only 25 orders were entered. This may be the result of the new review procedures adopted by the department in 2002 and the court's requirement that guardianship rules and statutes be strictly followed. On the other hand, the number of allowances increased substantially in 2003 to 672 petitions (as compared to 463 in 2002). This increase may be due in part to the ongoing review and enforcement of the annual reports of guardians that in the past has shown invasions of principal and payments to guardians and attorneys without court approval.

(Continued on page 29)

CIVIL COMMITMENTS

I.	Total Petitions Presented	6,152
II.	Dispositions	
	A. Hearings by Mental Health Review Officers	5,448
	B. Hearings/Reviews by Court	51
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS		5,499

HEARINGS BY TYPE UNDER MENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES ACT

303	Up to 20 days involuntary commitment	3,736
304-B	Up to 90 days involuntary commitment	1,042
304-C	Up to 90 days involuntary commitment	252
305	Up to 180 days involuntary commitment	652
306	Modification of restrictions of commitment	147
306-2	Up to 180 days criminal commitment	9
304-G2	Up to 365 days criminal commitment	1
ECT	Electro-Convulsive Treatment	18
EXP	Expungements of Records	7
REVS	Reviews of 303, 304b, 304c, etc., Hearings	25
	DeNovo Hearings	1
TOTAL HEARINGS		5,890

GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

Number of New Petitions Presented	302
Contested Hearings	21
Hearings	
*Emergency Guardians Appointed	25
**Permanent Guardians Appointed	203
Successor Guardians Appointed	29
Guardians Discharged	18
Petitions Withdrawn	40
Electric Convulsive Therapy (ECT)	21
Adjudication of Full Capacity	4
Petitions for Review	12
Total Number of Hearings Above	352
Bonds Approved	109
Safe Deposit Box Inventories	10
Court Appointed Counsel	97
Independent Medical Evaluations	13
Number of Allowances	672
Annual Report of Guardian of Person and/or Estate (includes 119 final reports, 235 inventories filed)	1,751

(In addition to the above, the Court held 26 miscellaneous hearings.)

*Includes 5 plenary guardianships of person, 2 plenary of estate, and 18 plenary of person and estate.

**Includes 39 plenary guardianships of estate, 5 limited of estate, 25 plenary guardianships of person, 130 plenary of person and estate, 1 limited guardianship of person, and 3 limited of person and estate.

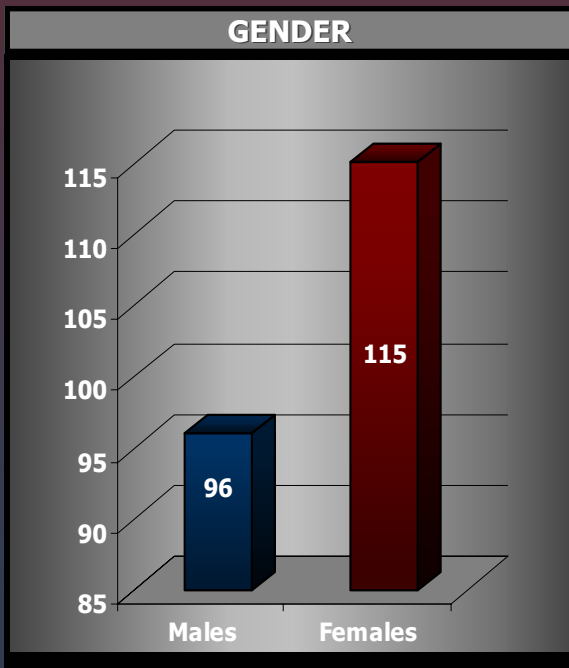
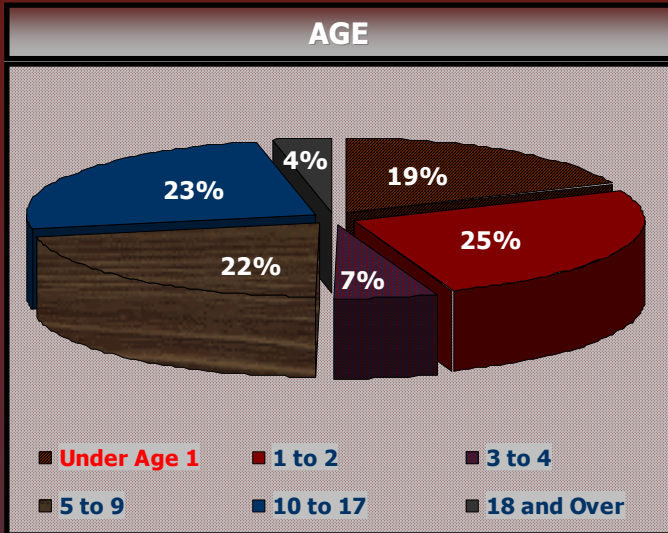


Orphans' Court Division

In the Adoption Department, statistics were relatively stable, although there was a 36 percent increase in the number of birthparent searches and a 33 percent increase in the appointment of search agents. These results appear to be consistent with nationwide trends regarding the reunification of birth parents and their natural children. In compliance

with the directives of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, 2003 also witnessed the resumption of same sex adoptions when the court decreed 27 cases involving same sex partners. There have also been a significant number of adoption cases involving children who have had previously been adopted in foreign countries.

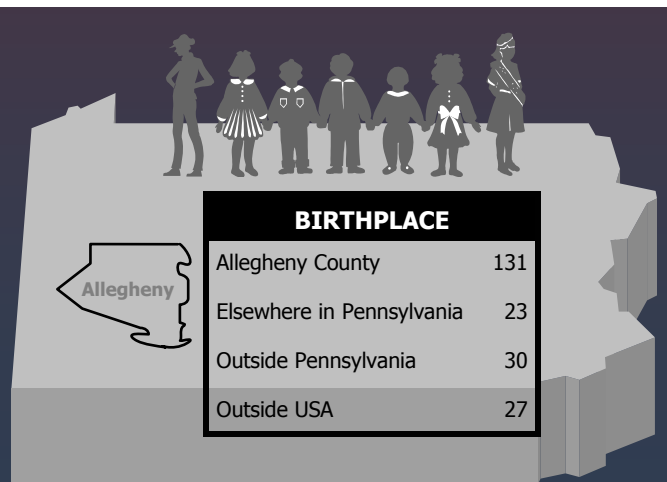
ADOPTees



ADOPTION ACTIVITY

	Scheduled	Decreed
Adoptions	202	195
Voluntary Relinquishments	1	1
Confirm Consents	81	81
Involuntary Terminations	77	72
Voluntary Relinquishments with Involuntary Terminations	1	1
Confirm Consents with Involuntary Terminations	10	10
TOTAL	372	360

ORDERS OF COURT (Includes orders on petitions presented, continuances, amendments, allowance on publication service, acceptance of jurisdiction, allowance of interrogatories, appointments of search agents)	554
COMBINED DECREES AND ORDERS	914
ADULT ADOPTEE SEARCH REQUESTS	143
PERSONS ADOPTED (Some petitions include siblings)	211
ORDERS SIGNED APPOINTING SEARCH AGENTS	108
BIRTH PARENT REQUESTS TO PLACE WAIVERS IN FILE	5



Orphans' Court Division

NON-RELATIVE ADOPTION PLACEMENTS BY NON-ALLEGHENY COUNTY AGENCIES		NON-RELATIVE ADOPTION PLACEMENTS BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY AGENCIES	
A Act of Love, Sandy, Utah	2	Allegheny County Children, Youth & Families	1
AD-IN, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana	1	Bethany Christian Services	10
Adoption Center of Choice, Orem, Utah	1	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh	5
Department of Human Services, Adoption Unit, Philadelphia, PA	2	Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center/Rainbow Project	1
Lehigh County, PA Office of Children & Youth	2	Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc.	7
Love the Children, Quakertown, PA	1	The Children's Home of Pittsburgh	21
Lutheran Social Services of Forth Worth, Indiana	1	Sub Total	45
Montgomery County, PA Children & Youth	1	NON-RELATIVE ADOPTION PLACEMENTS BY NON-AGENCIES	
Rowan County Department of Social Services, Salisbury, NC	1	Attorney	1
Shore Adoption Services, Inc., Virginia Beach, VA	1	Physician	2
State of New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Patterson, NJ	1	Clergy	1
Welcome House Adoption Program of Pearl S. Buck International, Perkasio, PA	1	All Other	5
Sub Total	15	Parent	9
		Sub Total	18
		Co-Parent Adoptions	27
		TOTAL Non-Relative Adoptions	105
		RELATIVE ADOPTIONS	
		Step-Parent	79
		Other Relatives	17
		U.S.A. Re-Adoptions	10
		TOTAL Relative Adoptions	106
		TOTAL PERSONS ADOPTED	211



The stained-glass window (pictured at left) located in the lobby of the Frick Building was created by artist John La Farge and shows the goddess Fortune balanced on her wheel with a foothold between the good times, characterized by the illuminated side, and the darkness of bad times. The surrounding walls and bench (as shown on page 25) located under the window are constructed of Italian marble and the ceiling panels are of Pavonazzo marble.

“Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die.”

*...Daniel H. Burnham
Architect, Frick Building*



Family Division



Family Court Facility — Ross Street — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Family Division – Adult Section

Throughout 2003, there were many changes in the Adult Section of the Family Division. Notably, the Honorable David N. Wecht was appointed to the division in February and subsequently won the election for the vacant position in November. In March, the division welcomed Patrick W. Quinn, Esquire, as the new administrator—Mr. Quinn previously served as the Adult Section’s deputy administrator from 1989 until 1992, when he joined the County Solicitor’s Office as the chief attorney for Title IV-D.



Patrick Quinn, Esq.
Administrator

years. By necessity, the PFA process has been restructured to cover the void. On a positive note, the Allegheny County PFA unit, under the management of Beth Keenan, Esquire, was cited as a “model system” in the 2003 *Final Report of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias*.

While the number of divorce filings decreased in 2003, down from 3,385 filed in 2002 to 3,292, the number of equitable distribution cases listed for hearing increased to 472 – up from 372 in 2002.

Improving upon its impressive support collections record, Allegheny County’s collection of child support dollars again increased in 2003 to an amount in excess of \$155

(Continued on page 33)

Family Division was saddened by the death of the Honorable Joseph H. Ridge in late December 2002, and the retirement of the Honorable Michael J. O’Malley in December 2003, two senior judges who were assigned to handle the Protection From Abuse (PFA) cases for many



Standing (L-R):

Row 1:

Lawrence W. Kaplan*
Kim D. Eaton
Christine A. Ward
Kim Berkeley Clark
David N. Wecht
Michael J. O’Malley*

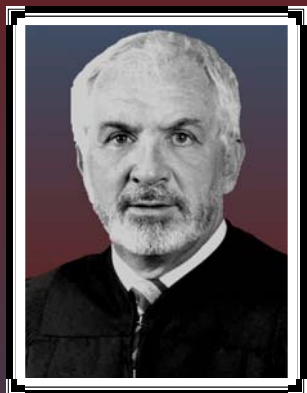
Row 2:

Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr.
Jill E. Rangos
Cheryl Lynn Allen
Randal B. Todd
Michael A. Della Vecchia

Not Available for Photo:

Kathleen R. Mulligan

***Denotes Senior Judge**



Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr.
Administrative Judge



Family Division – Adult Section

million—up nearly two percent from the 2002 total. The money was collected on 79,789 open cases, a decrease of three percent of open cases from the previous year. The division continues to operate at 100 percent in the “cost effectiveness” category of the federal “performance measures” and has consistently performed in excess of the required percentages in the other categories of paternity establishment, entry of support orders, and collection of current payments and arrearages.

In compliance with federal regulations, the Case Closure Unit continues to successfully eliminate inactive support cases, such as those where paternity cannot be established, the subject child has been emancipated, or one of the parties cannot be located. This process of removing inactive cases improves Allegheny County’s performance grade that determines federal incentive dollar receivables.

Further enhancements to the Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement System (PACSES) that enable access to and

interface with other computer databases, expand the division’s ability to enforce and collect established support orders. The many automated enforcement remedies available through PACSES add to the successful collection rate.

The “Phone Power” program has been an effective method for collection of on-going support and reduction of support arrears on Allegheny County cases since its resurgence in 2002. The program’s staff members contact delinquent defendants during evening hours in an attempt to obtain information regarding delinquent obligors and payment towards support arrears. Nearly \$157,000 was collected during calendar year 2003. In addition, the program produced 105 new wage attachments, resulting in the collection of on-going monthly payments.

Family Adult’s “Night Court” program, resurrected several years ago to make the court more “client friendly,”

(Continued on page 34)

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY

	2002	2003
New Family Cases Assigned for Judicial Conciliation		
Equitable Distribution/Alimony	606	614
Complex Case (Permanent Master)	0	0
Full Custody	348	315
Paternity	8	5
Divorce (3301-D, Contested)	45	38
Other	138	252
Cases Listed for Judicial Hearing		
Equitable Distribution/Alimony (Judge)	197	239
Equitable Distribution/Alimony (Permanent Master)	175	233
Complex Support (Permanent Master)	117	88
Full Custody	221	229
Partial Custody	203	222
Paternity	7	5
Divorce	36	137
Other	1,254	2,821
Support (Contempt)	2,695	3,192
Protection From Abuse (Final)	2,903	2,800
Protection From Abuse (Contempt)	1,046	1,071
Miscellaneous		
Support Exceptions	422	437
Post Trial Motions	105	79
Motions	12,944	13,021
Support Orders Reviewed and Entered	24,703	22,590
Protection From Abuse (PFA)		
Preliminary PFA Hearings	3,883	3,722
Final PFA Hearings	2,903	2,800
Indirect Criminal Contempt Hearings	1,046	1,071
Direct Hearings Scheduled before Senior Judges	320	219



The original Allegheny County Jail completed in 1886 was occupied by inmates until 1995. The building was converted into office space and is now the Family Court Facility. The corner section of the building, located at Forbes and Ross streets, served as the warden’s home. The large eight-sided tower, situated at the center of the complex, is encircled by large arches and was surrounded by cellblocks that now function as offices (picture shown on page 31).



Family Division – Adult Section

permits support litigants to receive assistance with their cases during non-traditional evening hours. In 2003 alone, over 3,100 cases were handled during the four-hours/one-evening-each week schedule.

Allegheny County received national note this past year from the Princeton University's Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing in its "Fragile Families Research Brief" (April 2003 Report). The center's report indicated that Allegheny County/Pittsburgh had the highest rates of "established paternities, child support awards, and formal payments" amongst the 20 metropolitan cities encompassed in the study.

In an ongoing effort to improve staff performance, Allegheny County works collectively with the Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement Training

Institute (PACSETI), an outreach service of Pennsylvania State University, to provide training to employees at no cost to the county. Family Division employees are actively involved with many organizations that provide training and support for the federal and state child support program. These organizations include the National Child Support Enforcement Association, the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association, and the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania. By providing educational opportunities to division staff members, Allegheny County is better able to serve the varied litigants involved with the child support system.

DISPOSITION OF SUPPORT CASES REQUIRING ACTION AT EACH LEVEL OF THE EXPEDITED HEARING PROCESS

The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure have introduced a "Diversionary Procedure" into actions for support. This procedure relieves the judiciary of the need to hear support cases in the first instance and passes this responsibility to hearing officers. This report lists the results of this procedure at each level of the process.

	2002	2003
Total Number of Cases Listed for Disposition	30,187	30,671
Cases Scheduled for Conference before Domestic Relations Officers	30,187	30,671
Cases Resulting in a Court Order after a Domestic Relations Officer's Conference	25,568	25,601
Cases Referred to a Hearing Officer at Conclusion of a Domestic Relations Officer's Conference	*4,619	5,070
Cases Resulting in a Final Court Order after a Hearing Officer's Recommendation	4,197	4,633
Cases in which Exceptions are Filed before a Judge after a Hearing Officer's Recommendation	422	437

*The Hearing Officers scheduled and heard 4,808 direct hearings in addition to this figure.

FILING AND DISPOSITION REPORT

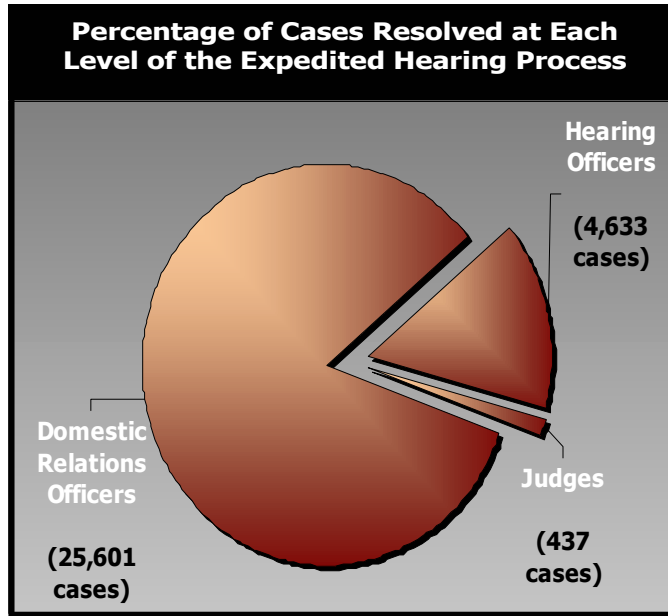
	2003		Pending
	Filed	Disposed	1/1/04
Support	22,590	21,176	18,734
Custody/Partial Custody	1,891	1,953	22
Divorce	3,292	3,122	4,171
TOTAL	27,773	26,251	22,927

DIVORCE DECREES GRANTED

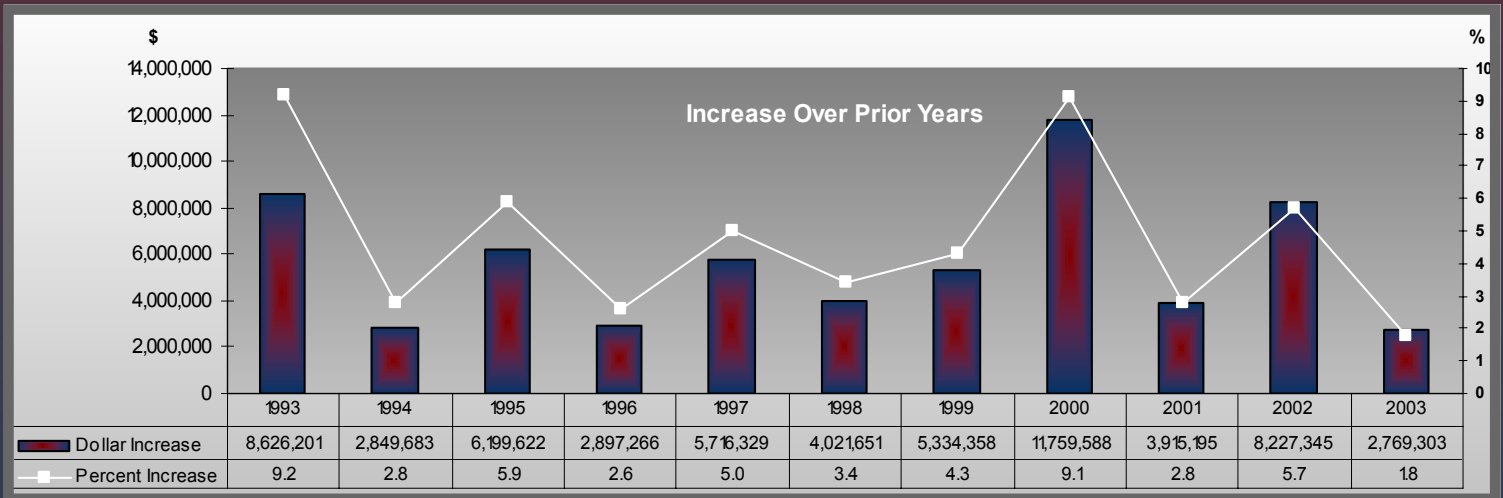
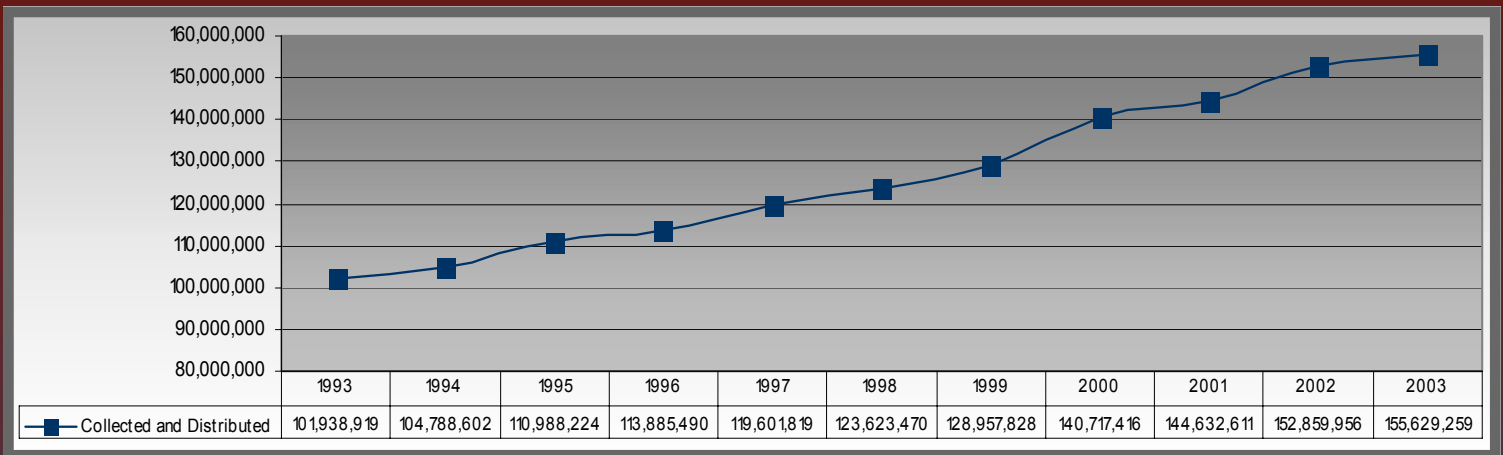
	2002	2003
Fault-Uncontested (3301-A)	8	12
No Fault-Uncontested (3301-C, 3301-D)	3,206	3,110
TOTAL	3,214	3,122



Family Division – Adult Section



Child Support Amounts Collected and Distributed



Family Division – Court Services for Children Adult/Juvenile Sections



Cynthia K. Stoltz, Esq.
Administrator

Throughout 2003, the Family Division further established itself as a progressive, innovative court willing to undertake the challenge of significant system change to improve its responsiveness to the legal needs of families.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court selected Allegheny County as a pilot for implementation of a Unified Family Court Model, to lead the Commonwealth in promoting family court reform for more effective and timely handling of family matters. Anticipating this directive, a third administrative office was created in Family Division to bridge Adult and Juvenile Sections' handling of children's legal issues. Cynthia K. Stoltz, Esquire, became the first administrator of Court Services for Children (CSC).

CSC, operating in accordance with the Unified Family Court Model, promotes the most efficient use of division resources to provide a more consolidated court experience for children and families. The primary function of the office is to develop, implement, and oversee cross-systems programs and procedural operations, predominantly in dependency/child welfare and child custody proceedings. Deputy Administrator, Brian Dunbar, Esquire, joined the CSC team and established himself during 2003 as a valuable asset, particularly in the child dependency arena. Mr. Dunbar brings over 12 years of experience in child welfare law to CSC.



Brian Dunbar, Esq.
Deputy Administrator

Under the leadership of Administrative Judge Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr., aggressive strategic planning was conducted to address the expanded goals of Unified Family Court reform.

(Continued on page 37)

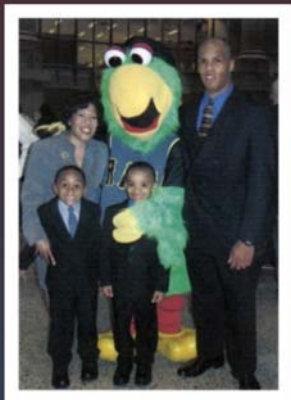
NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK



Judge Christine Ward with an adoption family on National Adoption Saturday.



(L-R): Department of Human Services Director Marc Cherna, Administrative Judge Scanlon, County Chief Executive James Roddey, and Rocky Blier at the National Adoption Week Kick-Off Ceremony on November 17, 2003.



(Pictured at Right): The National Adoption Week Poster Contest winners are congratulated by Rocky Blier.

Poster contest winners and parents meet the Pirate Parrot.



Second Chance Choir



Generations Custody Program
Generations, the Family Division custody program, continues to improve the quality of court resolution of custody matters through its parent/child educational program, mediation, and conciliation operations. Last year, the program utilized 10 parent educators and children's program facilitators with more than 20 years of experience in the education and child development field to provide quality education seminars on effective co-parenting arrangements that meet children's needs. Most of the mediation program's 15 independent lawyers and mental health professionals have been participants since the program's inception in 1997.



through the court process, most cases were scheduled promptly for conciliations within two to five weeks.

Child custody initiatives were implemented to meet the needs of families and the legal community. To improve prompt disposition of custody matters, in April the court added hearing officer Laura Valles, Esquire, who conducts partial custody proceedings and interim relief conferences.



For more convenient and timely court access for custody litigants, a night court custody mediation project was implemented in 2003. The project offers the option of custody mediation on Wednesday evenings for litigants who have hardships participating in mediation during normal business hours.

In 2003, over 2,400 adults and 1,500 children involved in custody actions were served by the Generations program. Custody mediators conducted more than 800 mediation sessions, with approximately 65 percent resulting in parenting agreements where all or many issues were resolved. For families needing to proceed

To improve the quality of court services to children and families in custody cases, the expertise of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Education was utilized to research the effectiveness of the Generations

(Continued on page 38)



education and mediation program. Based on a random survey of litigants who participated in the education program, the University's preliminary study concluded that the program is well received and helpful to parents in custody disputes. In 2003, the Court and the University formally launched a plan to perform a longitudinal study to determine whether Generations has a long-term impact on children and what, if any, changes to the program would improve its effectiveness.

Dependency/Permanency for Children

The Allegheny County child welfare system was lauded as a national model in 2003, in part due to its effective implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). Judge Cheryl Allen was also honored by Every Child, Inc. with the Champions of Permanency Award in 2003. The Family Division, Juvenile Section, played an important role in this system, with over 1,500 dependency petitions filed, 198 termination of parental rights petitions filed, and 226 adoptions finalized.

Dependency Hearing Officers

The dependency hearing officers, under Chief Hearing Officer Cynthia Franklin, Esquire, continued to timely and consistently monitor and review cases involving children in both out-of-home and in-home placements. The Juvenile Section hearing officers played a significant role in the developing transformation and improvement of the local dependency system.



Cynthia Franklin, Esq.

Three dependency hearing officers, each assigned to a specific judge, conduct review hearings on cases previously adjudicated by a judge. These hearings are conducted at community-based court sites, which afford litigants more convenient access to the court. The hearing officers preside over cases until an appropriate permanency plan has been implemented for each child and the case is closed. Review hearings are conducted timely, on average of every three months, and are scheduled in specific time slots with roughly 18 cases per day.

Hearing officer review of cases has reduced overcrowded waiting areas in the Family Court facility, increased judicial resources for complex matters, and reduced the overall length of time children remain in

out-of-home placements and the cost of care for children in placement, making resources available for other vital services.

In 2003, hearing officers conducted approximately 5,700 case reviews and closed roughly 750 cases. Of the case closures, 363 case resolutions resulted in reunification with a parent, 82 resulted in an award of permanent legal custodianship to a family member or foster parent, 159 resulted in adoptions, and 146 involved children 18 or older who were no longer eligible for services.

Permanency Initiatives

In 1997, ASFA required the Office of Children, Youth & Families (CYF) and the courts to be more responsive to the need for permanency in children's lives. The Juvenile Section operations of CSC, along with the dependency hearing officers, have made permanency issues a priority. Their emphasis has focused on coordination among various departments within the Family Division, development of a plan for comprehensive dependency case management reform, and special projects to improve services to dependent children and families.

Coordination Among Departments

CSC coordinated with the child support section to develop a process whereby judges, hearing officers, and CYF caseworkers refer clients to the support section genetic testing lab in the Family Court facility for immediate paternity testing. CSC also worked with the child support section to utilize the child support information database to assist CYF in locating absent parents. In both instances, using cross-systems resources has resulted in significant savings of time and money for both the county and clients.

CSC also worked with the bench and bar to develop court procedures to handle permanent legal custodianship, a relatively new permanency option under the ASFA, and a comprehensive system to adjudicate custody of children when a dependency matter is closed. Both of these projects address the difficult issues faced by the court when dependency and custody matters overlap and effectuate the efficient use of judicial resources to resolve the legal needs of children while avoiding fragmented decision-making.

(Continued on page 39)



Dependency Case Information Management

CSC outlined and began implementation of a plan to improve dependency, termination, and adoption case information available to judges, hearing officers, and others with approved access. First, working in conjunction with the Office of the Register of Wills, an electronic docketing system was established for all termination of parental rights and adoption cases conducted in Family Court. This process increased efficiency and shortened time delays on appeals of termination of parental rights decisions. Second, CSC coordinated the effort to partner with the Juvenile Prothonotary to develop an online docketing system for all Juvenile Section cases, compatible with the system currently implemented for Family Division Adult Section cases.

Special Projects and Programs

Adoption celebrations remain a monthly highlight, when the court is transformed into a festive environment with balloons, cookies, and stuffed animals for joyful families. For the third consecutive year, Allegheny County participated in National Adoption Month in 2003, hosting a kick-off ceremony on November 17th. The ceremony opened a weeklong celebration of adoption, featuring the musical talent of the Second Chance Choir and a special keynote address delivered by former Steelers great Rocky Blier, an adoptive parent. The week culminated on National Adoption Saturday with the finalization of 60 adoptions. Allegheny County's National Adoption Day celebration has been recognized as one of the nation's best by the Alliance for Children's Rights. Over 200 children were adopted through the Family Division in 2003.

In May, the Family Division CSC, CYF, Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald Charities collaborated to bring a state of the art pediatric primary care center on wheels to the Family Court facility. The Ronald McDonald "Care Mobile" now visits Family Court every Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., to provide required health screenings for children involved with CYF in the dependency system. This joint venture has resulted in more timely access to improved healthcare and decreased anxiety for dependent children. The International City-County Management Association recognized the Care Mobile project this year in its Fall 2003 publication.

For the fourth year, Juvenile Section staff assisted with the Allegheny County Music Festival held on Labor Day weekend to raise over \$30,000 for needy children. This fund was created to purchase goods and services for the Department of Human Services' children and youth that would not otherwise be possible through government funding.

Cross Systems

Pro Se Motions Project

The pro se motions project evolved in 2003, facing greater challenges to address the cross-systems legal needs of litigants, particularly in custody and dependency matters. The pro se motions project, sponsored by the Allegheny County Bar Association Family Law Section in cooperation with the court, provides volunteer attorneys to assist un-represented litigants with motions and petitions. Processes for the quick and accurate determination of financial eligibility were refined to promote increased assistance to those most in need.

Artwork Project

Because the renovation budget for the facility was limited, Administrative Judge Scanlon worked with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Stobart Galleries to procure artwork for Family Court that celebrates children and families. The first works were received enthusiastically by the public at receptions held in the Family Court rotunda, and additional pieces of art continued to be installed, including the U.S. and Allegheny County flags in the rotunda. All of the public areas of the building will eventually be brightened by the addition of photographs, drawings, and paintings, creating a more family-friendly atmosphere.



Family Division – Juvenile Section

In 2003, we welcomed two new judges to Juvenile Court and experienced a change in our supervising judge, as well. Judges Christine Ward and Jill Rangos were appointed, then elected to the bench. Judge Kim Berkeley Clark replaced Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen as the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Section. This also marked my first full year as Administrative Judge of the Family Division. I wish to thank Judge Allen and Judge Clark for their support and dedication.

Juvenile Court, unlike any other court, has a major impact on the Allegheny County residents it touches, and the committed and passionate employees of the court understand this best. Through the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice (community protection, accountability, and competency development), Allegheny County Juvenile Court has stepped forward as a model throughout the country of what can be accomplished with vision, dedication, and perseverance. We published our first report card to the citizens of Allegheny County this past October to coincide with Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania. The report card was based on case closing data of 1,485 youth. Some of the highlights were that close to \$139,000 in restitution was paid, with 81 percent being paid in full; almost 69,000 community service hours were completed representing 97 percent of what was ordered; 87 percent of the youth successfully completed supervision. During Juvenile Justice Week we held numerous activities for the public. We offered informational tables, interactive seminars, a Balanced and Restorative Justice forum for those working in the field, and an open house attended by 800-900 people. Most of those attending the open house were high school students. Juvenile Justice Week was successful because of the participation and fervor of all levels of staff from clerical to probation officers and Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) staff to judicial staff and judges. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments. This court

remains committed to the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice and will continue to strive for creative means to apply these principles, thereby making a difference in the lives of those we see.

Numerous programs continue to touch lives and to be successful. Community Probation, School-Based Probation, our Drug and Alcohol Program, the Juvenile Section's Specialized Services Unit, and CISP, all continue to function and thrive, helping to put many young offenders back on the right track.

The Electronic Home Monitoring Program continues to provide community protection and holds offenders accountable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This program is a viable and successful alternative to secure detention. We also offer two additional alternative programs, specifically aimed at offenders between the ages of 10 and 13.

Our Victim - Offender Mediation (VOM) Program and Community Accountability Panel (CAP) offer alternatives to traditional approaches, allowing some cases to be handled in a much different way than the limits of a court hearing or traditional intake conference can permit. The Victim Response Team continues to address issues important to victims and to train staff on the Victims of Juvenile Offenders Bill of Rights.

Balanced and Restorative Justice puts meaning into the words that caring for children is a collaborative effort. All parties, the courts and staff, families, communities, police, schools, victims, and child-serving agencies, must work collaboratively to help make the mission of Juvenile Court a reality: to reduce and prevent juvenile crime; to promote and

(Continued on page 41)



(L-R): Juvenile Court Judges Clark, Mulligan, Allen, Scanlon, Rangos, and Ward celebrate Juvenile Justice Week 2003.



(L-R): Judge Ward, Director Rieland and Judge Clark pledge their support for Balanced & Restorative Justice during Juvenile Justice Week 2003.



Family Division – Juvenile Section

maintain safe communities; and to improve the welfare of youth and families who are served by the court.

Being the administrative judge of such a progressive division of the court certainly keeps me sharp and aware of the many innovations taking place in the juvenile justice and dependency arenas. Even though we are proud of where we are, we cannot sit back and be content with our accomplishments. We must continually strive for excellence because that is how we remain progressive and in the forefront of the field. Our accomplishments were not achieved by sitting-back; they have been achieved through

the hard work and vision of those on the front lines, through the willingness of our court's leaders to take chances and try new ideas. I remain committed to constant improvement; our work is not finished. Allegheny County is fortunate to have some of the best programs and employees in the country, and my vision is to continue to implement new programs and services as well as to continue to improve on what we already have that works in order to benefit offenders and their families, victims, and communities who come to our attention.

*Respectfully submitted by Eugene F. Scanlon, Jr.
Administrative Judge, Family Division*

HEARINGS		DEPENDENT DELINQUENT	
CASES FILED	New	1,675	3,331
	TOTAL	1,675	3,331
FINAL ORDERS	Commitments	0	929
	Children, Youth & Family Supervision	1,283	0
	Probation	0	515
	Consent Decree	0	767
	Suspended Commitment	0	1
	Dismissed	153	790
	Discontinued	0	612
	Certified to Criminal Division	0	1
	Transfer to Other County	3	28
TOTAL	1,439	3,643	
OTHER CASE HEARINGS	Deferred Disposition	0	1,397
	Continuations	2,007	3,609
	Release on Probation	0	689
	Release and Close	0	104
	Mental Health / Mental Retardation	170	0
	Vacated Orders	40	132
TOTAL	2,217	5,931	
ADOPTION SERVICES	Adoptions Completed	232	0
	Termination of Parental Rights	436	0
	Termination Continued	136	0
TOTAL	804	0	
DETENTION HEARINGS	Detained	1	1,783
	Released	0	849
TOTAL	1	2,632	
SHELTER	Shelter Care	2,379	10
	Released	2	1
TOTAL	2,381	11	
MISCELLANEOUS ORDERS	Attachments	618	945
	Transportation	42	510
	Restitution	0	838
	Other	1,727	936
TOTAL	2,387	3,229	
HEARING DAYS	Modified Orders	0	214
	Reviews	14,400	3,582
	Closings	1,206	2,121
	Transfer Criminal to Juvenile	0	20
TOTAL	1,012	1,094	



Judge Clark became supervising judge in 2003.

PROVIDER TRIP



Judge Rangos hugs an infant born to a youth placed in the VisionQuest Program at Lady of the Lakes .



Youth at Gannondale discuss their experiences with Judges Clark and Ward.



Family Division – Juvenile Section

New challenges and financial uncertainties best characterize 2003. The tremendous growth that the Juvenile Section had experienced over the past five years came to an end in 2003, however creativity and innovation continue.

The total Juvenile Section budget is now approaching 50 million dollars a year. Close to 70 percent of this amount is dedicated to programs and services for delinquent youth.

Allegheny County programs and services are considered to be among the most comprehensive offered by any juvenile court in the nation. Court staff continue to work closely with contracted providers and state-operated program personnel to ensure that the very best programs are available when the court orders services.

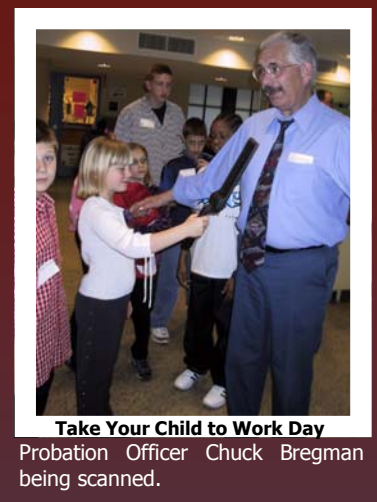
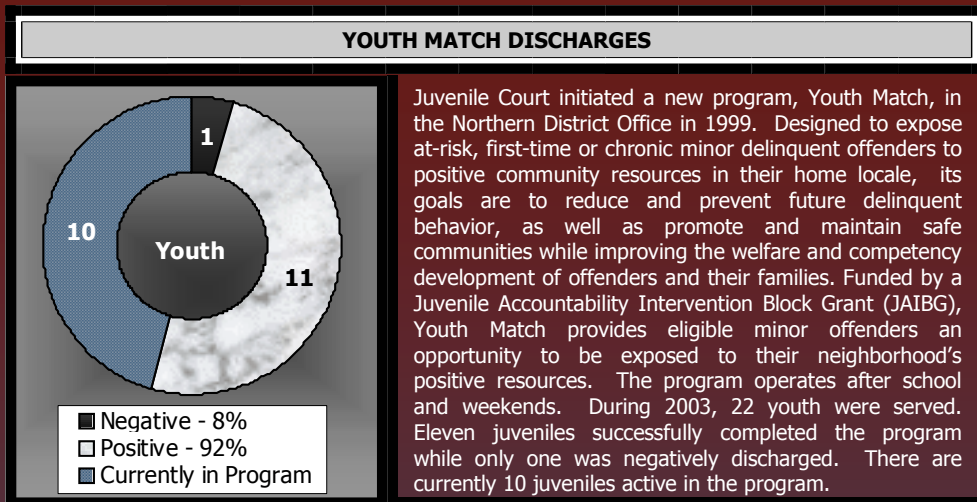
We are also continuing to work closely with Pittsburgh Mediation Center to develop Community Accountability Panels (CAP) in Allegheny County neighborhoods. In 2003, panels were started in Duquesne and Wilkesburg. CAP

provides the opportunity for community residents to actively participate in solving juvenile crime problems.

CAP links law enforcement, community resources, and youth so as to foster more productive and ongoing relationships, which can produce success for the juvenile and the community at large. A first-time, non-violent juvenile offender, who admits to a crime, is eligible for the program. CAP representatives meet with the youth and the youth's parents, permitting the youth to explain his/her actions and reflect upon the consequences of those actions. CAP then evaluates the youth's interests, school performance, positive and negative activities, needs, and future plans, which forms the basis of the contract the youth signs. Preliminary results indicate satisfaction for all parties.

Our Juvenile Section judges continued the practice of visiting state-operated and contracted service provider programs to gain firsthand knowledge of physical plants and services.

(Continued on page 43)



"Dream Probation Officer Team" voted on by fellow Juvenile Probation Officers – Probation Officer Workshop 2003.



Youth placed with Auberle, which provides programs for dependent/delinquent juveniles experiencing behavioral issues or severe family problems, present their artwork for viewing at Juvenile Court's Dependency Hearing Officer site.

Family Division – Juvenile Section

One day a month is set aside from very busy court dockets to conduct these informative visits. Youth and staff greatly appreciated the opportunity to interact with judges in a relaxed setting.

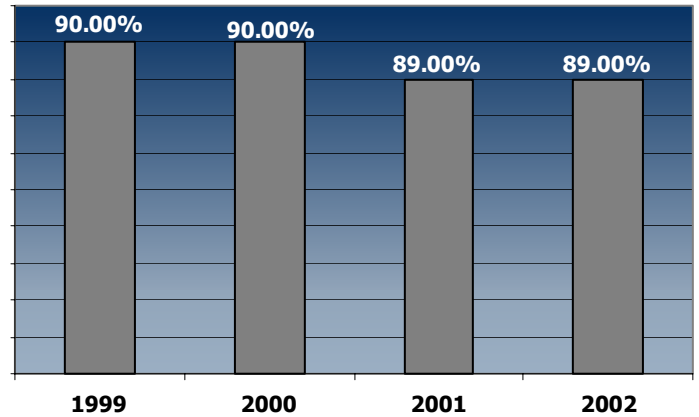
Governor Rendell proclaimed October 5 - 11, 2003 Juvenile Justice Week in Pennsylvania, and the Juvenile Section used this opportunity to celebrate our programs, people, and services. Through a number of programs aimed at educating the public about Juvenile Court, the week's events were an absolute success. Over 800 youth from various school districts visited the open house. Judges, staff, and system partners made numerous presentations throughout the day.

The Juvenile Court also distributed over 100,000 copies of our first ever "Report Card" during Juvenile Justice Week. The Report Card highlights system outcome measures such as the number of community service hours completed by delinquent youth, the amount of restitution paid, and the number of youth successfully completing court supervision without re-offending.

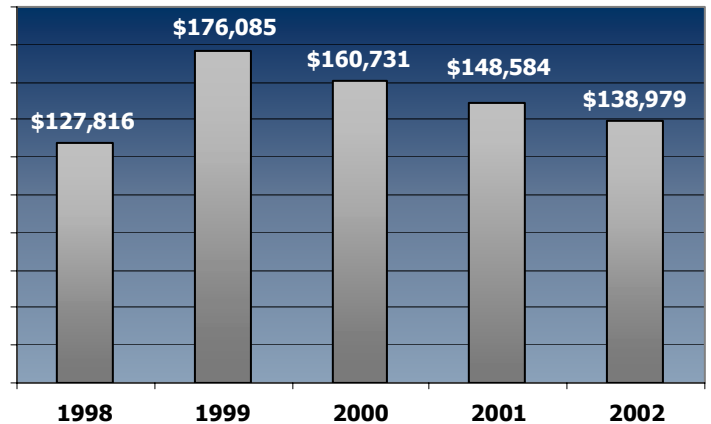
During 2003, outcome measurement in the juvenile justice system became national and statewide initiatives. The American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) received a grant from congress to study outcome measures in the juvenile justice system. Allegheny County, along with the State of South Carolina, Cook County, Illinois, and Bend, Oregon, became national demonstration sites for this project. Many of our Juvenile Court's innovations have been adopted by APRI as examples of accomplishments for local jurisdictions.

Below are some of the highlights from the court's 2003 Report Card:

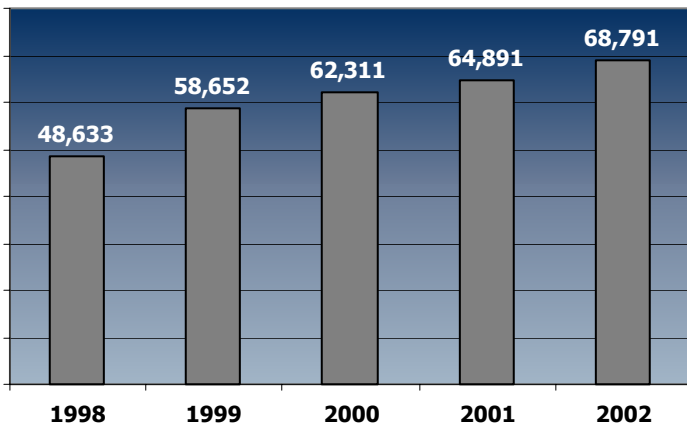
Youth Attending Educational/Employment Programs



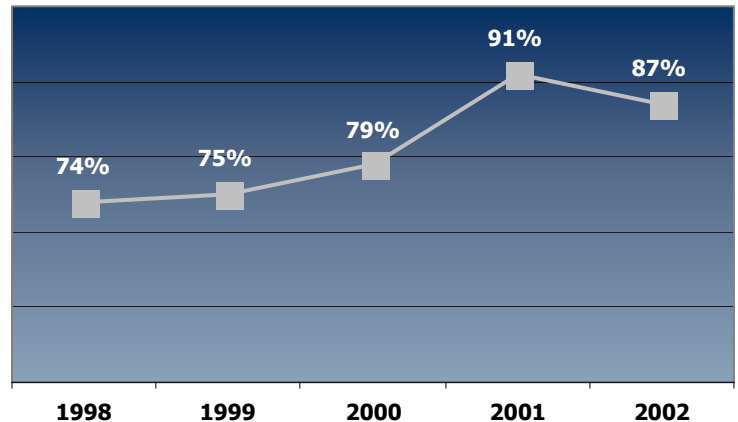
Restitution Paid to Crime Victims



Community Service Hours Completed



Successfully Completed Supervision



Family Division – Juvenile Section

REFERRALS TO JUVENILE COURT BY MOST SERIOUS CHARGE

	2002	2003	Increase/ Decrease	% Increase/ Decrease
Aggravated Assault	243	242	-1	0%
Aggravated Assault on Teacher	102	112	+10	10%
Arson	26	26	+0	0%
Auto Theft Related	324	206	-118	-36%
Burglary	444	278	-166	-37%
Carjacking (Robbery of Motor Vehicle)	6	9	+3	50%
Criminal Mischief/Institutional Vandalism	138	62	-76	-55%
Criminal/Defiant Trespass	103	85	-18	-17%
Disorderly Conduct	66	99	+33	50%
Drugs (Including Crack)	492	534	+42	9%
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	61	43	-18	-30%
Escape	9	14	+5	56%
Ethnic Intimidation	0	1	+1	N/A
Failure to Adjust (FTA)	364	328	-36	-10%
Firearm Unlicensed or Possession	77	65	-12	-16%
Harassment	27	26	-1	-4%
Nonpayment of Fines	549	623	+74	13%
Receiving Stolen Property	95	237	+142	149%
Retail Theft	72	46	-26	-36%
Robbery and Related	210	193	-17	-8%
Sex Offenses	122	98	-24	-20%
Simple Assault	588	623	+35	6%
Terroristic Threats	138	156	18	13%
Theft and Related (Conspiracy/Attempt)	210	289	+79	38%
Transfers from Other County	131	125	-6	-5%
Violation of Probation	247	275	+28	11%
Weapons on School Property	87	128	+41	47%
Subtotal:	4,931	4,923	-8	0%
All Other	334	410	+76	23%
TOTAL	5,265	5,333	+68	1%

Of the 5,333 Juvenile Court referrals during 2003, Receiving Stolen Property increased the most from 95 to 237 (+149 percent). The most significant decrease was for Burglary, a reduction of 166 (-37 percent). The highest number of referrals were for Simple Assault charges (623), and Nonpayment of Fines (623).

SCHOOL BASED PROBATION

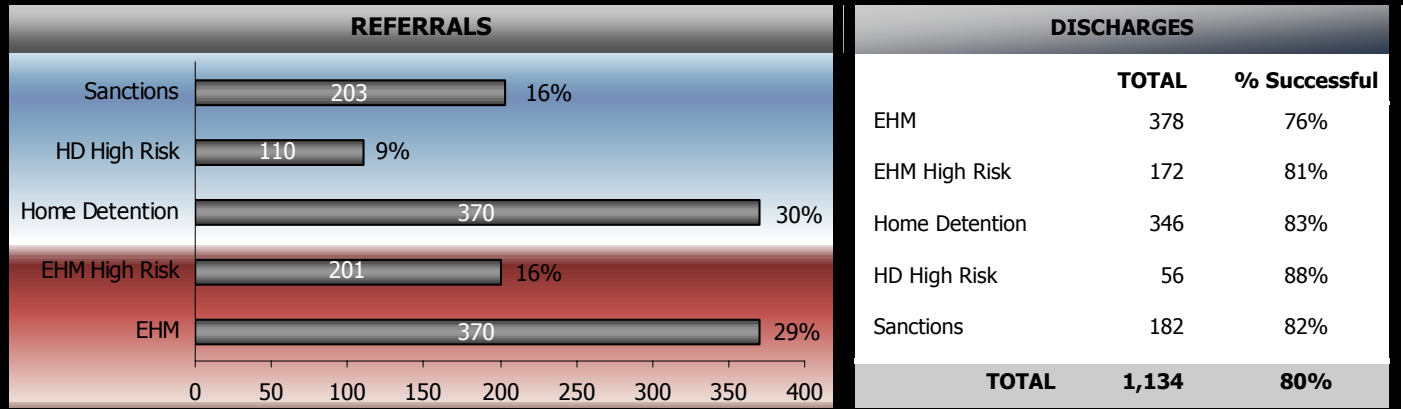
	Probation Officer(s)	Caseload as of 12/31/03
Pittsburgh School District High Schools		
Oliver	2	61
Westinghouse	2	53
Carrick	2	47
Letsche	3	43
Langley	1	41
Brashear	2	39
Schenley	1	36
Peabody	2	34
Allerdice	1	16
Pittsburgh School District Middle Schools		
Columbus	1	19
Milliones	1	19
Arsenal	1	17
Greenway	1	15
Knoxville	1	13
Reizenstein	1	12
Other Schools in Allegheny County		
McKeesport High School	2	49
Woodland Hills Jr./Sr. High	2	49
Wilksburg	1	31
Steel Valley	1	29
Highlands	1	28
North Hills	1	24
Sto-Rox High School	1	24
Baldwin	1	22
Penn Hills High School	1	22
Shaler	1	22
Fox Chapel	1	18
Moon/West Allegheny	1	18
Keystone Oaks	1	16
North Allegheny	1	15
Duquesne High School	1	14
Chartiers Valley	1	12
Hampton	1	11

During the 2003/2004 school year, 41 school-based probation officers (PO's) served 15 Pittsburgh Public Schools and 17 other school districts throughout the county. The PO services all youth on probation who attend the school and is responsible for intakes that occur within the assigned school. The School Based Probation Project is also responsible for operating the Truancy Task Force, a program providing intervention for truant youth who are 13 years of age and younger.



Family Division – Juvenile Section

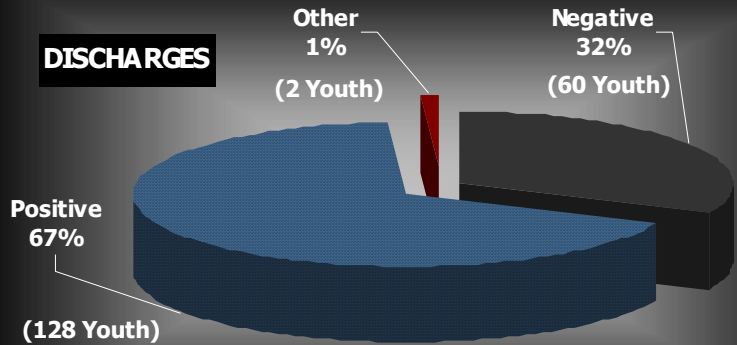
ELECTRONIC HOME MONITORING / HOME DETENTION



Juvenile Court continues to provide Home Detention and Electronic Monitoring (EM) as alternatives to prehearing secure detention for alleged juvenile offenders. These services are also used as more intensive supervision for youth in the Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP). During 2003, there was an increase in the number of youth discharged from EM, 225 more than in 2002. The program's success is maintained by deterring youthful offenders from re-offending — only two committed a new crime while on EM in 2003.

Community Intensive Supervision Program

The Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) operated by Juvenile Court continues to provide an alternative to institutionalization for youth under court supervision who continue to commit delinquent acts. The majority of the youth referred to CISP (85 percent) had committed property/non person-to-person crimes. CISP also provides aftercare services to youth who are leaving out-of-home placement. During 2003, 41 percent of the total referrals made to CISP were for after-care services. Of all youth served during 2003, 17 (28 percent) committed a new criminal act while in the CISP program. Of the 60 youth with a negative discharge, 51 were placed in out-of-home care.



	COMMITMENTS		DISCHARGES	
	Total	%	Total	%
Garfield	44	24%	41	21%
Hill District	22	12%	31	16%
Homewood	46	26%	45	24%
McKeesport	19	11%	22	12%
Wilkinsburg	49	27%	51	27%
TOTAL	180		190	



CISP youth celebrate Black History Month 2003.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

	Number of Youth	% of Cases Closed
Violation of Probation	81	5%
New Adjudication	159	11%
Completed Three Hour Victim Awareness Curriculum	1,107	75%



Summary Appeals Branch



Joseph DeMarco
Manager

The jurisdiction of the Court's Summary Appeals Branch encompasses civil and criminal appeals from convictions for summary offenses that are a result of a trial before an Allegheny County District Justice or Pittsburgh City Court Magistrate. Civil cases include appeals from rulings by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn Dot) regarding driver license/vehicle

registration suspensions and revocations, together with "miscellaneous" summary appeals that result from decisions by regulatory agencies that include civil service commissions, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Water Exoneration Board, and zoning boards. Statutory appeals filed in the Prothonotary's Office also include any other appeals specifically authorized by statute to the Court of Common Pleas. Criminal cases filed in the Clerk of Courts Office are appeals from summary criminal convictions, summary ordinance violations, and summary convictions for offenses of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code.

Statistics compiled by Summary Appeals and the Office of Prothonotary for 2003 reveal a continuing trend for the last three years of increased filings and dispositions. Of particular note, is the implausible increase by 700 of *nunc pro tunc* motions requested and filed. Total dispositions this year were over 5,200, which included 4,000 criminal dispositions, representing a more than 40 percent increase over 2002. In comparison to 2002, disposition of civil appeals from Penn Dot decisions increased by over 200 for a total of 1,565. Even with a substantial increase in filings, case scheduling and dispositions are up-to-date. The staff credits this achievement to the Summary Appeals judges who established an efficient and tireless work ethic.

Beginning in April 2002, the Honorable Robert C. Gallo has presided over this subdivision of the court, providing the leadership and commitment necessary to the daily administration of a high demand, paper-driven system. Judge Gallo's duties also include a full-time calendar in Criminal Court that entails presiding at Accelerated Rehabilitation Disposition (ARD) and Plea Disposition Quickie (PDQ) regularly scheduled hearings, and Civil Motions Court. He also has assumed responsibility for the cases not concluded before the loss of the late Honorable Robert E. Dauer, his predecessor in Summary Appeals, ARD, and PDQ hearings.

President Judge Dauer revamped the summary system in 1996,

incorporating new procedures and enacting local rules to minimize postponements and promote peak efficiency. In 2002, President Judge Robert A. Kelly revised the local rules to further improve filing procedures, timely processing of paperwork, and judicial assignments for summary appeal cases.

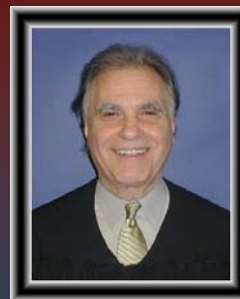
Following established rules, all motions and pre-trial matters continue to be docketed on a daily basis. Summary Appeals has successfully maintained a schedule from filing to hearing date of approximately 65-70 days for criminal matters. Civil Penn Dot cases are scheduled for hearing upon completion of the 60-day mandated stay to ensure timely decisions in matters of driving license revocation/suspension.

Administrative procedural policies became necessary in the latter half of 2003. The Honorable J. Warren Watson has been assigned the miscellaneous summary appeal cases for many years. These cases take considerable time and effort, requiring conferencing, conciliation, and briefing. Having reached the mandatory retirement age of 80, Judge Watson would be leaving the court at year's end. Consequently, beginning in September, miscellaneous appeals were referred by the Summary Appeals Chief Clerk to the Civil Division Administrative Judge for random assignment to judges. Appeals from Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board decisions are being assigned to judges through the daily trial list in the Civil Division.

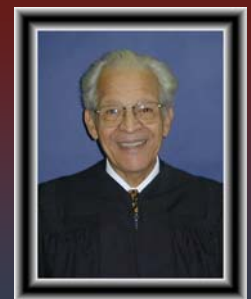
Throughout 2003, the Honorable Joseph M. James, Administrative Judge of the Civil Division, disposed of all appeals related to zoning board rulings. When other judges were needed to assist with hearings, the services of the Honorable Lester G. Nauhaus, the Honorable Kevin G. Sasinowski, the Honorable David R. Cashman, the Honorable Lawrence J. O'Toole, and the Honorable Michael A. Della Vecchia were vital to maintaining the current scheduling of cases.

The Summary Appeals Branch staff consists of Supervisor Joseph DeMarco, assisted by Joane Kampas and Mary Lee Raymond. On a daily basis, this section of the Court of Common Pleas requires a high level of efficiency to manage the paperwork and increasing caseload. For the future, the staff foresees improved tracking of cases with enhanced computerization and networking between the filing agencies and Summary Appeals.

	New Cases Filed	Cases Disposed
Zoning Board	47	37
Civil Service	6	4
Motor Vehicle	1,128	1,066
Liquor Control	2	2
Miscellaneous	253	94
Criminal Summary Convictions	2,780	4,000
TOTAL	4,216	5,242



Judge Robert C. Gallo



Sr. Judge J. Warren Watson



District Justice Courts

The year 2003 was an especially demanding and hectic one. On December 30, 2002, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court executed the Magisterial District Reestablishment Order for the Fifth Judicial District directing implementation of the redistricting plan.



Nancy L. Galvach
Manager

Following each decennial census, all judicial districts are charged with reestablishing the magisterial districts based on such criteria as caseloads, population variations, and geographic location of the magisterial court's office. The Fifth Judicial District's submission called for 24 separate actions involving the 55 existing courts. Although some actions were initiated early in the year and some will not be instituted until 2006, the majority were completed within the last month of the year.

District justice commissions expire at midnight on the first Monday in January. Upon the expiration of the commissions of the district justices in magisterial districts 05-2-29, 05-2-37 and 05-3-07, the districts were eliminated and their venues were joined with neighboring districts. District 05-3-11, which was vacant due to the retirement of the elected district justice, was also eliminated and its venue was joined with neighboring 05-3-12.

After successive years of case filing increases in Mon Valley districts 05-2-09, 05-2-11 and 05-2-14, Magisterial District 05-2-47 was created to encompass at least one municipality from each of those courts.

December brought a flurry of activity typically involved in any reorganization but was magnified by the partial relocation of 16 separate courts. By January 5, 2004, 55 magisterial districts had been reduced to 52.

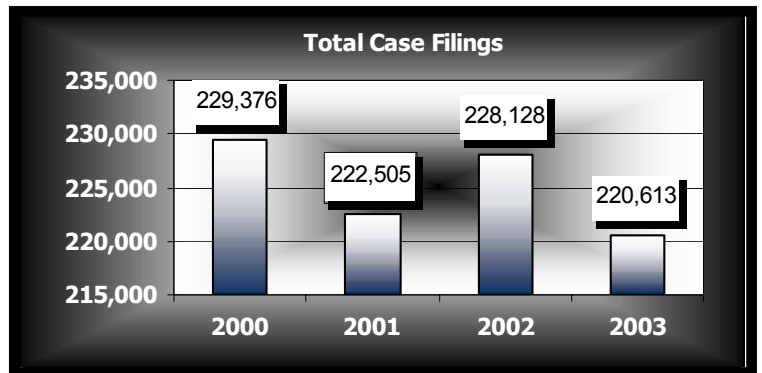
There is a duplication of services between the elected district justices located within the City of Pittsburgh and the appointed magistrates serving Pittsburgh Magistrates Court (PMC). Part of the Reestablishment Order addressed that issue. It was ordered that, as magistrates' terms expired, there were to be no further mayoral appointments, and city district justices were required to rotate through the schedule at PMC in order to determine whether the district justices could judicially staff PMC in addition to their own courts. Econsult, a consulting firm familiar with Pennsylvania courts, was commissioned by the Supreme Court to conduct a study of PMC's operations and make recommendations for its future. Due in 2004, the results of the study will form the basis of the decision of whether to eliminate PMC, make it a central county court, or to continue its operation as is.

Common Pleas Courts throughout the Commonwealth are being computerized, which requires that all minor courts be compatible so that cases held for court following preliminary hearing can be electronically transferred. Through the efforts

of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), plans to computerize PMC with the District Justice Automated Computer System (DJS) were finalized in 2002 and installation began in 2003.

PMC's traffic court went online April 1, 2003, and the criminal court went online in July. There were many adjustments such as "tweaking" the computer system so it would adapt to court practices and employees learning bank statement reconciliation through the DJS. The final result has been increased efficiency for the employees and better record management for the court. Actual Traffic filings for the court were 15,961 (estimated 18,612 for the year). Non-Traffic filings were 3,709 (estimated 6,108 for the year). Criminal filings were 7,728 (estimated 15,456 for the year). PMC's filings are not included in the total filings in this report.

Case Filings						
	Criminal	Civil	Landlord/ Tenant	Non- Traffic	Private Summary	Traffic
2003	21,020	18,573	15,008	39,110	11,277	115,620
2002	19,801	18,208	14,949	35,900	9,250	130,011
2001	19,059	18,367	15,024	34,718	10,054	125,281
2000	19,190	17,591	13,274	34,271	11,153	133,711



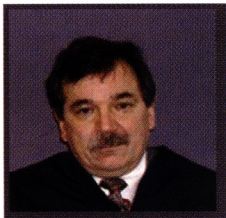
Presented above are the 2003 total case filing statistics for the minor judiciary, along with a comparison of the prior three years. Although total filings have decreased from 2002, largely due to a reduction in Traffic filings, total Criminal filings have increased, as they have every year since 1995:

Criminal Filings	
1995	15,402
1996	15,593
1997	17,220
1998	17,329
1999	17,815

(Continued on page 52)



District Justice Courts



Donald H. Presutti

05-2-01 4200 Ohio River Boulevard
Ben Avon, Ben Avon Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Heights, Emsworth, Phone: 412-761-8770
Kilbuck, Bellevue, Ohio, Fax: 412-761-8254
Avalon



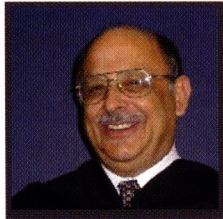
Susan Evashavik

05-2-08 2065 Ardmore Boulevard
Churchill, Forest Hills, Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Wilkins, Edgewood, Phone: 412-271-9125
Chalfant Fax: 412-271-7529



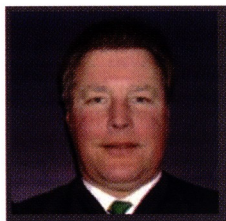
Mark B. Devlin

05-2-02 439 Perry Highway
Ross, West View Pittsburgh, PA 15229
Phone: 412-931-3205
Fax: 412-931-4135



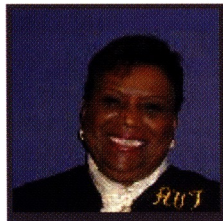
Ross C. Cioppa

05-2-09 300 Rankin Boulevard
Braddock Hills, Braddock, Rankin, PA 15104
N. Braddock, Swissvale, Phone: 412-271-7734
Rankin Fax: 412-271-3530



Robert P. Dzvonic

05-2-03 1007 Mt. Royal Boulevard
Etna, Shaler Pittsburgh, PA 15223
Phone: 412-487-7630
Fax: 412-487-7567



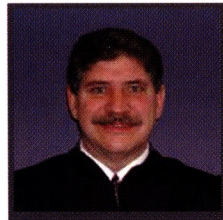
Alberta Thompson

05-2-10 815 Wood Street
Wilkinsburg Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Phone: 412-241-6529
Fax: 412-247-9270



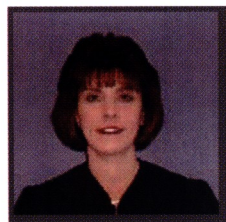
Elissa M. Lang

05-2-04 1205 Main Street
Aspinwall, Blawnox, Pittsburgh, PA 15215
Indiana, Indianola, Phone: 412-784-8555
Sharpsburg, Fox Chapel, Fax: 412-784-3167
O'Hara



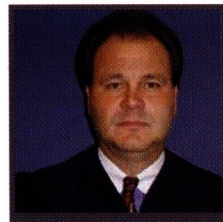
Robert L. Barner

05-2-11 831 East Pittsburgh-
East McKeesport, Wall, McKeesport Boulevard
N. Versailles, Wilmerding, North Versailles, PA
Trafford, Turtle Creek, 15137
East Pittsburgh
Phone: 412-678-2440
Fax: 412-678-2446



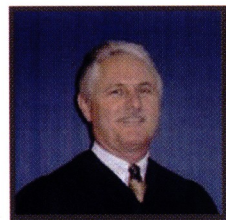
Carolyn S. Bengel

05-2-05 53 Garfield Street
Brackenridge, Harrison, Natrona, PA 15065
Fawn, Tarentum
Phone: 724-224-5555
Fax: 724-226-1594



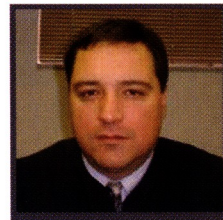
William K. Wagner

05-2-12 8105 Perry Highway
Bradford Woods, Franklin Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Park, Marshall, McCandless
Phone: 412-366-2221
Fax: 412-366-8260



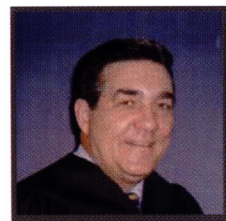
Leonard J. HRomyak

05-2-06 85 Universal Road
Penn Hills Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Phone: 412-731-0100
Fax: 412-731-1986



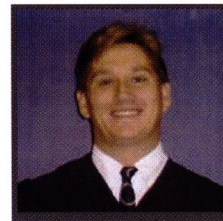
Thomas S. Brletic

05-2-13 687 O'Neil Boulevard
McKeesport McKeesport, PA 15132
Phone: 412-664-4612
Fax: 412-664-1554



Walter W. Luniewski

05-2-07 339 Old Haymaker Road
Monroeville, Pitcairn Suite 1500
Monroeville, PA 15146
Phone: 412-372-1125
Fax: 412-372-8740

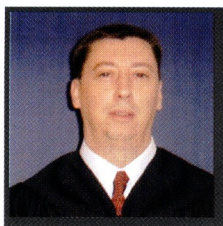


Richard D. Olasz, Jr.

05-2-14 1800 Homeville Road
Dravosburg, West Mifflin, West Mifflin, PA 15122
Whitaker, Duquesne
Phone: 412-466-1503
Fax: 412-466-3202

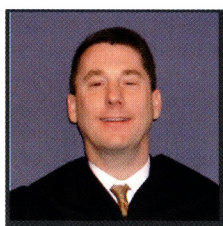


District Justice Courts



Thomas Torkowsky

05-2-15 510 East Eighth Avenue
Homestead, Munhall, West
Homestead Munhall, PA 15120
Phone: 412-461-5977
Fax: 412-461-0786



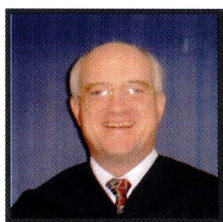
Gary M. Zyra

05-2-22 Scott Township Municipal
Greentree, Scott Building
301 Lindsay Road
Carnegie, PA 15106
Phone: 412-276-7887
Fax: 412-276-0654



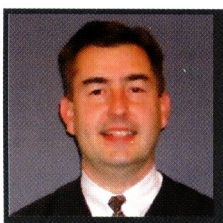
Mary Grace Boyle

05-2-16 343 Old Curry Hollow Rd.
Jefferson Hills, Pleasant
Hills, South Park Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Phone: 412-653-2102
Fax: 412-653-0221



Dennis R. Joyce

05-2-23 136 Bradford Avenue
Carnegie, Crafton, Ingram,
Pennsbury Village, Rosslyn
Farms, Thornburg Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Phone: 412-921-5559
Fax: 412-921-5619



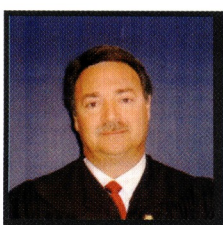
David J. Barton

05-2-17 530 Caste Village
Castle Shannon, Whitehall,
Baldwin Township Shopping Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Phone: 412-885-2111
Fax: 412-885-4630



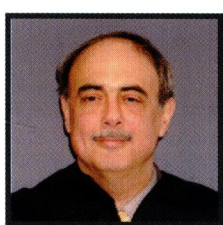
Shirley Rowe Trkula

05-2-25 923 Fifth Avenue
Coraopolis, Crescent,
Moon, Neville Coraopolis, PA 15108
Phone: 412-262-3881
Fax: 412-262-2710



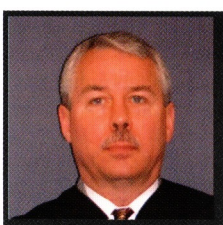
John N. Bova

05-2-18 Wallace School Building
Baldwin Boro, Brentwood 41 Macek Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone: 412-881-1996
Fax: 412-885-2443



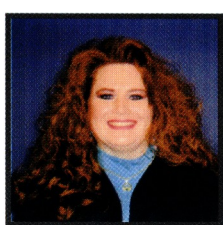
Ernest L. Marraccini

05-2-26 250 Swiss Lane
Elizabeth Twp., West
Elizabeth, Elizabeth Boro,
Forward Swiss Alpine Village
Route 48
Elizabeth, PA 15037
Phone: 412-751-3199
Fax: 412-751-8555



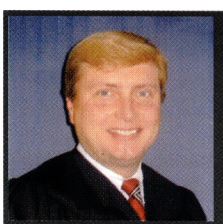
Geoffrey Wright

05-2-19 Washington Center Bldg.
Dormont, Mt. Lebanon 680 Washington Road
Suite B-103
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Phone: 412-561-4415
Fax: 412-561-4338



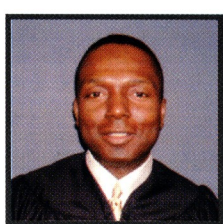
Eileen Conroy

05-2-27 Keystone Fifth Building
Pittsburgh Ward 4
(Oakland) 3520 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-621-2263
Fax: 412-621-2394



Robert C. Wyda

05-2-20 Bethel Park Municipal
Bethel Park Building
5100 West Library Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102
Phone: 412-835-1661
Fax: 412-835-4060



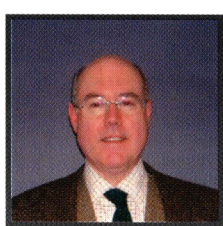
Oscar J. Petite, Jr.

05-2-28 1030 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh Wards 1, 2, 3,
and 5 (Downtown,
Uptown, Hill District) Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-261-2660
Fax: 412-261-0772



Elaine M. McGraw

05-2-21 295 Millers Run Road
Bridgeville, Heidelberg,
Collier, South Fayette Bridgeville, PA 15017
Phone: 412-221-3353
Fax: 412-221-0908

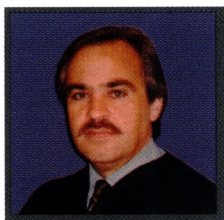


Douglas W. Reed

05-2-29 4764 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburghs Ward 7 and 8
(Shadyside, Bloomfield) Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-621-2202
Fax: 412-681-5794



District Justice Courts



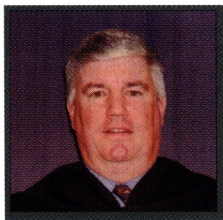
Ron Costa, Sr.

05-2-31

Pittsburgh Wards 10 and 11 (Morningside, Stanton Heights, Garfield, Highland Park)

5155 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Phone: 412-781-5100
Fax: 412-781-5010



Robert P. Ravenstahl, Jr.

05-2-42

Pittsburgh Wards 26 and 27 (Upper North Side, Perrysville)

3874 Perrysville Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Phone: 412-321-0116
Fax: 412-321-0702



Linda I. Zucco

05-2-32

Plum

10101 Saltsburg Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Phone: 412-793-2727
Fax: 412-793-1355



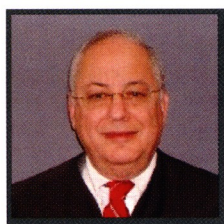
Carla Swearingen

05-2-43

Pittsburgh Ward 28 (Crafton Heights, Broadhead Manor, Westgate) and Robinson

5624 Steubenville Pike
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Phone: 412-787-5000
Fax: 412-787-5510



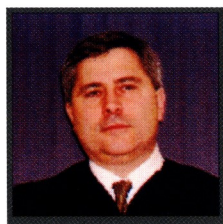
Nathan N. Firestone

05-2-35

Pittsburgh Ward 14 (Squirrel Hill, Swisshelm Park, Point Breeze)

5850 1/2 Forward Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-521-9288
Fax: 412-521-3400



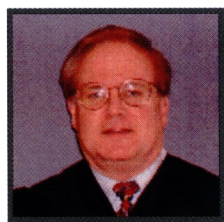
Regis C. Welsh, Jr.

05-2-46

Hampton, Pine, Richland

Coventry Sq. Office Center
4655 Route 8 – Suite 124F
Allison Park, PA 15101

Phone: 412-486-0454
Fax: 412-486-2576



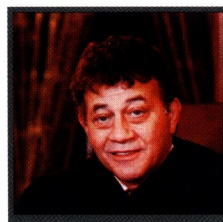
James J. Hanley, Jr.

05-2-36

Pittsburgh Wards 15 and 31 (Hazelwood, Hays, Lincoln Place, Greenfield)

4371 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-521-7782
Fax: 412-521-3500



James E. Russo

05-3-02

Bell Acres, Edgeworth, Glenfield, Haysville, Leetsdale, Osborne, Sewickley, Sewickley Heights, Sewickley Hills, Aleppo, Leet

190 Ohio River Boulevard
Box 153
Leetsdale, PA 15056

Phone: 724-266-7179
Fax: 724-266-7422



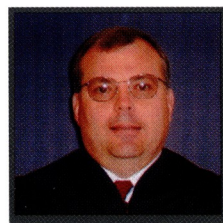
Nancy L. Longo

05-2-37

Pittsburgh Wards 16 and 17 (Southside, St. Clair Village, Arlington Heights)

1505 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Phone: 412-481-1200
Fax: 412-481-4897



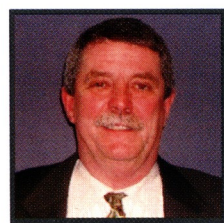
David J. Sosovicka

05-3-03

Cheswick, Springdale Boro, Springdale Twp., Harmar

425 Pittsburgh Street
Springdale, PA 15144

Phone: 724-274-4801
Fax: 724-274-2515



Charles A. McLaughlin

05-2-38

Pittsburgh Ward 19 (Mt. Washington, Beechview, Brookline, Station Square Shops)

736 Brookline Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Phone: 412-343-1188
Fax: 412-343-6667



Suzanne Blaschak

05-3-04

East Deer, Frazer, West Deer

2060 Saxonburg Boulevard
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Phone: 724-265-2380
Fax: 724-265-2727



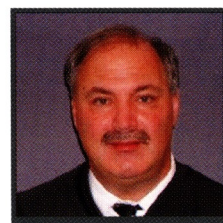
Cathleen Cawood Bubash

05-2-40

Pittsburgh Wards 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 (Lower North Side, Troy Hill, Manchester, Allegheny Center)

421 East Ohio Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: 412-321-0788
Fax: 412-321-4014



Thomas G. Miller, Jr.

05-3-05

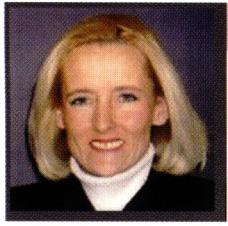
Versailles, White Oak, South Versailles

Rainbow Village Shopping Center
1985 Lincoln Way
White Oak, PA 15131

Phone: 412-672-3916
Fax: 412-672-3922

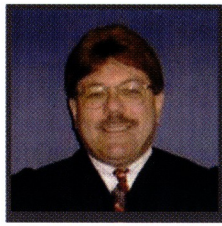


District Justice Courts



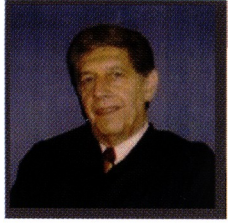
Mary Ann Cercone

05-3-06 104 Linden Avenue
McKees Rocks, Kennedy, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Stowe
Phone: 412-331-3414
Fax: 412-331-3422



Richard G. King

05-3-14 2308 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh Wards 29 and
32 (Carrick, Overbrook,
East Brookline, Mon Wharf,
Station Square Parking
Lots)
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Phone: 412-884-1511
Fax: 412-884-3135



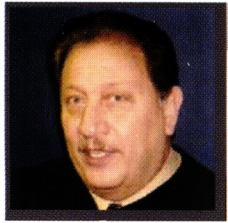
Edward Burnett

05-3-07 One Allegheny Square
Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln,
Port Vue Suite 1
Glassport, PA 15045
Phone: 412-673-0864
Fax: 412-673-0467



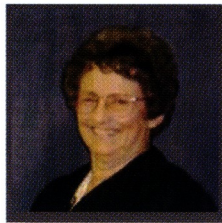
Anna Marie Scharding

05-3-15 500 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh Wards 18, 30
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
(Allentown, Knoxville,
Beltzhoover, Mt. Oliver,
Bon Air)
Phone: 412-481-0539
Fax: 412-481-5061



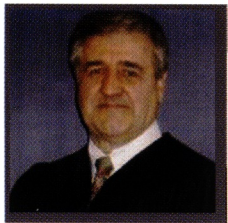
Armand Martin

05-3-09 416 St. Clair Avenue
Clairton Clairton, PA 15025
Phone: 412-233-3977
Fax: 412-233-4026



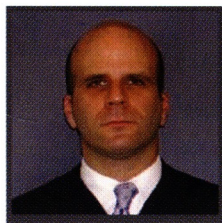
Sally Ann Edkins

05-3-16 300 Sainte Claire Plaza
Upper St. Clair 1121 Boyce Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
Phone: 724-941-6724
Fax: 724-941-3413



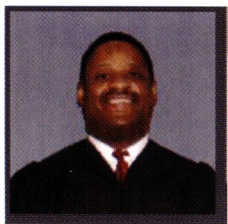
Eugene Zielmanski

05-3-10 4211 Butler Street
Pittsburgh Wards 6 and 9
(Lawrenceville, Arsenal) Suite 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-681-1558
Fax: 412-681-5300



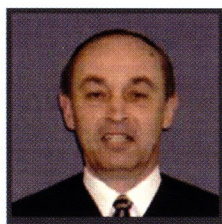
Anthony W. Saveikis

05-3-17 8052 Steubenville Pike
McDonald, Oakdale,
Findlay, North Fayette Oakdale, PA 15071
Phone: 724-695-2070
Fax: 724-695-3761



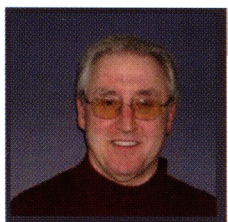
Kevin E. Cooper

05-3-12 566 Brushton Avenue
Pittsburgh Wards 12 and
13 (Homewood) Pittsburgh, PA 15208
Phone: 412-241-1165
Fax: 412-241-3600



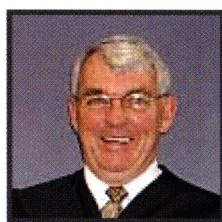
Richard K. McCarthy

05-4-01 517 Lincoln Avenue
Millvale, Reserve Pittsburgh, PA 15209
Phone: 412-821-5580
Fax: 412-821-4271



Daniel R. Diven

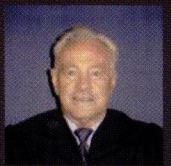
05-3-13 635 Hillsboro Street
Pittsburgh Ward 20 (West
End, Sheridan, Elliott) Pittsburgh, PA 15204
Phone: 412-331-9828
Fax: 412-331-0475



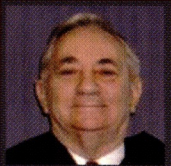
Richard H. Zoller

05-4-02 600 W. Railroad Avenue
Oakmont, Verona Verona, PA 15147
Phone: 412-828-4488
Fax: 412-828-4540

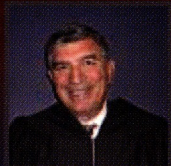
SENIOR DISTRICT JUSTICES



Leonard W. Boehm



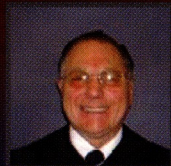
Raymond L. Casper



Robert E. Tucker

Not Available for Photo:

Georgina G. Franci
Richard J. Terrick



Frank Comunale, III



Lee G. Peglow



Edward A. Tibbs



District Justice Courts

Additionally, Non-Traffic filings, which are also criminal, have grown from 30,001 in 1995, while Private Summary filings have jumped 22 percent.

The Citation Data Entry Project, implemented in March of 2001 as a means of alleviating some of the data entry work in the district justice courts, processed 26,036 citations during 2003. Traffic citations are faxed by district justice courts to the Court Administrative Office where they are docketed by a

contract employee under the direction of the court. As the chart above illustrates, Traffic citations represent 53 percent of the case filings in our district justice courts. We were able to enter 23 percent of those cases remotely. During 2004, we received permission to expand the project to include Non-Traffic citations that are filed periodically in large quantities, such as municipal tax filings.

(Continued on page 53)

		TRAFFIC	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	LANDLORD/ TENANT	NON- TRAFFIC	PRIVATE SUMMARY	TOTAL
05-2-01	Hon. Donald H. Presutti	6,526	470	230	212	737	491	8,666
05-2-02	Hon. Mark B. Devlin	3,171	687	578	140	647	883	6,106
05-2-03	Hon. Robert P. Dzvonic	2,252	521	355	132	845	567	4,672
05-2-04	Hon. Elissa M. Lang	3,569	413	290	96	1,012	50	5,430
05-2-05	Hon. Carolyn S. Bengel	915	310	265	203	1,260	112	3,065
05-2-06	Hon. Leonard J. HRomyak	1,208	672	863	413	1,082	830	5,068
05-2-07	Hon. Walter W. Luniewski	2,061	567	607	323	822	223	4,603
05-2-08	Hon. Susan Evashavik	5,332	430	246	101	1,130	201	7,440
05-2-09	Hon. Ross C. Cioppa	3,466	697	370	562	1,575	61	6,731
05-2-10	Hon. Alberta Thompson	1,978	782	246	809	927	22	4,764
05-2-11	Hon. Robert L. Barner	5,803	1,109	424	447	2,203	668	10,654
05-2-12	Hon. William K. Wagner	4,302	402	363	32	500	212	5,811
05-2-13	Hon. Thomas S. Brletic	1,101	750	623	760	2,472	81	5,787
05-2-14	Hon. Richard D. Olasz, Jr.	2,542	1,185	703	381	2,122	322	7,255
05-2-15	Hon. Thomas Torkowsky	2,344	647	292	173	1,373	87	4,916
05-2-16	Hon. Mary Grace Boyle	3,278	387	274	111	453	121	4,624
05-2-17	Hon. David J. Barton	3,366	364	333	240	785	46	5,134
05-2-18	Hon. John N. Bova	2,683	623	284	537	860	101	5,088
05-2-19	Hon. Geoffrey G. Wright	4,032	574	312	190	1,118	114	6,340
05-2-20	Hon. Robert C. Wyda	2,380	310	204	121	513	39	3,567
05-2-21	Hon. Elaine M. McGraw	4,060	483	374	59	704	392	6,072
05-2-22	Hon. Gary M. Zyra	1,535	338	296	71	326	70	2,636
05-2-23	Hon. Dennis R. Joyce	3,210	392	382	118	1,334	186	5,622
05-2-25	Hon. Shirley Rowe Trkula	2,361	671	752	170	843	231	5,028
05-2-26	Hon. Ernest L. Marraccini	1,769	224	347	72	493	60	2,965
05-2-27	Hon. Eileen Conroy	1,801	81	203	174	652	56	2,967
05-2-28	Hon. Oscar J. Petite, Jr.	1,166	650	666	1,082	578	396	4,538
05-2-29	Hon. Douglas W. Reed	174	46	294	383	103	30	1,030



District Justice Courts

Despite the assistance provided by the Citation Data Entry Project, understaffing in the minor judiciary continues to be a problem. Although it varies depending on the percentage of each type of filing in each district, the court's standard criteria for staffing is 1,500 filings per staff; in 2003, more than half, or 32 courts, exceeded that optimum. The court employs 10 traveling secretaries who are temporarily assigned to

magisterial districts to fill in for absent employees or provide assistance with increased workloads. The "travelers" have been the court's safety net. As budget constraints continue to tighten, and as more difficult case filings continue to rise, the challenge of accomplishing the court's work with limited resources becomes much more difficult.

		TRAFFIC	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	LANDLORD/ TENANT	NON- TRAFFIC	PRIVATE SUMMARY	TOTAL
05-2-31	Hon. Ron Costa, Sr.	64	205	445	1,151	597	89	2,551
05-2-32	Hon. Linda I. Zucco	1,000	242	283	139	395	56	2,115
05-2-35	Hon. Nathan N. Firestone	396	63	284	187	307	42	1,279
05-2-36	Hon. James J. Hanley, Jr.	8	77	159	265	10	70	589
05-2-37	Hon. Nancy L. Longo	43	65	234	424	124	18	908
05-2-38	Hon. Charles A. McLaughlin	97	222	324	304	278	154	1,379
05-2-40	Hon. Cathleen Cawood Bubash	438	156	269	660	182	261	1,966
05-2-42	Hon. Robert P. Ravenstahl, Jr.	109	108	253	795	819	139	2,223
05-2-43	Hon. Carla Swearingen	3,955	614	504	320	402	216	6,011
05-2-46	Hon. Regis C. Welsh, Jr.	5,239	514	536	27	532	791	7,639
05-3-02	Hon. James E. Russo	7,536	192	100	55	301	34	8,218
05-3-03	Hon. David J. Sosovicka	2,110	210	138	38	449	195	3,140
05-3-04	Hon. Suzanne Blaschak	1,158	219	191	25	275	507	2,375
05-3-05	Hon. Thomas G. Miller, Jr.	374	338	285	62	282	50	1,391
05-3-06	Hon. Mary Ann Cercone	2,548	958	416	357	1,839	560	6,678
05-3-07	Hon. Edward Burnett	696	176	432	52	905	39	2,300
05-3-09	Hon. Armand Martin	636	461	586	136	1,019	63	2,901
05-3-10	Hon. Eugene Zielanski	7	80	246	210	143	129	815
05-3-12	Hon. Kevin E. Cooper	32	87	235	622	519	76	1,571
05-3-13	Hon. Daniel R. Diven	526	122	182	267	182	96	1,375
05-3-14	Hon. Richard G. King	221	29	171	139	333	462	1,355
05-3-15	Hon. Anna Marie Scharding	1,827	259	126	275	463	17	2,967
05-3-16	Hon. Sally Ann Edkins	1,300	73	97	4	162	41	1,677
05-3-17	Hon. Anthony W. Saveikis	4,373	442	732	256	550	229	6,582
05-4-01	Hon. Richard K. McCarthy	1,013	147	52	54	213	8	1,487
05-4-02	Hon. Richard H. Zoller	1,520	176	117	72	390	267	2,542



Judicial Transitions

President Judge Kelly (R) congratulates President Judge-elect James (L) on his election by the Board of Judges on December 12. Judge James has been serving as the Civil Division's Administrative Judge since November of 2000 during which time the backlog of cases was significantly reduced. As president judge, his administrative duties will encompass the entire court. He was a gubernatorial appointee to the bench in May 1987, elected to a 10-year term in November of that year, and currently is serving in his second 10-year term. A former assistant district attorney and Pittsburgh's Chief Magistrate, Judge James initially served in the Criminal Division.



FEBRUARY JUDICIAL APPOINTEES WIN NOVEMBER ELECTION

Jill E. Rangos, Christine A. Ward, and David N. Wecht, whose gubernatorial appointments to fill Court of Common Pleas vacancies were confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on February 11, 2003, won election to the bench in the general election and will begin serving 10-year terms on January 5, 2004. While serving as appointees, all three judges were assigned to the Family Division; Judges Rangos and Ward in the Juvenile Section, Judge Wecht in the Adult Section. They will remain in the Family Division in 2004.

Honorable David N. Wecht

The Honorable David N. Wecht, 40, a National Merit Scholar and 1980 Shady Side Academy graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in 1984, *Phi Beta Kappa* and *summa cum laude*, from Yale College in History and Political Science. Judge Wecht received his *juris* doctorate from Yale Law School in June 1987; he was editor of the *Yale Journal of International Law* and the *Yale Law and Policy Review*, and notes editor of *The Yale Law Journal*. After law school, Judge Wecht served as law clerk to the Honorable George E. MacKinnon, U. S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit. He was a litigation attorney with the Pittsburgh firm of Katarincic & Salmon and the Washington, D.C. firm of Williams & Connolly before becoming a partner in Pittsburgh's Wecht Law Firm in 1996

and an adjunct professor at the Duquesne University School of Law and Point Park College. Elected as Allegheny County's Register of Wills, Judge Wecht served in that capacity since January 1998. He served as the elected vice-chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party from June 1998 to February 2001.

Legislation originated by Judge Wecht to protect the children and other heirs of murder victims is now Pennsylvania law. He is published in several legal and medical journals, which include "A Proposal for Reform of Pennsylvania's Slayers' Act: Protecting Innocent Family Members of Slain Victims," *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*; "Reform Needed on Personal Care Homes," *Pittsburgh Legal Journal*; and several medico/legal articles co-authored with his father, the Honorable Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D., on HIV testing and AIDS, *Internal Medicine, Scalpel and Quill, Forensic Sciences*.

Judge Wecht and his wife Valerie have four children: Nathan, Jacob, Alexander, and Emma. Civic activities include board of directors' member of the American Jewish Committee, Pittsburgh Chapter, Jewish National Fund, Pittsburgh Region, and previously, the Regional Development Funding Corporation, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the Holocaust Center of Greater Pittsburgh. Judge Wecht currently is a member of Pennsylvania's Commission on Crime and Delinquency Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Community College of Allegheny's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, the Amen Corner (Board of Governors), Master in the Inns of Court (Matrimonial), and the Tree of Life and Beth Shalom congregations.



Judge David Wecht takes the oath of office as his wife Valerie holds the family Bible on February 25th.



Honorable Christine A. Ward

The Honorable Christine A. Ward, 45, earned a bachelor's degree in 1979, *Phi Beta Kappa* and *summa cum laude*, in Economics and Political Science from Washington and Jefferson College, where she was a Rhodes Scholar finalist and awarded the Birch Scholarship for both athletics and academics, the Walter Hudson Baker Prize in Economics, and

the James Gillespie Blaine Prize in Political Sciences. As a four-year letterman, she was chosen captain of the basketball team. At the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Judge Ward earned her *juris* doctorate in 1982, Order of the Barristers, and was honored with the Ruggiero J. Aldisert Award. As a law student, she received Fifth in National Finals, First in Third Circuit Region, and best Oralist Award in the American Bar Association's Oral Advocacy Competition.

After law school, Judge Ward was an attorney with Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C. Subsequently, she was a founding member of Sweeney, Metz, Fox, McGrann & Schermer, LLC. Judge Ward was a partner of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, LLP when appointed to the bench.

Judge Ward's community activities have included board membership of Persad Center, ACLU, WQED, YMCA, The Rankin Christian Center, The Salvation Army, and Camp Fire USA. Professional memberships include the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations, Council on Professionalism, Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession, and the Women's Bar Association, Federal Law and Employment Law Sections. She is a demonstrator for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.



At her oath of office ceremony on February 27th, Judge Christine Ward (R) is sworn in with her sister, Kathleen Zigo, holding the family Bible.

Honorable Jill E. Rangos

The Honorable Jill E. Rangos, 44, received a bachelor's degree in English and Political Science from Dickinson College in 1981 and earned her *juris* doctorate from Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in 1984, where she was a member of the Law Review and published *People Against Nuclear Energy v. Nuclear Energy Commission: Potential Psychological Harm under NEPA*, 32 *The Catholic University Law Review* 495 (1983). Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Rangos was an attorney with two Pittsburgh firms, Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C. and Thorp, Reed & Armstrong, respectively. Earlier in her legal career, she was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. of the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, who officiated at both her wedding and oath of office ceremonies. While attending law school, Judge Rangos clerked in Washington, DC and was a summer associate at Pittsburgh's Thorp, Reed & Armstrong law firm.

Judge Rangos credits her success to the combination of her focus on performing community service and her interest in the law. She has chaired The Pressley Ridge Schools' nominating committee as a member of its board of trustees. Ex-executive director of the John G. Rangos, Sr. Family

Foundation, a charitable organization, Judge Rangos now serves as a member of its board of trustees. She has also served on the board of fellows for the National Center for Juvenile Justice and as a board member for the Pittsburgh Emergency Medicine Foundation and Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival. Since 1990 she has sat on the board of



Holding the family Bible, John and Nicholas are attentive as their mother, Judge Jill Rangos, takes the oath of office on December 22nd.

directors for the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, serving as board secretary, chairman of the Nominating Committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee. She has been involved with fundraising for the Easter Seals Society, Whale's Tale, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's "Cruise for Kids," and Leukemia Society of Western Pennsylvania. Judge Rangos is also active in her church as a Sunday School teacher and volunteered in various capacities with the Fox Chapel School, where her children attend.

Professional affiliations include the Allegheny County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, for which she serves as co-president.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUDGE WINS PA SUPREME COURT SEAT

Honorable Max Baer

The Honorable Max Baer, a Common Pleas judge since January 1990, was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the November general election. Judge Baer most recently served in the Civil Division since May 1999, following a nine-year tenure in the Family Division where he was the Administrative Judge from 1993 to 1999. While managing Family Court, Judge Baer split his time between the Adult and Juvenile sections.

Judge Baer received his B.A. in 1971 from the University of Pittsburgh and attended Duquesne University Law School's night school program, earning his J.D. in 1975. After graduation from law school, he was employed as a deputy attorney general in the Pennsylvania Department of Justice's major litigation section for five years. He was a partner in the law firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. from 1981-1989, engaged in the general practice of law before winning election to the bench.

For his work with children and families, Judge Baer has received a number of prestigious awards. He was named

Pennsylvania's Adoption Advocate of the Year in 1977 in recognition of his efforts to provide permanent homes for dependent children. In a 1998 White House ceremony, President Bill Clinton acknowledged Judge Baer's receipt of the Adoption 2002 Excellence Award for Judicial Innovation from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. The Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania presented Judge Baer with its Robert S. Steward Award for his commitment and service to Pennsylvania families, also in 1998. In 2000, he was named the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Pennsylvania Child Advocate of the Year. The Homeless Children's Education Fund honored Judge Baer in 2003 with their Champion of Children's Award.

Judge Baer has served on numerous committees and boards. He is the former chairperson of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee and an *ex officio* representative to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. A former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Family Law Section, he was also a member of the Conference's Education Committee and the

Joint State Government Commission on Adoption Law and Services to Children and Youth. Board memberships have included Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, Catholic Charities, and the Consumer Credit Counseling Corporation.

Formerly a Carnegie Mellon University faculty member, Judge Baer taught a course entitled, "Family Law and Social Policy," and continues to be a guest lecturer in the History Department. He has been a frequent lecturer for several professional organizations that include the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Allegheny County Bar Association, and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Judge Baer is credited with several legal commentaries. He contributed two chapters to

(Continued on page 57)



Newly elected Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer (center) with his sons Benjamin (L) and Andrew (R) at his oath of office ceremony.



Newly sworn-in Justice Baer makes remarks at his oath of office ceremony on December 26th.



Judge Baer is credited with several legal commentaries. He contributed two chapters to *The Judge's Book*, a publication of the National Conference of State Trial Judges and authored "Custody Wars - The Creation of a New Weapon of Mass Destruction," 21 PA Family Lawyer, Issue No. 4, 1999, and "Family Law and Civility: Can They Coexist?," 24 Family Lawyer, Issue No. 1, 2002. As a guest columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Judge Baer published, "Forum: Open, shut and complicated, a critique of the Elian Gonzales case," February 2000.

It was noted during Judge Baer's election campaign that as a supporter of social justice, he initiated changes in Allegheny County that "humanized" the family court system. As a member of Pennsylvania's highest court, Justice Baer will have the opportunity to pursue the kind of court reforms he has advocated throughout his legal career.

TWO SENIOR JUDGES RETIRE

Having both reached the mandatory retirement age of 80, the Honorable Michael J. O'Malley and the Honorable J. Warren Watson, left the bench at the end of 2003. Judge Watson had been with the court for 38 years, Judge O'Malley 30.

Honorable J. Warren Watson

Judge Watson was first elected to the Court of Common Pleas in November 1965 and re-elected for two successive terms, during which he served in all divisions. He was assigned to Criminal Court in January 1973 and to Orphans' Court in January 1980. Duties while a senior judge (1993-2003) assigned to the Civil Division included handling of Summary Appeal cases that involved school boards, the Civil Service Commission, and other miscellaneous matters.



After serving in the U.S. Navy (1943-1946), the judge earned his B.A. at Duquesne University and his L.L.B. at its School of Law. He was employed with Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Bureau after law school graduation, then the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Prior to his judicial career, Judge Watson was in private practice and an assistant solicitor with the City of Pittsburgh.

Among his many honors, Judge Watson was the first African-American in the country to receive the "Man of the Year" award from the Disabled American Veterans in 1969. He has held the record for longest term of service by an African-American judge in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other honors bestowed on Judge Watson have included

service awards from the Political Education Committee and Community Action Pittsburgh, Inc., the National Association of Negro Business, Professional, Civic and Cultural Endeavors and a Certificate of Merit from Balsa. He is also an honorary member of the Chiefs of Police.

Numerous civic organizations have been fortunate to be included in Judge Watson's diverse extensive community service. Over the years, he has sat on the boards of directors for several social service agencies and neighborhood associations, as well as WQED-WQEX and Carlow College's President's Council. An accomplished musician and friend of the arts, Judge Watson has been a member of the American Wind Symphony, Mendelssohn Choir Board of Directors, an honorary member and past legal counsel for the American Federation of Musicians, and has served as parliamentarian and assistant musical director for the Café Theatre Society.

Renowned for his musical talent, especially his expertise with the saxophone, Judge Watson was the saxophonist with the original Professional Men in Jazz Combo, sponsored by the late Roy Kohler and Gulf Oil Corporation. It has been noted that he is as adept with a golf club as he is with the sax.

Judge Watson's professional association memberships have included the American Judicature Society; Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations; Pennsylvania Association of State Trial Judges; and the Farview Independent Review, Family Court Planning and Bicentennial Committees.

Judicial Transitions

Honorable Michael J. O'Malley



Judge O'Malley, appointed to the Court of Common Pleas bench in 1972 and assigned to the Civil Division, was elected to two full 10-year terms in 1973 and 1983. Twice elected president judge by his fellow judges, he served in that capacity from June 1978 through December 1988. In May of 1990, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court chose Judge O'Malley as the Orphans' Court Administrative

Judge, where he served until 1993 when he was assigned to the Family Division as a senior judge. For the next 10 years, he adjudicated Protection From Abuse cases. On October 4, 1993, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed Judge O'Malley to the 53rd Judicial District as its Administrative Judge in addition to his Allegheny County senior judge duties. He commuted between Pittsburgh and New Castle in Lawrence County for approximately six years.

As a member of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, Judge O'Malley served as its president in 1980 and chairman of the conference's board of directors in 1981. He was honored by the conference in 1981 with the Justice Thomas C. Clark Award, presented in honor of the organization's founder, the late United Supreme Court Justice Thomas C. Clark, for outstanding service in advancing the field of judicial administration. Other memberships and

activities have included the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations, the Judicial Immunity Committee and the Court Delay Reduction Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, the Judicial Administration Working Group on Asbestos Litigation, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Judicial Council of Pennsylvania, the Committee to Study Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System, and the Statewide Steering Committee on Automation of the Pennsylvania Courts.

Judge O'Malley began his law career following more than four years of distinguished military service. He enlisted as a U. S. Army Aviation Cadet in 1942 and served as a B-24 navigator in the army's 5th Air Force 43rd Bomber Group, 63rd Squadron, flying combat missions for which he was awarded five battle stars. Judge O'Malley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and was admitted to the practice of law upon graduation from its School of Law in 1955. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as a special assistant attorney general and as president of the Board of Viewers of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

In addition to his professional associations, Judge O'Malley is a member of American Legion Post 5, McCormick-Dorman Post No. 694, Veterans of Foreign Wars, a life member of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, the Variety Club of Pittsburgh, the Arsenel Board of Trade, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Knights of Equity.

IN MEMORIAM

Honorable George H. Ross October 10, 1922 - September 25, 2003

Retired at the mandatory age of 80 in 2002, the Honorable George H. Ross died in September 2003 of an apparent heart attack at his Shaler home. A public servant in Allegheny



County's criminal justice system for most of his legal career, Judge Ross spent his last 27 years in the Criminal Division. Before his gubernatorial appointment to the bench in 1975, he served as Allegheny County's first public defender for a decade, 1965-1975. During the 1950's, until he was chosen by the county commissioners to organize the Office of

Public Defender, Judge Ross served as the top homicide prosecutor in Allegheny County's District Attorney's Office.

As judge, lawyer, and administrator, Judge Ross was respected for his fairness and knowledge. His judicial manner was thorough, and he insisted that lawyers practicing before him be prepared. When he wasn't providing community service, the judge liked to relax by gardening and fishing.

Judge Ross earned his A.B. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1944 and both his LL.B. and J.D. from its Law School (1949 and 1968, respectively). He served as a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army, 1943-1946. Throughout his legal career, Judge Ross' professional memberships included the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania, and the National Legal Service Association's Board of Directors.



Note of Thanks

Special acknowledgement goes to Rebecca Planinsek, Sharon McAllister, Eileen Morrow, Gina Haas, and Elaine Rjabak for their time and dedicated efforts in the preparation of this Annual Report.

Sincere appreciation to Margaret Grace Stanley, Allegheny County Photographer, for many of the photographs and reproductions.

*Raymond L. Billotte
District Court Administrator*