



Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
County of Allegheny
2009 ANNUAL REPORT



PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDGE AND DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR



HON. DONNA JO MCDANIEL
PRESIDENT JUDGE



RAYMOND L. BILLOTTE
DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Each year, dating back to the early 1960's, the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania has produced an annual overview of court services and accomplishments. Improving court services in 2009 remained a priority despite increased budget constraints. Collaboration with court partners and stakeholders proved essential in moving forward during the difficult economic environment of 2009.

Innovative court programs continued to provide cost-savings to the county while increasing public safety. Programs such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and a newly established Veterans Court address the underlying issues that bring offenders into contact with the criminal justice system. Providing treatment and resource coordination, problem-solving court programs offer a holistic alternative to incarceration, helping compliant offenders to lead healthy, productive lives. The Phoenix Docket, an alternative program for expediting the disposition of uncomplicated criminal cases, was implemented this year with the cooperation of the District Attorney's Office. The Phoenix Docket reduces the time from arrest to disposition by up to 150 days. The Allegheny County Mortgage Foreclosure Program was initiated in January 2009 to alleviate the increasing number of residential property foreclosures in Allegheny County. The program provides an innovative alternative to traditional foreclosure proceedings, offering homeowners and lenders additional options to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of foreclosure matters. Throughout the course of 2009, a total of 751 homeowners were enrolled in the program.

Pittsburgh hosted a number of notable events in 2009 in which the Fifth Judicial District was a participant. The National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts held its 21st annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Fifth Judicial District judges and court administrative staff presented topics concerning diversity, fairness, and innovation in the courts. On May 28, 2009, the White House announced Pittsburgh's selection as host city for the G20 Summit in September of 2009. The court exercised its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure continuous availability of judicial services throughout Allegheny County during the G20 Summit in anticipation of an influx of hundreds of diplomats and dignitaries and projected numbers of protestors as high as 50,000.

The court also experienced transition in 2009 with the retirement of four judges, one gubernatorial judicial appointment, the election of one judge to the Pennsylvania Superior Court, and the election of five new judges to the Fifth Judicial District.

On behalf of the Fifth Judicial District, we pledge to continue to move forward in 2010 with improving court operations through collaboration, innovation, and a proactive response to challenge and change.

We invite you to take a few moments to look over the court's highlights from the past year.

Sincerely,

Donna Jo McDaniel
President Judge

Raymond L. Billotte
District Court Administrator

BOARD OF JUDGES



2009

Back Row/Top

Michael A. Della Vecchia, Lester G. Nauhaus, Donald E. Machen, David R. Cashman, R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., Randal B. Todd

Row 5

Jill E. Rangos, Lawrence J. O'Toole, John T. McVay, Jr., Robert J. Colville, W. Terrence O'Brien, Robert A. Kelly

Row 4

Kathryn M. Hens-Greco, Cathleen Bubash, Joseph K. Williams, III, John A. Zottola, Anthony M. Mariani, Joseph M. James

Row 3

Kelly Eileen Bigley, Guido A. DeAngelis, Michael E. McCarthy, Michael F. Marmo, Dwayne D. Woodruff, Kathleen R. Mulligan, Kim Berkeley Clark

Row 2

Judith L. A. Friedman, Kevin G. Sasinoski, Judith F. Olson, Thomas E. Flaherty, Timothy Patrick O'Reilly, Christine A. Ward, Kathleen A. Durkin, Ronald W. Folino, Edward J. Borkowski

Front Row/Bottom

Frank J. Lucchino, David N. Wecht, Donna Jo McDaniel, Jeffrey A. Manning, Gene Strassburger

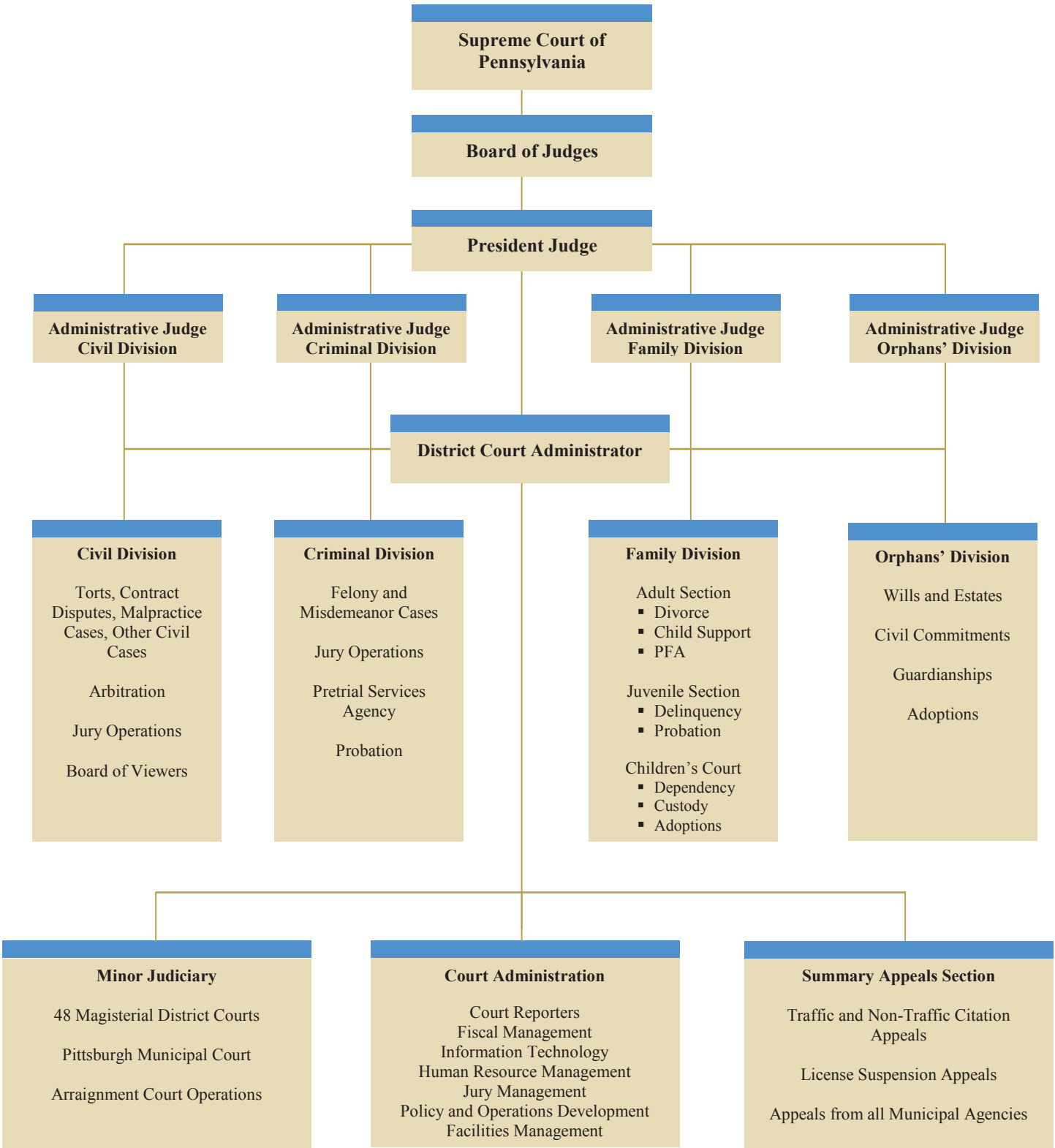
Not in Picture

Paul F. Luty, Jr., Kim D. Eaton, Robert C. Gallo, Lee J. Mazur, Beth A. Lazzara, Gerard M. Bigley, Alan D. Hertzberg



The Frick Building, completed in 1902, is one of the major distinctive and well-known features in downtown Pittsburgh and is named after Henry Clay Frick, an industrialist coke producer.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fifth Judicial District Hosts Korean Judiciary Delegation

Republic of Korea court officials from the Daejeon District Court and the Seoul Central District Court, including three judges, two clerks, and two court officers, visited the court in late October to study U.S. trial procedures. With recent adoption of a jury system in their country, the Korean contingent sought to observe American jurisprudence to better understand the use of oral arguments and proceedings.

The visiting court officials were given an opportunity to view jury selection, motions proceedings, and each stage segments of both jury and non-jury trials during their 1½-day stay. Through interpreters, the Koreans discussed trial practices with President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, Family Division Judge Cathleen Bubash, Criminal Administrative Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, Civil Division Administrative Judge Gene Strassburger, District Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte, Chief Deputy Court Administrator Claire Capristo, and Criminal Division Administrator Helen Lynch.

Coordinated by the National Center for State Courts International Visitors Education Program, the Korean judiciary delegation's tour of U. S. courts has provided them with experience and knowledge upon which to implement upcoming court reforms.



President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel and Chief Deputy Court Administrator Claire Capristo welcome visitors from the Republic of Korea.

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts 21st Annual Meeting-Pittsburgh, PA

The 21st annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts was held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh May 6-9, 2009, with representatives from 33 states participating. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and



Lynn Marks, Executive Director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, District Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte, and Senator Jay Costa lead the Achieving Diversity on Pennsylvania Juries breakout session at the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts.

Ethnic Fairness and the Allegheny County Bar Association, the consortium's theme was "Building Bridges to Justice." Among the conference topics were jury diversity, fairness in immigration courts, fostering diversity in public and private organizations, racial profiling, reducing racial disparity in the criminal justice system, and improving indigent defense in Pennsylvania. Attendees and speakers included District Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte ("Achieving Diversities on Pennsylvania Juries") and Allegheny County Judges John A. Zottola and Michael E. McCarthy ("Innovations in Allegheny County Courts") as well as judges, court managers, government officials, educators, attorneys, and national experts on issues relating to racial and ethnic fairness in the justice system.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Institute of Corrections

District Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte and Pretrial Services Director Thomas McCaffrey participated in the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) focus group on May 12, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland. Facilitated and sponsored by NIC, the collaborative project includes the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP), the Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI), The Justice Management Institute (JMI), and The Carey Group (TCG). Seven focus groups, representing all facets of the criminal justice system, are to produce an "Evidence-Based Harm Reduction Decision Making Framework" applicable to all national jurisdictions with the goal of reducing pretrial misconduct and post-conviction re-offending. Since the initial meetings, focus group members are contributing and analyzing proposed procedures for development of comprehensive evaluation techniques to determine a defendant's pretrial supervision status that will become a valuable tool throughout the country's criminal administrative agencies. A model framework available for testing is anticipated by mid-2010.

Honorable Alan Hertzberg Receives Dual Awards for Pro Bono Work

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge Alan D. Hertzberg has garnered two awards for his dedication to pro bono initiatives.

He was recently honored with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's 2008 Judicial Service Award and the Pennsylvania Bar Association's (PBA) 2009 Judge's Award.

The Judicial Service Award recognizes Hertzberg for being a consistent supporter of pro bono legal services to the indigent. He received this award primarily for the work he did while serving in the Family Division of the court. In particular, he has been a speaker at volunteer training programs for the Custody Conciliation Pro Bono Project, which helps parents resolve custody disputes. As an active member of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership administrative board, he was instrumental in the creation and implementation of legal services programs.

The Judge's Award, presented by the PBA's Legal Services to the Public Committee, is given annually to a Pennsylvania jurist who has made exceptional contributions to the improvement of civil legal aid. The Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Public Service Committee nominated Judge Hertzberg for the award.

Problem-Solving Courts: A solution-based approach

For more than a decade, Allegheny County has been offering problem-solving court programs that address defendants' underlying problems, such as mental health or substance abuse, which often are the catalyst that lead to their involvement with the criminal justice system. The County's Mental Health Court, Drug Court, DUI Court, Domestic Violence Court, Prostitution (P.R.I.D.E.) Court, and a newly created Veterans Court are based on the principle that treating the causal problem can improve the likelihood of successful rehabilitation and long-term recovery of the defendant, thereby reducing recidivism and future incarceration. Defendants must comply with all aspects of a treatment plan and/or probation, which may include drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, counseling, obtaining employment and/or education, and other provisions deemed necessary by the judge. Non-compliance may lead to incarceration or other sanctions.

The Allegheny County Veterans Court program, implemented in November of 2009, is gaining attention as one of just a handful of such innovative courts in the United States. Like Mental Health and Drug Courts, Veterans Court provides treatment alternatives combined with intensive supervision to veterans charged with criminal offenses. Allegheny County has the largest population of veterans in the state at approximately 143,000. According to a 2008 study conducted by the RAND Corporation, approximately 20% of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan over the six previous years reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or major

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

depression. Some veterans do not seek treatment for these issues and struggle to reintegrate back into civilian life, sometimes turning to drugs and/or alcohol to self-medicate, often resulting in encounters



An element of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the Family Law Center courtyard, flags and medals recognize the brave service of our country's veterans.

with the criminal justice system. A unique ingredient of Veterans Court is the Mentor Program, which matches volunteer veteran mentors with veteran defendants. Mentors act as role models, providing guidance and support to the participating veterans.

Allegheny County's problem-solving courts serve as models to other locales seeking to establish similar programs. Allegheny County's Mental Health Court attracted national attention and was featured in a documentary by FRONTLINE that aired on PBS in the spring of 2009. The continued success and growth of these programs would not be possible without the commitment and collaboration of court staff, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender, the Veterans Administration, and various community treatment and service providers.

Juror Donation Program—Operation Warm

The Juror Donation Project was established in 1993 to fund programs that serve citizens in our community. Originally, the Graffiti/Litter Brigade Program

was funded by the Project, and provided juvenile offenders an opportunity to earn money toward payment of restitution. The purchase of holiday gifts for needy children through the Children, Youth and Families Agency is funded by the Project. In 1996, the goals of the program were restructured to fund the repair and renovation of the jury assignment and deliberation rooms. Additionally, in 2008 and 2009, juror donation contributions in the amounts of \$2,531 and \$2,550, respectively, were distributed to "Operation Warm," an organization that provides new winter coats to children in need.

Due to the continued generosity of Allegheny County citizens, the success of the Juror Donation Program is ongoing.

Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III Wins Re-Election and Acclaim

The Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III, appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell in October 2008 to fill an unexpired term, was elected to a 10-year term in November 2009. Sixteen days later, he was honored by the New Pittsburgh Courier with the 2009 Men of Excellence Award presented to individuals who distinguish themselves with service in their particular field of expertise.

Judge Williams' passion for debating and advocating for the rights of others began at a very young age. His maternal grandfather, a staunch believer in fair play and justice, instilled these traits in him. The Judge believes that early life experiences taught him to treat everyone with dignity. Coupled with an educational background in both psychology and the law, Judge Williams is well-equipped to be a fair, compassionate jurist.

A 1974 Carnegie Mellon University graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in psychology, Judge Williams earned his Master's Degree in clinical psychology three years later from the University of Pittsburgh. He obtained his law degree from Duquesne University in 1985. Judge Williams specialized in real estate law, contracts, international transactions,

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

estates and trusts, and criminal law for 24 years based in Pittsburgh's Manchester neighborhood. Honors have included being listed as one of the region's top criminal defense attorneys in Pittsburgh Magazine's February 2006 issue, receiving the Homer S. Brown Outstanding Attorney Award in 2000, and winning that association's presidency the following year.

Court Implements Continuity of Operations Plan During the G20 Summit.

On May 28, 2009, the White House announced the selection of Pittsburgh as the host city for the G20 Summit on September 24th and 25th, 2009. With preparations for the influx of hundreds of diplomats and dignitaries and projected numbers of protestors as high as 50,000, this event presented an ideal opportunity for the Fifth Judicial District to perform a live exercise of its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Implementation of the COOP established all essential court and court-related services critical

to the safety and well being of the community during the summit and demonstrated the Fifth Judicial District's capability to successfully relocate operations of the Court of Common Pleas in a safe and secure environment, tested the Fifth Judicial District's off-site "hot-site" for uninterrupted access and functionality for all necessary computer applications, and provided enhanced continuous availability for crucial judicial services related to the potential for mass arrests before, during, and after the summit on a 24/7 basis. In addition, contingency plans were in place to account for possible closure, relocation, or alternative use of any or many of the magisterial district courts and neighborhood probation offices.

The subsequent evaluation of this exercise aided in validating the provisions of the COOP. It identified strengths to capitalize upon, highlighted potential areas for improvement, and will support the development of corrective actions to improve the Fifth Judicial District's preparedness in emergency or disaster scenarios.



The G20 or Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at the Pittsburgh Summit on Friday, September 25, 2009. Photo courtesy of Sidney Davis/ Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Court Administration provides professional, comprehensive support services to the judiciary and other court-related entities to ensure meaningful access to the courts by adherence to the rule of law, use of timely information management, and expenditure of resources in an effective and efficient manner, in furtherance of the enhancement of public confidence in the judicial branch of government.



*Claire C. Capristo, Esq.
Chief Deputy
Court Administrator*



*Sean F. Collins
Manager,
Information Systems*



*Helen M. Lynch, Esq.
Administrator,
Criminal Division*



*Thomas McCaffrey
Director, Pretrial Services*



*Patrick W. Quinn, Esq.
Administrator,
Family Division*



*Geralyn Dugan
Manager, Jury Operations*



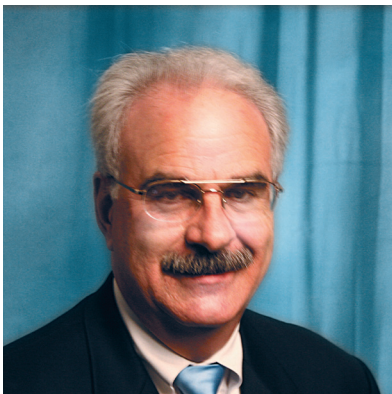
*Nancy Galvach
Deputy Administrator,
Magisterial District Courts*



*Angharad Grimes Stock, Esq.
Administrator,
Pittsburgh Municipal Court*



*Daniel Reilly
Manager, Facilities*



*James J. Rieland
Director, Probation Services*



*Jo Lynne Ross
Manager, Court Reporters*



*Lisa Herbert, Esq.
Deputy Court Administrator*



*Charles Kennedy
Manager,
Court Human Resources*



*Michelle H. Lally, Esq.
Chair, Board of Viewers*



*Paul W. Stefano, Esq.
Administrator,
Orphans' Court Division*



*Cynthia K. Stoltz, Esq.
Administrator,
Children's Court*



*Gerard Tyskiewicz
Manager, Fiscal Affairs*

ADMINISTRATION



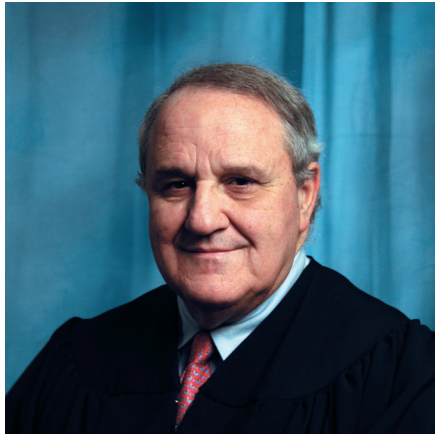
CIVIL DIVISION JUDGES



*Hon. Gene Strassburger
Administrative Judge*



Hon. Robert J. Colville



Hon. Michael A. Della Vecchia



Hon. Michael E. McCarthy



Hon. W. Terrence O'Brien



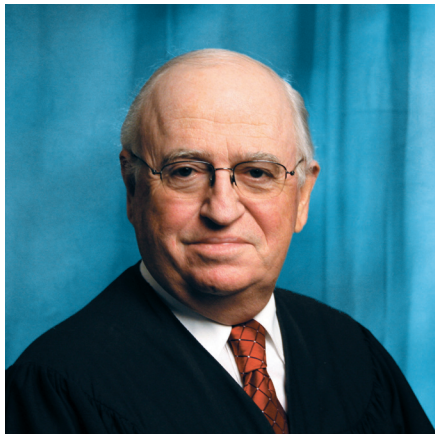
Hon. Judith Ference Olson



Hon. Ronald W. Folino



Hon. Judith L.A. Friedman



Hon. Timothy Patrick O'Reilly



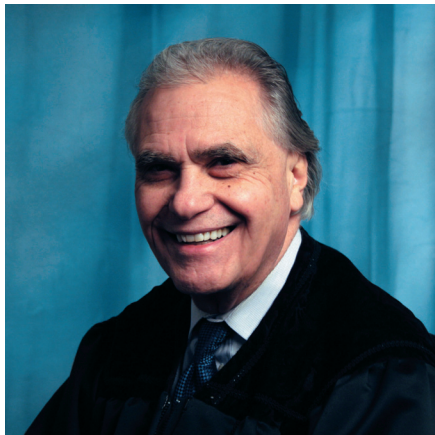
Hon. Christine A. Ward



Hon. Joseph M. James



Hon. Paul F. Luty, Jr.



*Hon. Robert C. Gallo
Senior Judge*



*Hon. R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.
Senior Judge*

*Hon. Robert P. Horgos
Not Pictured*



CIVIL DIVISION

To serve citizens through the prompt, courteous, and impartial dispensation of justice by adjudicating cases in a timely manner using efficient case management techniques, adhering to high standards, and being responsible stewards of public funds.

Beginning with cases scheduled for May 2009, the Civil Division has implemented a new process for selecting juries. Attorneys may now present a brief “*Voir Dire Statement*,” propose additional *voir dire* questions, and ask follow-up questions. Jurors complete a questionnaire upon arrival for jury duty. Questions posed to individual jurors focus on tort reform issues.

Of the 64 expedited asbestos cases, 56 have been settled, dismissed, or tried. The remaining cases are scheduled for trial in 2010 or are on-hold pending the outcome of appellate rulings. The Honorable Michael A. Della Vecchia successfully conciliated 290 backlog asbestos cases that were more than three years old not placed at issue by plaintiff. Judge Della Vecchia also continues to conciliate a few cases filed in 2005 that did not completely settle in 2009.



Anna Majocha, Arbitration Supervisor, responds to inquiries from attorneys and litigants regarding the court schedule.

Mary Louise Reinhart, Civil Division Executive Assistant, acted as the Civil Division liaison to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) committee. She insured the Civil Division was prepared and essential personnel were available during the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

Effective June 1, 2009, the Honorable Robert P. Horgos retired from the Civil Division.

CASES FILED AND DISPOSED		
TRESPASS-GENERAL	FILED	DISPOSED
Asbestos Silicas	86	416
Asbestos/FELA	42	15
Medical/Hospital Liability	266	312
Product Liability	37	26
Toxic Substances	12	5
Subtotal	443	774
OTHER TRESPASS-GENERAL		
Against Property Owner	326	252
Assault & Battery	21	12
Defamation	12	11
FELA	12	22
Other Tort	846	560
Other Traffic Accident	8	15
Subtotal	1,225	872
Total Tresspass	1,668	1,646
OTHERS		
Amicable Ejectment	9	2
Contract	1,196	1,066
Declaration of Taking	92	2
Declaratory Judgment	79	64
Ejectment	494	334
Equity	153	98
Equity-Lis Pendens	105	51
Equity-Partition	0	2
Mandamus	11	10
Mechanic's Lien	470	41
Mortgage Foreclosure	1,198	2,318
Motor Vehicle Accident	789	672
Multiple Civil Action	602	575
Pre-Computer Case	0	12
Quiet Tax Title & Real Estate	167	8
Quiet Title	85	56
Replevin	51	52
Sci Fa sur Municipal Lien	24	36
Sci Fa sur Tax Lien	2,532	2,270
Total Others	8,057	7,669
Grand Totals	9,725	9,315

CIVIL DIVISION

ARBITRATION			
	2007	2008	2009
Pending on January 1	*5,214	7,878	5,909
New Cases Filed	15,952	18,592	15,733
Transferred from Civil Division	232	209	164
Cases Disposed	12,317	17,358	16,381
Awards by Boards	2,152	3,376	2,908
Settlements, Non-Pros., Etc.	9,480	12,794	12,287
Trial List Cases Disposed by Judge	685	1,188	1,186
Pending as of 12/31 (Awaiting Trial)	9,081	9,321	5,425
Appeals Filed	681	773	845
Rate of Appeals	31.64%	22.90%	29.05%
Number of Arbitration Boards Served	653	802	699
Number of Arbitrators	1,959	2,406	2,097
Arbitrator's Fee Per Day	\$150	\$150	\$150
Total Arbitrators' Fees	\$293,850	\$360,900	\$314,550
Less Non-Recoverable Appeals Fees	\$63,835	\$75,990	\$89,670
Total Costs	\$230,015	\$284,910	\$224,880
Average Arbitrator's Cost per Case	\$117.41	\$118.42	\$107.24
Cases with Current Hearing Date	7,791	5,831	3,612
General Docket Cases with Current Hearing Date	87	78	74
Total Cases Pending	7,878	5,909	3,686
*Correction from 2006 Annual Report.			

CIVIL ACTIONS FILED	
Against Property Owner	326
Asbestos Silicas	86
Asbestos/FELA	42
Assault & Battery	21
Contract	1,196
Defamation	12
FELA	12
Medical/Hospital Liability	266
Motor Vehicle Accident	789
Multiple Civil Action	602
Other Tort	846
Other Traffic Accident	8
Product Liability	37
Sci Fa sur Municipal Lien	24
Sci Fa sur Tax Lien	2,532
Toxic Substances	12
Total of New Case Filings	6,811

CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE			
Type of Disposition	Number of Cases	Percent of Total	Average Age by Month from Case Filing to Disposition
Settled	9,081	97.48	16.72
Non-Jury	108	1.16	26.00
Jury	89	.96	31.24
Stricken	1	.01	5.23
Others	36	.39	8.36
Total	9,315	100	17.51
Included in these figures are trial-ready cases and those cases disposed before being certified ready for trial.			

On September 1, 2009, the Civil Division welcomed the Honorable Alan D. Hertzberg. Appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell in March 2005 and elected in November 2005, Judge Hertzberg began his service in the Family Division. Judge Hertzberg hears general motions, civil jury and non-jury trials and statutory appeals where the Allegheny County Housing Authority is a party.

Upon mandatory retirement age 70, the Honorable Timothy Patrick O'Reilly requested senior status. He will continue to hear both jury and non-jury trials.

The Honorable Charles H. Loughran, past president judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County with senior status, has been invaluable in his help to the Civil Division over the past several years. Assigned to Allegheny County by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, he regularly hears non-jury cases on the trial list.

The Civil Division concluded 2009 with a current trial calendar. Cases are routinely scheduled for trial within a few months of being placed at issue. Almost uniformly, cases are sent to a judge the day they are called for trial.

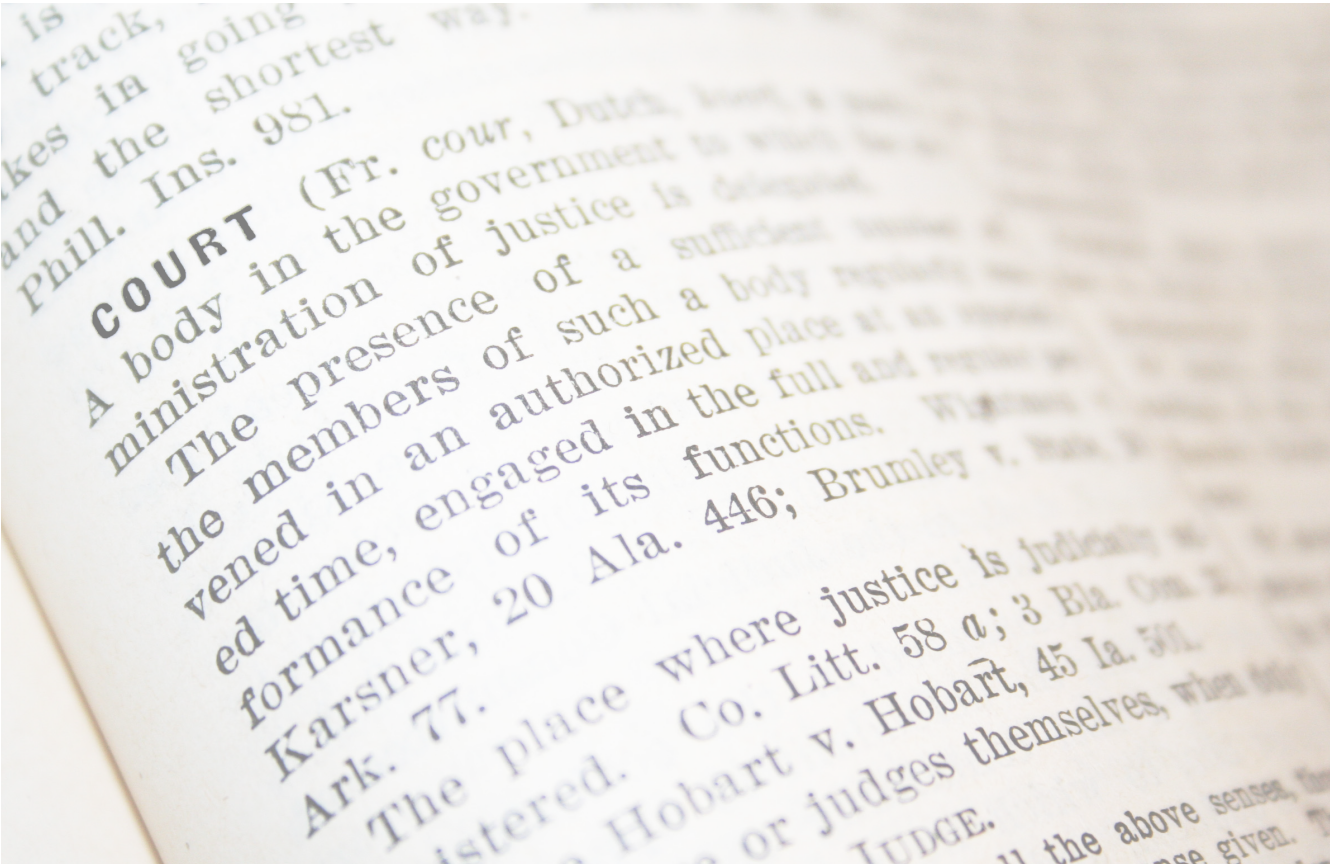
CIVIL DIVISION

Allegheny County Mortgage Foreclosure Conciliation Program

The Allegheny County Mortgage Foreclosure Program was initiated in January 2009 to alleviate the increasing number of residential property foreclosures in Allegheny County. The goal of the program is to provide for the amicable resolution of residential mortgage foreclosure proceedings through court intervention, counseling, and conciliation. The collaborative efforts of public and private entities, including Allegheny County's Common Pleas Court, Chief Executive, Sheriff, Bar Association, and private counseling agencies, make this program possible. Outcomes of the conciliation process may include a re-negotiated interest rate, extension of repayment, and/or other financial agreements between lender and borrower. The Allegheny County Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Program provides an innovative alternative to traditional foreclosure proceedings, offering homeowners and lenders additional options

to reach a mutually agreeable resolution of foreclosure matters. Throughout the course of 2009, a total of 751 homeowners were enrolled in the program.

Mortgage Foreclosure Program 2009	
	No. of Cases
Successfully settled (includes trial modifications)	190
Enrolled in pre-conference counseling	305
Removed from program (noncompliance with procedures, settled out-of-court)	113
In post-conference negotiations as of 12-15-09	119
Pending acceptance to program	20
Pending bankruptcy proceedings	4
Total Homeowners in program in 2009	751



CIVIL DIVISION

BOARD OF VIEWERS	
Condemnations (New Petitions/Views/Hearings)	216
Tax Appeals (Conciliations/Hearings/Settlements/Masters Reports)	6,065
Total	6,281

During calendar year 2009, the Board of Viewers, through panels comprised of lay masters and attorney special masters, processed a total of 216 eminent domain matters. This included partial and total condemnations and sewer/water line benefit and damages cases. As municipalities and authorities in Allegheny County continue to develop municipal water and sewer service to all communities, the volume of sewer work has increased with expectations of further growth over the next several years.

In addition to eminent domain, the Board of Viewers is charged with the disposition of commercial and residential real estate property tax appeals. Through the effective use of pre-hearing conciliations, the Board of Viewers adjudicated 6,065 property tax assessment appeals in 2009, which significantly reduced the backlog of pending cases. At the conciliations, residential and commercial property owners and taxing bodies are given every opportunity to present supporting documents and, through negotiation, the appeals are resolved. In the event that conciliation does not resolve the appeal, hearings ensue and a master's report is written with recommendations to the court. The rate of objections to masters' reports filed to the Court of Common Pleas in 2009 was less than one percent.

In light of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision regarding Allegheny County's use of the 2002 base year system for property tax assessments, and the plan for a revaluation in 2012, the Board of Viewers is preparing for a significant increase in appeals in the coming years.

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION JUDGES



Hon. Frank J. Lucchino
Administrative Judge



Hon. Robert A. Kelly



Hon. Lee J. Mazur



Hon. Lawrence J. O'Toole



Hon. Thomas D. Gladden
Visiting Judge
Washington County

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

To provide accessible, courteous, prompt and efficient court services to all litigants and their attorneys in cases within the jurisdiction of the Orphans' Court Division, including Adoptions, Civil Commitments, Estates/Trusts, Guardianships (Incapacitated Persons and Minors), and Nonprofit Organizations.

In 2009, the court continued to work closely with the Department of Court Records to develop an e-filing system for the Orphans' Court Division. An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of staff from the Orphans' Court Division and the Department of Court Records, as well as attorneys from the Probate and Trust Law Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association. After reviewing the e-filing systems currently used by other Pennsylvania courts, the committee made recommendations to the Administrative Judge and Director of the Department of Court Records as to specific procedures and the extent of the public accessibility to the system.

The court also worked with the Department of Court Records to implement new procedures for the opening of estates where a decedent dies without a will and there are no known heirs. The court

has recommended that more stringent procedures be followed to avoid instances in which attorneys opening estates did not perform a complete and thorough search for heirs prior to filing the petition for grant of letters.

The Audit Department has worked jointly with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office in reviewing estates and trusts that involve charitable beneficiaries; this effort has resulted in the recovery of thousands of dollars for charities. The Audit Department staff have also continued to review all estate settlement agreements (also referred to as "family settlement agreements") filed at the Department of Court Records to ensure that the financial interests of minors and incapacitated persons have been managed properly. In 2009, 1,261 agreements were reviewed and in those estates that were not in compliance with statutory and court rules, the fiduciaries were ordered to file complete accountings with the court. The Audit Department staff has been successful in resolving many of the problems that arise in the accounts and petitions for distribution filed by personal representatives, guardians, and trustees. All petitions for distribution must be filed at least one week prior to the day of the audit. This has enabled many complications to be resolved in advance of the audit, and those issues that are not resolved are more clearly identified to allow for a more expeditious disposition by the court.

The Guardianship Department continued to provide important investigative services to the court. Court investigators reviewed over 800 new petitions, as well as over 1,600 reports filed by court appointed guardians. Many of these petitions involve requests for the release of funds from the accounts of minors and incapacitated adults and require the investigators to perform "field work" wherein they visit minors and incapacitated persons in their residences; in other cases, investigators take inventories of safe deposit boxes owned by incapacitated persons and perform other investigative work (background searches, interviewing references, etc.) to insure that guardians are qualified and that the minors



The Honorable Frank J. Lucchino, Orphans' Court Administrative Judge, at a Membership Luncheon held on April 23, 2009 at the Omni William Penn Hotel, provides an informative lecture on the topic of "The State of Allegheny County's Judiciary."

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

ADOPTIONS			
	Scheduled	Decreed	Withdrawn or Dismissed
Adoptions	134	134	0
Confirm Consents	65	68	0
Involuntary Terminations	44	49	4
Confirm Consents w/Involuntary Terminations	1	1	0
Total	244	252	4
Orders of Court (Includes orders on petitions presented, continuances, amendments, allowance of service by publication, acceptance of jurisdiction, allowance of interrogatories, appointments of search agents)			553
Combined Decrees and Orders			805
Persons Adopted-some petitions include siblings			151
Adult Adoptee Search Requests			102
Orders Signed Appointing Search Agents			68
Birthparent Requests to Place Waivers in File			1
NON-RELATIVE ADOPTIONS			
Adoption Placement by Agencies			
Allegheny County Agencies			
Bethany Christian Services			13
Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc.			4
The Children's Home of Pittsburgh			14
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh			1
Total			32
Agencies Outside Allegheny County			
Adoption Placements by Non-Agencies			
Co-Parent Adoptions			16
Adult Adoption – No Intermediary			1
Total Non-Relative Adoptions			78
RELATIVE ADOPTIONS			
Step-Parent			55
Other Relative			10
U.S.A. Re-Adoptions			8
Total Relative Adoptions			73
Total Persons Adopted			151
Total Orders Signed on Petitions To Register Foreign Adoption Decrees			32

and incapacitated persons are being properly cared for after the guardians have been appointed. The monitoring and review system that is currently used in the Guardianship Department has been reviewed as a model by other state judicial districts.

In 2009, more than 5,200 new petitions were filed for involuntary mental health treatment, and mental health review officers and division judges conducted over 4,800 hearings. In addition to petitions to extend involuntary civil commitments, the hearings included petitions for expungement of records and petitions to authorize electro-convulsive therapy. The Civil Commitment Department also implemented

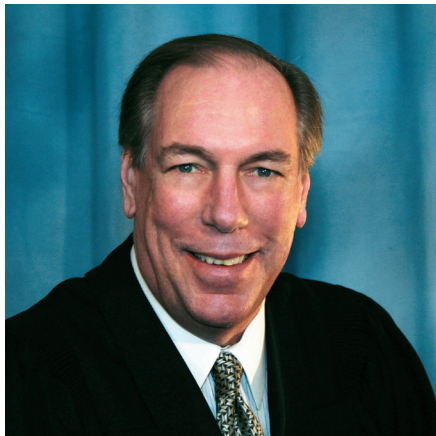
GUARDIANSHIP - INCAPACITATED PERSONS			
New Petitions Filed			242
Emergency Guardians Appointed			23
Permanent Guardians Appointed			153
Successor Guardians Appointed			23
Guardians Discharged			22
Petitions Withdrawn or Dismissed			42
Electro-Convulsive Therapy Petitions			21
Adjudication of Full Capacity			1
Petitions for Review			12
Contested Hearings			29
Total Number of Hearings			256
Bonds Approved			52
Safe Deposit Box Inventories			9
Court-Appointed Counsel			47
Independent Medical Evaluations			2
Petitions for Allowance/Ratification Presented			599
Annual Report of Guardians Filed			1,534
Final Report of Guardians (Person/Estate) Filed			143
Guardians of the Person of a Minor Filed			11
CIVIL COMMITMENT DEPARTMENT			
Total Petitions Presented			5,295
Dispositions			
Prior to Judicial review:			
Discharged	193		
Withdrawn	143		
Voluntary Admission	78		414
By Mental Health Review Officer (Hearings, Stipulations)			
			4,829
By Judges: Petition for Review			
Electro-Convulsive Therapy	17		
Expungement	21		
	14		52
HEARINGS BY TYPE UNDER MENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES ACT			
303	Up to 20 Days Civil Commitment		2,837
304-B	Up to 90 Days Civil Commitment		1,142
304-C	Up to 90 Days Civil Commitment		182
305	Up to 180 Days Civil Commitment		570
306	Modification Civil Commitment		49
306-2	Up to 180 Days Criminal Commitment		7
304-G2	Up to 365 Days Criminal Commitment		0
402-B	Up to 60 Days Criminal Commitment		38
405/406	Up to 90 Days Criminal Commitment		4
ECT	Electro-Convulsive Therapy		21
EXP	Expungement		14
REVV	Judicial Review of MHRO Decision		17
Total Hearings			4,881
Contested Hearings-Patient Placed under Commitment			
Uncontested Hearings-Patient Placed under Commitment			
Patient in Attendance	436		
Patient Not in Attendance	2,105		2,541
Hearings where Patient Not Placed under Commitment			414

changes in its hearing schedules as a result of the closure of Mayview State Hospital and the pending closure of UPMC Braddock Hospital. The court worked with representatives of the Allegheny County

ESTATES	
Audit Hearing of Accounts	
Accounts Filed by Executor, Administrators, Trustees, and Guardians	645
Small Estates (\$25,000.00) or Less	204
Total Decrees of Distribution	651
Contested Hearings*	
Hearings on claims of creditors against estates, exceptions to accounts, and questions of distribution involving appeals from decrees of the Register of Wills in the grant of letters of administration, inheritance tax appraisals and assessments; will contests; proceedings against fiduciaries; termination of trusts; delinquent inheritance taxes due; miscellaneous hearings, including presumed decedents, absentees, corrections of birth records	
*Excludes guardianship hearings, termination/adoption hearings	258
Exceptions Heard by the Court En Banc	0
Opinions Filed by the Court	18
Pretrial Conferences Docketed	353
Return Days Scheduled	144
Petitions Filed	
Additional Bonds	29
Appointment of Guardians of the Person and Estates of Minors	68
Approval of Settlement of Minors' Claims	432
Lifting of Suspension of Distribution	21
Sale of Real Estate	43
Petitions for citation against fiduciaries to file accounts or to show cause why they should not be removed, etc.	184
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.	125
Miscellaneous Petitions	587
Total Petitions Filed	1,489

Law Department, Public Defender's Office, and the County Office of Behavioral Health to establish new hearing sites to accommodate the placements of former Mayview patients into long-term structured residences located throughout Allegheny County.

CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES



Hon. Jeffrey A. Manning
Administrative Judge



Hon. Edward J. Borkowski



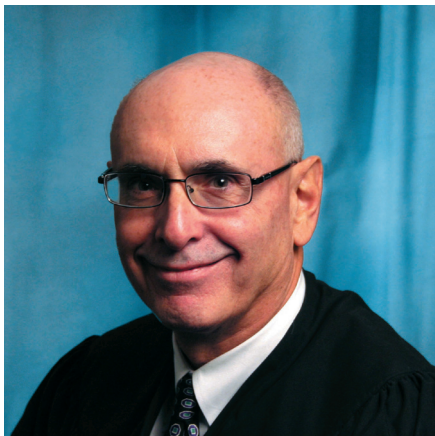
Hon. David R. Cashman



Hon. Kathleen A. Durkin



Hon. Anthony M. Mariani



Hon. Donald E. Machen



Hon. Lester G. Nauhaus

CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES



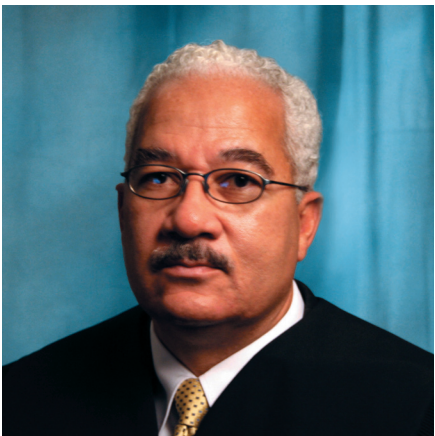
Hon. Jill E. Rangos



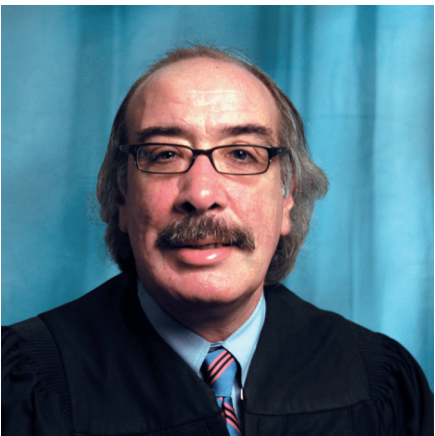
Hon. Kevin G. Sasinoski



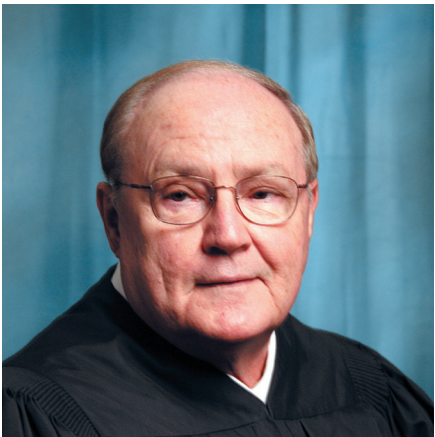
Hon. Randal B. Todd



Hon. Joseph K. Williams, III



Hon. John A. Zottola



Hon. Gerard M. Bigley
Senior Judge

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Criminal Division is committed to furthering all facets of the criminal justice system with professionalism, skill, timeliness, and efficiency to promote confidence in the administration of justice by the impartial and equitable application of the law to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions.

In January 2009, the Honorable Donna Jo McDaniel assumed the office of President Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, the first female elected to this position in the 230-year history of the court. The Supreme Court appointed the Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division. Under the leadership of Judge Manning, the collaborative efforts of the criminal justice community to provide the efficient and fair administration of justice advanced.

Twelve commissioned judges served in the division with assistance from Senior Judge Gerard M. Bigley and visiting Senior Judges John K. Reilly, Jr. from Clearfield County and Robert C. Reed from Beaver County. The Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III continued to serve by appointment and was elected to a ten-year term in November. The Honorable Robert C. Gallo continued to handle ARD (Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition) cases.

The court adjudicated a total of 19,544 criminal cases in 2009, including 177 jury trials, 13,482 pleas, 3,682 alternative dispositions and 589 non-jury trials. The Expedited Disposition Program (EDP Court) processed 1,313 guilty plea dispositions.

In the spring of 2009, the Allegheny County Veterans Court Task Force was formed to evaluate the needs of veterans in the criminal justice system struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and/or other reintegration issues. The Task Force consisted of representatives from the court, the Veterans Administration, the local bar, the Veterans Leadership Program, the Administrative Office of

Pennsylvania Courts, the Allegheny County Jail, the Department of Human Services, and the Offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender. The Allegheny County Veterans Court Program was subsequently implemented in November of 2009. Modeled after Mental Health Court and Drug Court, Veterans Court endorses community-based treatment and resource coordination for veterans charged with misdemeanors and/or non-violent felonies. The program also includes a peer mentor component that matches volunteer veteran mentors with veteran defendants to provide guidance and support.

In response to President Judge McDaniel’s announcement that the four divisions of the Court of Common Pleas would operate with *essential personnel only* during the G20 Summit, Criminal Court Administrative Judge Jeffrey A. Manning and essential department heads launched a series of meetings to develop a plan of action in response to the anticipated influx of hundreds of diplomats and dignitaries, as well as potentially large numbers of protesters. Contingency plans were in place to account for possible closure, relocation, or alternative use of any or many of the magisterial district courts and neighborhood probation offices. The cooperation among the diverse members of the criminal justice community, the city, and county governments was extraordinary. As a result, the G20 Summit was a positive showcase of our community.

In July 2008, Judges Donna Jo McDaniel, Jeffrey A. Manning, Jill Rangos, District Court Administrator Raymond Billotte, Criminal Court Administrator Helen Lynch, and attorneys representing the District Attorney and Public Defender, attended a workshop in Phoenix, Arizona entitled, “Reducing Delay in Metropolitan Courts.” As a result, the “Phoenix Docket” has been implemented under the direction of Administrative Judge Manning. The program is designed to expedite the disposition of uncomplicated cases through the court system. The District Attorney identifies cases that meet

CRIMINAL DIVISION

the program eligibility criteria established by the court. At the formal arraignment, the defendant is provided with the criminal information, discovery, sentencing guidelines, and the District Attorney’s plea offer as part of a “Phoenix Docket” packet. Within four weeks of the formal arraignment, the case is scheduled for a Phoenix Case Management Conference where the defendant has the option of accepting the plea offer, entering a general plea, or requesting a trial. If the defendant chooses to plead, the case is disposed of that day. If the defendant does not wish to plead guilty, the case is scheduled for trial within 40-60 days. Phoenix Docket reduces the time from arrest to disposition by 90 to 150 days.

In a continuing effort to expedite case flow, the formal arraignment calculation chart set the time between a preliminary hearing and formal arraignment at 56 days. In previous years, this time frame was as high as 85 days. The plan is to reduce the number by 12 days per year until reduced to a 35-day interval.

The second year of Court Arraignment’s participation in the fingerprint procedure resulted in the processing of approximately 2,000 defendants, twice as many as 2008. Unprinted defendants appearing for arraignment are immediately sent for fingerprinting. They then return to court for completion of the arraignment process.

There were 235 juries selected in 2009, of which 177 proceeded to trial, compared to 183 in 2008, an increase of 52. The total number of jurors reporting for service was 14,996, 530 fewer than in 2008, resulting in a savings of approximately \$3,000 in juror fees. When no cases were scheduled for jury selection on non-pretrial Fridays and before holidays, jurors were asked to report on an “as needed basis,” thus reducing the number of jurors in the jury pool.

Offenses		Confinement		Probation	Intermediate Punishment Program	
	Cases	State	County	County	State	County
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS						
Criminal Homicide	52	45	2	5	0	0
Robbery	215	120	48	46	1	0
Kidnapping	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rape	11	9	0	2	0	0
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	16	12	0	1	0	3
Indecent Assault	55	11	14	30	0	0
Other Sexual Offenses	57	14	22	18	3	0
Aggravated Assault	356	55	79	216	0	6
Simple Assault	562	2	86	457	0	17
Corruption of Minors	51	1	7	41	2	0
Homicide by Vehicle	8	7	1	0	0	0
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY						
Arson	17	3	3	11	0	0
Burglary	208	41	77	87	1	2
Forgery	80	3	5	0	67	5
Theft	960	22	129	773	0	36
Retail Theft	526	11	98	387	0	30
Identity Theft	26	0	2	22	0	2
Bad Checks	43	0	2	41	0	0
DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFENSES						
DUI-1st Offense	1,101	4	371	51	0	675
DUI-2nd Offense	879	7	96	0	0	776
DUI-3rd Offense	225	32	40	0	0	153
DUI-4th or Subsequent Offense	9	3	5	0	1	0
DUI §3731	26	0	19	0	0	7
Narcotics	2,563	248	280	1,780	5	250
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE						
Criminal Mischief	9	1	1	7	0	0
Criminal Trespass	131	5	41	77	0	8
Prostitution	5	0	0	4	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES						
Terroristic Threats	3	0	2	1	0	0
Carjacking	11	4	4	3	0	0
Escape	100	12	37	51	0	0
Stalking and Harassment	38	0	8	30	0	0
Firearms Violations	369	78	90	170	0	31
Other Felonies	302	23	61	182	1	35
Other Misdemeanors	963	7	84	841	0	31
Total	9,978	781	1,714	5,334	81	2,068

CRIMINAL DIVISION

In February, Alfred Russo retired after 35 years of service in the Criminal Division. A supervisor and court manager for approximately the last 10 years, Al began his employment as a minute clerk. Harry Lorenzi, Esquire, was hired as the Criminal Division Manager. After several months of addressing initiatives to reduce the backlog in the Criminal Division, facilitating collaboration with a number of court departments, and the training and cross-training of court personnel, Army Major Lorenzi was called to active duty in June and is serving our country in Iraq. In the interim, the court has employed Craig Hinkle, Esquire, who continues to oversee improvements in the division.

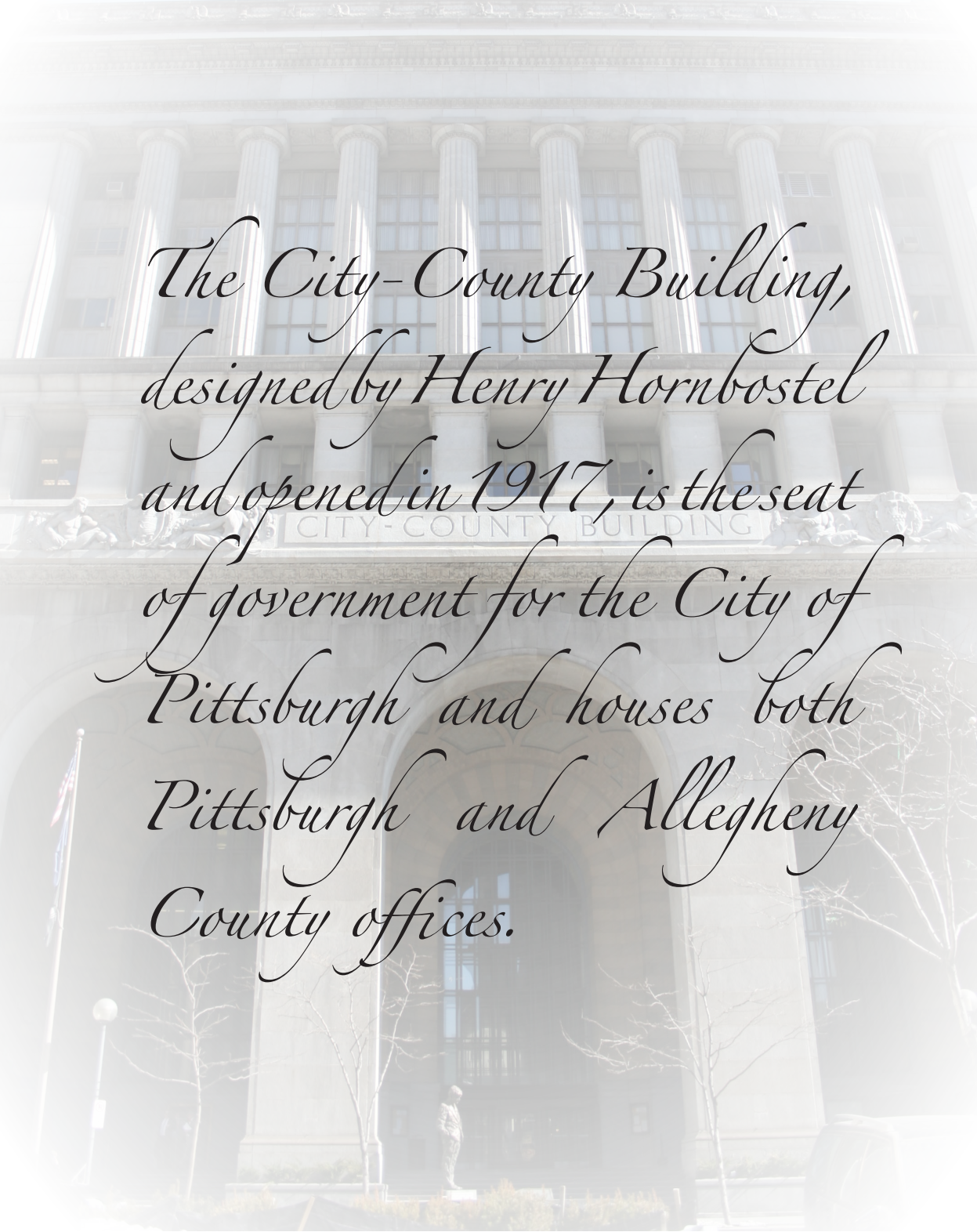
On April 23, 2009, approximately 55 children of employees of Criminal Court, Pretrial Services, Court Administration, the Office of the District Attorney, and the Sheriff’s Office participated in Criminal Court’s third annual “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” program. The

CRIMINAL REPORT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS	
Cases Pending at End of Year 2008	*13,275
New Cases Received in 2009	19,252
Cases Reopened During 2009	4,688
Cases Available for Disposition in Year 2009	37,215
AGE OF PENDING CASES	
DAYS	
1 to 60	3,008
61 to 120	2,651
121 to 180	2,180
181 to 240	1,545
241 to 360	1,845
361 +	3,511
Pending Cases Total	14,740
Inactive-Bench Warrants, Incompetency Determinations, and Interlocutory Appeals	2,834
Transfers to Juvenile Court, Magisterial District Judge, Family Court, Administrative Closures, Consolidations, Deceased Defendants, Remands to Lower Court	97
CASES DISPOSED IN 2009	
Dismissed, Withdrawn, Nolle Prossed, Speedy Trial and Satisfaction Agreements	1,614
Diversionary Programs Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)	3,682
Guilty Plea	13,482
Non-Jury Trial	589
Jury Trial	177
Cases Disposed in 2009	19,544
Cases Pending Adjudication at End of 2009	14,740
* Correction from 2008 Annual Report	

Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III welcomed the children to President Judge McDaniel’s courtroom where they participated in several programs and a “Question and Answer” session while enjoying cookies and punch. The Sheriff’s Office conducted a child safety program that included fingerprinting the children, participation in a demonstration of safety equipment, and the K-9 Unit. The District Attorney’s Office presented a program involving the children as “crime scene investigators,” dusting and lifting fingerprints. They toured the jail museum and the Sheriff’s transportation van and met McGruff, the Crime Dog. The children were presented with a “Certificate of Participation” at the end of the program. As many of the children were returning participants, they were given a program booklet from 2008, which had many photographs of their previous visit.



Children participating in “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” are met by McGruff, the Crime Dog, in the courthouse courtyard.



The City-County Building, designed by Henry Hornbostel and opened in 1917, is the seat of government for the City of Pittsburgh and houses both Pittsburgh and Allegheny County offices.

CRIMINAL DIVISION ADULT PROBATION

Adult Probation and Parole is charged by the Court of Common Pleas with the responsibility of providing effective, community-based alternatives to incarceration, improving public safety, partnering with community and law enforcement resources, and promoting positive behavioral change from offenders.

In March, community-based probation office supervisors, using the Proxy risk assessment instrument, assigned caseloads to three risk categories: low – medium – high. Separating caseloads by Proxy scores enabled probation officers to set a range of supervision levels based on risk. In conjunction with the rollout of the initial risk assessment, the probation department developed the High Impact Unit (HIU), which specializes in intensively supervising the highest risk offenders. During the year, seven probation officers were certified as instructors in the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) risks/needs assessment instrument. The certified probation instructors trained other probation officers in LSI-R application to prepare for the 2010 utilization of LSI-R for assessment of medium and high-risk offenders, groups most likely to re-offend. This tool identifies offenders' criminogenic needs allowing probation officers to develop an appropriate probation plan, thereby reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

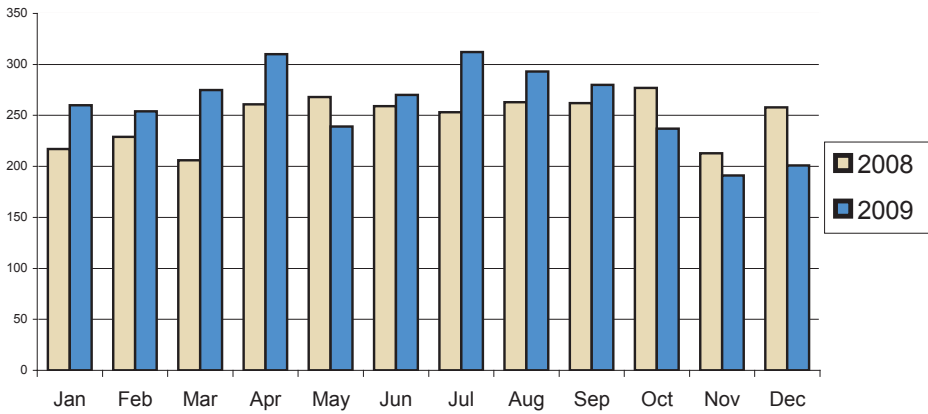
The Allegheny County collaborative problem-solving court programs continued to expand and produce successful results. In 2009, Drug Court graduated 47 offenders while adding 91 new offenders to the treatment court. In addition, 59 offenders successfully completed the

DUI Court program that accepted 118 new participants. By the end of 2009, there were approximately 325 participants in Allegheny County's Mental Health Court program, which serves as a model to other counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The P.R.I.D.E. Program continued to offer community resource collaboration to prostitution offenders, as the number of offenders admitted into this program continues to grow. A newly created Veterans Court began in November of 2009. Similar to Mental Health and Drug Court, Veterans Court offers coordinated treatment and intensive supervision for certain veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

The Electronic Monitoring (EM) Unit marked its 22nd year of supervising offenders in the community. In 2009, EM collected over \$1.2 million in monitoring fees while averaging 1,239 offenders under supervision per month. Proof of its success, EM recidivism (new arrest while on the EM ankle bracelet) was less than 2% for the year.

In 2009, probation field offices conducted Gagnon I violation hearings with the Allegheny

TOTAL INTAKE CASES AT ELECTRONIC MONITORING PER MONTH
(IP, Pre-Trial, Magistrate, Drug Court, DUI Court and Mental Health Court Cases)

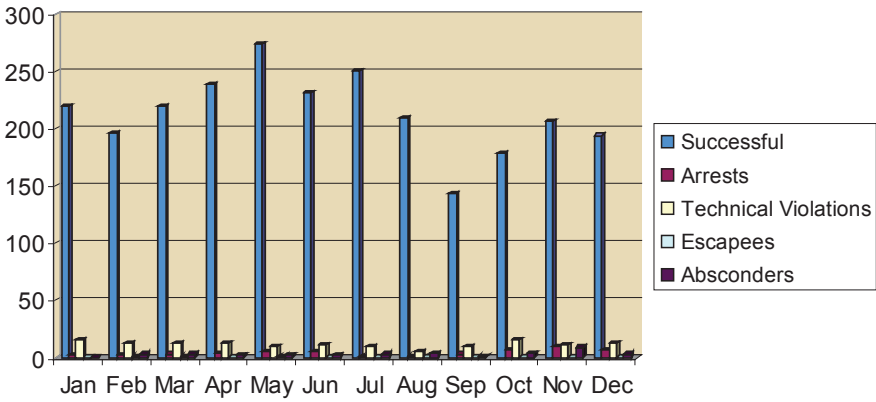


CRIMINAL DIVISION ADULT PROBATION

County Jail via video conferencing. The move to video conferencing saved time for probation officers and reduced the travel costs related to conducting the hearings in person at the jail.

This was the third year for Charm School, a probation office developed seven-week basic life skills curriculum for female offenders. Graduates of the program have secured employment or have become enrolled in a junior college and/or trade school. The program was well received and

2009 Electronic Monitoring Outcomes



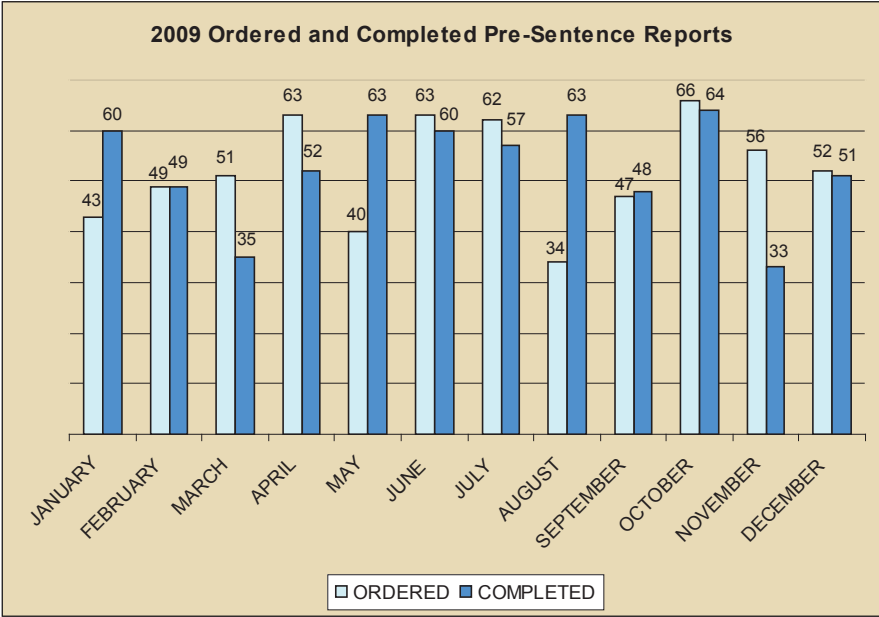
CASELOAD AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009	
Probation	13,875
Parole	1,008
Intermediate Punishment	1,244
Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)	5,988
Probation without Verdict	434
TOTAL	22,549
PROBATIONERS BY OFFENSE GRADE AND RACE	
Misdemeanor	15,040
Felony	7,287
Other	222
Caucasian	12,428
African-American	9,706
American Indian	3
Asian	101
Hispanic	41
Race Unknown	270
CASELOAD PER PROBATION OFFICER	
McKeesport Community Based Office	150
North Side Community Based Office	163
Central Community Based Office	115
South Hills Community Based Office	170
Wilkinsburg Community Based Office	100
Electronic Monitoring	41
High Impact Unit	99
Forensic Unit	130
Domestic Violence Unit	100
Sex Offender Unit	90
DUI Unit	360
Minimal Supervision Unit	1,450
Intermediate Supervision Unit	610
Interstate/Inter-County Unit	342/668

viewed as a valuable learning opportunity by the participants.

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) provides in-house services for offenders on county probation, parole, intermediate punishment, and pre-trial release. The goal is to break the cycle of recidivism through educational opportunities, employment skills and services, drug and alcohol testing and referrals, and community service. The DRC provides opportunities for offenders to become productive members of the community.

Officially opened in January 2009, the Center began working with offenders in February. Located in Pittsburgh's Arlington section, the DRC has become engrained in surrounding communities' initiatives, including the 16th Ward and Knoxville Block Watch, Arlington Civic Council, Zone 3 Public Safety Committee, Beltzhoover Inter Agency and Neighborhood Council, and the Hilltop Alliance. The DRC also hosted a neighborhood forum on gun violence and graffiti.

CRIMINAL DIVISION ADULT PROBATION



On October 19, 2009, the DRC held an open house/ dedication ceremony. On hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony were President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, Criminal Administrative Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, Judge Joseph M. James, Judge Kevin G. Sasinoski, Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte, Director James Rieland, Manager Frank Scherer, and Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus. A number of community leaders and probation staff also attended the event. The DRC staff provided tours of the facility.

In its first year of operation:

- 470 referrals were received by the DRC;
- 92 participants were enrolled in GED preparatory classes;
- 158 participated in employment development skills/job search, 34 of whom became employed;
- 72 participated in a life skills program;
- 49 participated in an anger management course;
- 664 drug and alcohol screenings were conducted at the DRC; and
- 2,157 community-service hours were performed in Arlington and surrounding communities by offenders.



Day Reporting Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. (l-r): Judge James, Court Administrator Billotte, Director Rieland, Administrative Judge Manning, DRC Manager Scherer, Judge Sasinoski, President Judge McDaniel.

The most enduring and recognized symbol of Allegheny County is the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail complex. The complex was designed in 1883 by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson and built between 1884-1888. The jail, which was officially closed in 1995, has been masterfully converted into a combined home for the juvenile and family sections of the Common Pleas Court.

CRIMINAL DIVISION PRETRIAL SERVICES

To provide accurate and timely information to assist the court in making informed decisions regarding bond, competency, and treatment. To supervise and monitor defendants in a respectful manner, utilizing cost-effective measures for the community, and to promote compliance with court orders, court appearances, and to support public safety.

The Pretrial Services department of the court continues to maintain its commitment to the fundamental principle of ensuring fair and informed pretrial release decision-making utilizing evidence-based criteria to minimize the safety risks to the community when determining pretrial supervision levels for offenders. The Vera Institute of Justice, an independent, non-partisan center for justice policy and practice regarded as a national authority on pretrial justice practices, has recommended this court’s pretrial operations as a model to other jurisdictions interested in improving pretrial processes. As a result of this recognition, numerous courts from across the country have sought guidance from Allegheny County Pretrial Services in initiating reforms in their court pretrial programs.



District Court Administrator Raymond L. Billotte, President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, foreign language interpreter Carmen Fabres-Cordero, and Pretrial Services Director Thomas McCaffrey host a delegation of judges from Mexico in September 2009.

Pretrial Services works to implement release conditions that protect the public, combined with the promotion of fair, transparent, and cost-effective policies to improve the administration of justice. Utilization of evidence-based criteria results in the appropriately supervised pretrial release of defendants who do not pose a safety risk to the community and are likely to appear for court dates. Proper assessment also results in the pretrial detention of defendants assessed to be a dangerous risk to the community. For its



Pam Wahal, Jordan Geisler, Timothy Dugan, and Matthew Mullen pose with the Safety Bug at Cornell School.

achievement in the ongoing development of evaluation methods and reduced-risk, cost-effective pretrial release conditions, the Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI) selected Pretrial Services to host a Mexican delegation of judges, magistrates, state attorney generals, and other dignitaries in September 2009. Allegheny County’s program was selected as one of two sites in the United States for model practices in pretrial justice. Sponsored by U.S. Aid to Mexico, the delegation interacted with Pretrial Services staff, observed daily operations and had the opportunity to consult with President Judge McDaniel, Criminal Administrative Judge Manning, Criminal Court Administrator Lynch, Allegheny County Jail Warden Rustin, as well as representatives of the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office, Office of the Public Defender, Pittsburgh Municipal Court, and jail administrative staff. Impressed by this court’s pretrial expertise, a second Mexican delegation was hosted in December 2009.

CRIMINAL DIVISION PRETRIAL SERVICES

PRETRIAL ELECTRONIC MONITORING				
Calendar Year:	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total Number of Defendants Placed on EM	135	173	384	462
Number of Successful Completions	86	101	239	326
Unsuccessful Completions	30	46	79	118
Absconders	11	24	34	54
New Arrests During Supervision	11	9	24	31
Removed for Rule Violations	8	13	21	33
Total Completions	116	147	318	444
Jail Days Saved by EM Supervision	23,861	24,969	51,848	65,649
Total Amount Billed to Defendants	\$38,225	\$41,330	\$134,297	\$166,709
Total Amount Paid by Defendants	\$20,893	\$19,635	\$42,214	\$72,297
Outstanding Balance Owed by Defendants	\$17,332	\$21,695	\$92,083	\$94,412
Cost per Day to House a Defendant at ACJ	\$1,431,660	\$1,498,140	\$3,110,880	\$4,070,238
Cost per Day to Supervise on EM	\$322,124	\$337,082	\$699,948	\$886,262
Cost Avoidance for Allegheny County	\$1,130,430	\$1,180,694	\$2,453,146	\$3,256,273

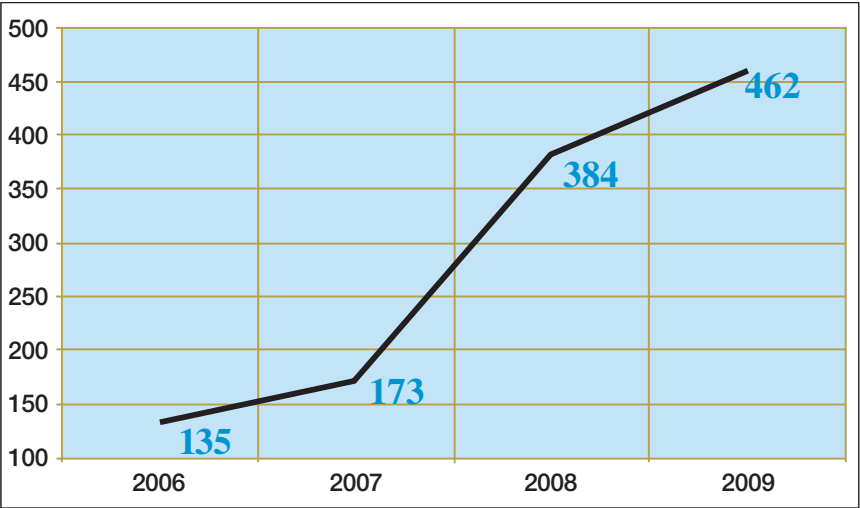
Pretrial Services’ Bail Unit began this year to build upon National Best Practices implemented in 2008 with a primary focus on employee training and computer enhancements. Providing 24/7 investigative services at the Allegheny County Jail, bail personnel conduct a personal interview and assessment with each defendant brought to the jail on a new charge or bench warrant. Defendant information, collected utilizing Pretrial Services’ database and validated risk-assessment tool, is verified by a bail investigator before submission to the arraigning authority for determination of pretrial supervision recommendations. In 2009, the Bail Unit completed 20,227 new investigations, advocated for 740 bond modifications, and presented at 3,459 bond forfeiture hearings.

In addition to investigations, the Bail Unit supervised 4,457 defendants on pretrial conditional release throughout 2009. Minimum supervision entails

“phone-in” contact by the defendant; moderate supervision requires that the defendant report in-person; and pretrial electronic monitoring (PTM) is utilized for defendants assessed to need maximum supervision. A record number of defendants, 462, were supervised via PTM this year. PTM supervision per offender costs \$13.50 per day; incarceration per offender costs \$62 per day. In 2009, PTM eliminated 65,649 jail days, resulting in a cost savings to Allegheny County of approximately \$3.2 million. PTM defendants also paid \$294,080 in program fees to offset the cost of services provided to them.

Pretrial Services’ Behavior Assessment Unit (BAU) continued to operate efficiently and expediently this year. Comparable to 2008, BAU psychiatrists completed 1,543 court-ordered competency evaluations that included 133 involuntary commitment recommendations, 118 of which were to Torrence State Hospital. BAU social workers also completed 55 social histories associated with mental health evaluations.

PRETRIAL ELECTRONIC MONITORING



CRIMINAL DIVISION PRETRIAL SERVICES

The Pretrial Services Accelerated Rehabilitation Disposition (ARD) Unit reached a new milestone by admitting 3,693 defendants into the program, the most ever in one year since the program's inception in 1990 and an increase of 11.5% from 2008. The vast majority of these first time offenders were charged with DUI (3,347), and the remainder (346) were charged with various other non-violent offenses. Over 90% of these cases were diverted from the court's docket through successful completion of the program by defendants and the dismissal and expungement of these cases. Although the number of defendants entering the ARD program increased 11.5% this year, the number of program violations decreased 14.9%. Furthermore, the number of bench warrants issued for ARD cases decreased 3.8% in 2009. As a condition of ARD, defendants completed 37,471 hours of community service this year throughout Allegheny County in partnership with nonprofit organizations.

The Alcohol Highway Safety Program (AHSP) continued its education, intervention, and prevention efforts concerning the dangerous combination of driving with drugs/ alcohol utilizing TV and radio public service

BOND FORFEITURES PRESENTED IN COURT	
Sentencing	2
Trial	787
Pretrial Conference	574
ARD	59
Formal Arraignment	876
Preliminary Hearing	736
Total	3,034
MOTIONS COURT VIDEO ARRAIGNMENTS	
Bond Forfeitures	2,243
NEI Warrants	400
Modifications	525
ARD Success Rate	
2006	93.5%
2007	96%
2008	96%
2009	90.4%

announcements, and outreach at community events such as the Pittsburgh Auto Show. Also responsible for court-ordered evaluations of DUI offenders and management of PennDOT-mandated DUI education programs, AHSP completed 5,698 Court Reporting Network (CRN) evaluations in 2009, more than any other single jurisdiction in the state. AHSP operated the state's largest and most successful Ignition Interlock Program in 2009 with the installation of 542 ignition interlock devices, 115 more than 2008. Interlock program participants drove in excess of one million sober miles this year. Moreover, there have been no DUI arrests of interlock program participants since 2004.



Natalie and Grace Dean, Zack Wahal, Dylan Soller, and Brian Miller pose while filming a commercial in partnership with AHSP and Comcast.

SUMMARY APPEALS

Summary Appeals maintains jurisdiction over criminal appeals from adjudications by magisterial district judges resulting in summary convictions and civil statutory appeals from decisions by state and local administrative agencies. The Honorable Robert C. Gallo presides over summary conviction appeals and civil appeals arising from actions taken by PennDOT relating to the suspension of driver's licenses, which account for the majority of statutory appeals. Other civil statutory appeals are referred to the administrative judge of the Civil Division for judicial assignment. In addition to conducting individual hearings on each appeal, Summary Appeals is responsible for all ancillary matters related to an appeal, including motions.

The criminal appeals include moving violations under the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code; violations of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, such as disorderly conduct, harassment, retail theft, public drunkenness, and underage drinking; violations of municipal ordinances; violations of dog licensing provisions, and truancy. In conjunction with several local school districts, Summary Appeals has worked to strengthen a program instituted last year by

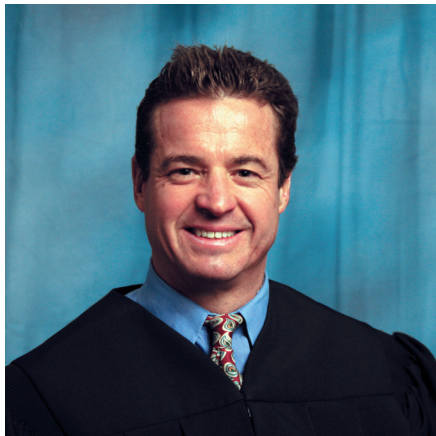


Summary Appeals staff (l-r): Andrea Surgent, Judge Robert C. Gallo, Tom Kawczynski, and Lucille Trohaugh.

offering both truant students and parents supportive services to modify truant behavior and encourage school attendance.

SUMMARY APPEALS – CASE DISPOSITIONS				
Case Type	New Cases Filed 2008	Cases Disposed 2008	New Cases Filed 2009	Cases Disposed 2009
Criminal Summary Convictions	3,567	3,359	3,281	3,531
Motor Vehicle Code Suspensions	1,120	1,105	1,249	1,035
Pittsburgh Parking Authority	17	17	6	5
In Forma Pauperis	1,266	1,266	1,463	1,463
Nunc Pro Tunc Appeals	770	770	583	583
Administrative Agency	27	23	24	18
Civil Service	1	1	4	3
Land Use	27	24	22	14
Zoning Board	42	33	33	17
Local Agency	69	61	122	98
Liquor Control	5	5	7	4
School Board	2	2	0	0
Health Department	1	1	0	0
Totals	6,914	6,667	6,794	6,771

FAMILY DIVISION JUDGES



Hon. David N. Wecht
Administrative Judge



Hon. Kelly Eileen Bigley



Hon. Cathleen Bubash



Hon. Kathryn M. Hens-Greco



Hon. Alan D. Hertzberg



Hon. Beth A. Lazzara



Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark



Hon. Michael F. Marmo



Hon. Guido A. DeAngelis



Hon. Kim D. Eaton



Hon. Thomas E. Flaherty



Hon. John T. McVay, Jr.



Hon. Kathleen R. Mulligan



Hon. Dwayne D. Woodruff

FAMILY DIVISION ADULT

To provide the most efficient and cost-effective processes for the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support obligations; to provide accurate, timely, and efficient process for distributing and accounting for support payments; and to process other family-related case matters in an expeditious manner.

Under the guidance of the Honorable David N. Wecht, appointed administrative judge effective January 1, 2009, the Adult Section continues to inaugurate various operational improvements to better facilitate support, divorce, and Protection From Abuse services for the families of Allegheny County. Many of the 2009 successes of the Adult Section are also due in part to the leadership roles by the former administrative judge, the Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, and Adult Section Supervising Judge, the Honorable Kim D. Eaton.

In response to the economic downturn resulting in double-digit unemployment rates during 2009, the Adult Section reallocated personnel and resources to its employment search program to aid delinquent obligors in finding and maintaining steady employment in order to meet their family support obligations. Collaborative partnerships with Western Pennsylvania Goodwill, Educational Data System, Inc., Urban League, Pennsylvania CareerLink Pittsburgh/Allegheny County, Hill House, and Springboard Kitchens provide obligors with employment search resources as well as other social and parenting services. The direct result is an increase in support payments for Allegheny County families.

Also in 2009, the Adult Section formed an alliance with neighboring county child support offices in western Pennsylvania in an effort to improve and enhance procedures for the handling of inter-county support cases where the parties to a support action reside in different jurisdictions within the state. As a result of this cooperative effort, a user-friendly matrix

was created that readily identifies county-specific procedures resulting in more efficient inter-county case processing.

Because enforcement of support orders constitutes a large percentage of the Family Division workload, the Adult Section utilizes innovative methods to address delinquent obligors in an effort to bring the cases current. During this past year, one such project was a special enforcement conference day that focused on delinquent obligors who had discontinued paying toward the arrearages owed in support cases where the monthly obligation was actually terminated. The project was a success with an over 50 percent rate of response by delinquent obligors contacted. Phone Power, an ongoing project through which delinquent obligors are contacted during evening hours, collected nearly \$25,000 in additional support monies and implemented a number of new wage attachments to ensure ongoing regular collection of support directly from employers. Phone Power was expanded during 2009 to include calling support plaintiffs to gather personal contact information as a means to locating missing support obligors. Additionally, “early intervention” calls are made to defendants shortly after their court appearances, reminding them to make the first payment towards newly entered support obligations to avoid the automated enforcement remedies, such as drivers’ license suspension, credit bureau reporting, and seizure of bank accounts, among others.

During 2009, the section cleared 5,152 active bench warrants, substantially reducing the number of outstanding non-support warrants, while collecting support arrears much needed by custodial parents. The court also initiated the use of video and audio conferences and hearings with Allegheny County Jail inmates at all levels of the contempt proceedings—whether the proceeding was scheduled before a judge, hearing officer, or domestic relations officer—thereby reducing transportation costs for the Allegheny County Sheriff and decreasing the processing time of jail personnel for Family Division inmates.

FAMILY DIVISION ADULT

DISPOSITION OF SUPPORT CASES		
	2008	2009
Total Cases Listed for Disposition	37,697	34,731
Cases Scheduled for Conference before Domestic Relations Officers	37,697	34,731
Cases Resulting in a Court Order after a Domestic Relations Officer Conference	30,535	28,994
Cases Referred to Hearing Officer after a Domestic Relations Officer Conference	7,162	*5,737
Cases Resulting in a Final Court Order after a Hearing Officer's Recommendation	6,815	5,428
Cases in which Exceptions are Filed before a Judge after a Hearing Officer's Recommendation	347	309
*The hearing officers also scheduled and heard 3,545 direct hearings in 2009.		
CASES RESOLVED AT EACH LEVEL OF THE EXPEDITED HEARING PROCESS		
	2008	2009
Domestic Relations Officers	30,535	28,994
Hearing Officers	6,815	5,428
Judges	347	309
Total	37,697	34,731
JUDICIAL ACTIVITY		
New Family Cases Assigned for Judicial Conciliation	2008	2009
Equitable Distribution/Alimony	479	407
Custody	239	252
Paternity	6	8
Divorce (3301-D, Contested)	30	4
Other	157	126
Cases Listed for Judicial Hearing		
Equitable Distribution/Alimony (Judge)	344	242
Equitable Distribution/Alimony (Permanent Master)	70	111
Complex Support (Permanent Master)	235	242
Full Custody	287	212
Partial Custody	90	101
Paternity	15	13
Divorce	4	4
Other	7,760	6,300
Support (Contempt)	2,681	2,207
Protection from Abuse (Final)	2,821	4,121
Protection from Abuse (Contempt)	1,098	1,256
Miscellaneous		
Support Exceptions	347	309
Post-Trial Motions	59	32
Motions	12,841	12,722
Support Orders Reviewed and Entered	24,162	22,182

COLLECTIONS AND EXPENDITURES					
Year	Collections	Dollar Increase Over Prior Year	Increase/Decrease	Expenditures	Collections per \$1.00 Expensed
2004	\$157,704,272	\$2,075,013	1.3%	\$13,564,497	11.63
2005	\$159,325,239	\$1,620,967	1.0%	\$14,340,264	11.11
2006	\$162,421,344	\$3,096,105	1.9%	\$14,066,714	11.55
2007	\$167,229,139	\$4,807,794	3.0%	\$14,494,060	11.54
2008	\$178,886,036	\$11,656,898	7.0%	\$15,355,723	11.65
2009	\$171,640,562	(\$7,245,474)	-4.1%	\$15,992,505	10.73

FAMILY DIVISION ADULT

The Adult Section also commenced a cooperative process with the federal probation office reintegration program, as spearheaded by the Honorable Joy FlowersConti, United States District Court of Western Pennsylvania. This association will result in Family Division obtaining information regarding support defendants incarcerated in federal prisons and, once they are enrolled in the federal reintegration process which successfully assists federal parolees with job

Incentive Measure Dashboard Allegheny County Child Support Enforcement Federal Fiscal Year – 2009	
Open IV-D Cases	46,575
IV-D Cases with Support Order Established	42,265
Support Order Ratio	90.75%
Children Born Out of Wedlock	32,034
Children with Paternity Established	35,799
Paternity Ratio	111.75%
Current Support Owed	\$131,369,562
Current Support Disbursed	\$105,073,834
Current Support Ratio	79.98%
Cases with Arrears Owed	38,255
Cases with Disbursements toward Arrears	29,657
Arrears Ratio	77.52%
Count of Arrears-Only Cases with Orders Established	8,849
Count of IV-D Cases with Medical Support Ordered	29,435
Count of IV-D Cases with Medical Support Ordered and Provided	24,381
Medical Support Establishment Ratio	88.09%
Medical Support Enforcement Ratio	82.83%
CASE ACTIVITY REPORT	
Complaints Pending	4,201
Modifications Pending	2,580
Complaints Added	9,557
Modifications Added	12,736
Complaints Processed	13,315
Modifications Processed	12,594
Conferences Conducted	22,733
Court Hearings Conducted	6,245
De Novo Withdrawals Processed	23
Contempt Hearings Conducted	22,982
Paternity Filings	1,456
Paternity Acknowledged	1,693
Paternity Excluded	418
DIVORCE DECREES GRANTED	
Fault Uncontested	6
No-Fault Uncontested	2,564
Total Divorce Decrees Granted	2,570

training and employment search, will allow Family Division to better manage those support cases.

Plans for a “Unified Family Court” were commenced in late 2009, incorporating the “One Judge/One Family” concept for all fifteen judges assigned to the Family Division effective January 2010. This approach will improve the administration of justice and better serve the families of Allegheny County, since one judge will be handling all matters for a single family involved in the Family Division of the court. To further this idea in the handling of support matters, the Adult Section continued with plans to restructure Adult Section staffing for better accountability and quality control. In early 2009, a contingent of administrators, managers, and supervisors visited several similarly situated Domestic Relations offices to observe operations and organizational structures. After thoroughly assessing the multifarious distinctions between departments, it was concluded that a ‘team’ structure would best achieve the stated goals, and the Adult Section plans to proceed with major changes to operations during 2010.



Three Counties in Three Days - assessing operations for improvement. (l-r): Enforcement Manager Robert O'Shea, Deputy Administrator Geraldine Redic, Assistant Enforcement Manager Jan Schumacher, Establishment Manager Christine McKelvey-Medved, Establishment Supervisor Joseph Zalar, Project Coordinator Keith Calhoun, Administrator Patrick Quinn, and Enforcement Supervisor Tracey Webster.

FAMILY DIVISION ADULT

The Protection From Abuse (PFA) unit underwent significant changes in 2009 as well. A system of “rolling” preliminary PFA hearings was instituted, which allows PFA plaintiffs access to a judge soon after completing the complaint. At the same time, judges are given more time to handle final PFA dispositions during the day. The initiative became the subject of a study by two CORO Fellows (an organization fostering civic leadership and collaboration), who wrote a report and recommendations as to the effectiveness of the existing procedure. Chaired by the Honorable Kathryn Hens-Greco, a committee will now review the CORO report for ways to improve the PFA process.



Protection From Abuse Department staff: (seated) Domestic Violence Coordinator Beth Keenan, Esq., (standing l-r): Crystal Everette, John Frey, Dee Speer, and Allison Creighton.

As one of the hallmarks of 2009, Pennsylvania finished first among the 56 states and territories in the five federal performance measures for child support enforcement. Allegheny County’s performance, as the second largest county in the commonwealth, significantly contributed to this distinction. The Adult Section demonstrated remarkable increases in all five performance measures and exceeded 80% in the collection of current support, believed to be the first time an urban jurisdiction achieved this benchmark. Most distinctive is that the section was able to reduce the aggregate support arrears by nearly \$40 million during 2009.

FAMILY COURT REPORT				
	Filed	Disposed	Pending	
Support	22,182	25,909	6,781	
Divorce	2,701	2,570	4,762	
Total	24,883	28,479	11,543	
OPEN CASES				
	Child Support	Non IV-D Alimony	Total	
Disability/SSI	1	0	1	
Federal Foster Care	1,135	1	1,136	
General Assistance	13	86	99	
Medical Need Only	4	0	4	
Non-Fed. Foster Care	626	0	626	
Non TANF*	37,572	2,882	40,454	
TANF*	5,255	17	5,272	
Total	44,606	2,986	47,592	
*Temporary Assistance for Needy Families				
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES				
Performance Measure	Paternity Establishment	Support Order	Current Payment	Arrearage Payment
October-08	92.15%	87.82%	81.16%	43.12%
November-08	93.20%	88.01%	75.52%	47.64%
December-08	94.69%	88.46%	77.57%	56.46%
January-09	96.45%	88.92%	77.81%	61.12%
February-09	98.18%	89.31%	77.88%	64.14%
March-09	99.72%	89.72%	78.72%	68.66%
April-09	101.45%	89.94%	78.76%	70.82%
May-09	103.56%	90.70%	78.98%	73.01%
June-09	105.09%	90.88%	79.36%	74.71%
July-09	106.90%	90.82%	79.64%	76.07%
August-09	108.09%	90.49%	79.75%	76.97%
September-09	111.75%	90.75%	79.98%	77.52%
PROTECTION FROM ABUSE TOTAL DISPOSITIONS				
Preliminary PFA Hearings (Total Applicants)				3,754
Final PFA Hearings (Conciliations)				4,121
Indirect Criminal Contempt Hearings (Conciliations)				1,256
Direct Hearings Scheduled Before Judges				
Final PFA Hearings				131
Indirect Criminal Contempt				66
Total Case Dispositions				9,328

FAMILY DIVISION JUVENILE

To reduce and prevent juvenile crime; promote and maintain safe communities; and improve the welfare of youth and families who are served by the court.

The Juvenile Probation Department’s mission for more than 15 years has been to incorporate “Balanced and Restorative Justice” (BARJ) goals. The goals of BARJ are to protect the community, hold juvenile offenders accountable for their offenses, and provide juvenile offenders with opportunities to develop competency skills. Progress to refine and improve several major initiatives continued in 2009.

Case Management Essentials (CME) was introduced in 2008. With assistance from the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), the risk and needs assessment components were fine-tuned in 2009 to provide a more consistent framework for probation officers whose job is to determine a comprehensive plan for juvenile offenders. The comprehensive plan incorporates the conditions of supervision and needs assessment priorities to guide probation officers, parent/guardians, and other professional caregivers throughout the juvenile offender’s term of court supervision. Specific activities, objectives, and goals are identified and implemented for each offender

to foster individual, positive behavioral modification and encourage a law-abiding, productive lifestyle. Another CME component, dispositional guidelines, was expanded in 2009 to include specific criteria to be considered when evaluating an offender’s risk to the community. The level of risk is considered when deciding whether the offender’s initial status with the court involves formal charges or an informal course of action is to be taken. Setting BARJ goals as a standard practice, the final CME component is case closing. This involves an analysis of the supervisory process and case statistics that includes an evaluation of the final outcome of a case. It is the intention of juvenile probation administration to fully implement CME as the foundation upon which probation officers assess cases to assist in creating a consistent, structured framework.

Progress continues on the “Models for Change” initiative, which began in 2004. Originally developed by Berks County and adapted for use by Allegheny County, this assessment tool is now receiving statewide attention as an effective instrument in facilitating detention decisions. The Juvenile Probation Department has increased the number of minors referred for mental health screening and Multisystemic Therapy (MST), an evidence-based program. In addition, probation’s three educational specialists provide academic guidance to ensure a smooth transition entering and exiting residential placement.

The Pennsylvania Academic and Career and Technical Training (PACTT) grant, sponsored by the PA Chief’s Council, continues to provide significant educational and career training opportunities to juveniles entering and exiting residential placement. PACTT is a collaboration between Allegheny County Juvenile Probation and Philadelphia Juvenile Probation. Primary PACTT goals include aligning residential provider academic programs with state academic standards to ensure that career and technical offerings in residential placement are connected to real-world workforce opportunities. The PACTT activities are squarely aligned with the



(l-r): Director James Rieland, Deputy Director Russell Carlino, and Administrative Judge David Wecht kick off Juvenile Justice Week by taking the Balanced and Restorative Justice pledge.

FAMILY DIVISION JUVENILE

CASE CLOSING INFORMATION				
NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED			1,900	
Average Length of Supervision			17.2 months	
Average Length of Supervision Consent Decree			8.28 months	
ACCOUNTABILITY FACTORS				
Violation of Probation			288	12%
New Adjudication			202	11%
Completed the Victim Awareness Curriculum			1,383	73%
Attending School, Vocational Program, or GED Training or Employed at Time of Case Closing			1,302	69%
	Youth	Amount Ordered	Amount Paid/Completed	Paid in Full
Community Service Hours	1,406	81,197	84,141	96%
Restitution	602	\$358,186	\$234,713	76%
Electronic Monitoring Discharges				
Electronic Home Monitoring				423
High Risk Electronic Monitoring				233
High Risk Home Detention				304
Regular Home Detention				341
Sanctions				291
TOTAL				1,592
CISP Center		Commitments		Discharges
Garfield	48	25%	51	26%
Hill District	26	13%	24	12%
Homewood	44	23%	47	24%
McKeesport	19	10%	23	12%
Wilkinsburg	57	29%	51	26%
Total	194		196	

broader juvenile justice goal of developing youth competencies.

The Truancy Prevention Project (TPP) was established in 1987 to address habitual truancy among students in Allegheny County between the ages of 6 and 14 (1st through 8th grade). TPP is a coalition of Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department, Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), the Alternative Education Program (AEP), Allegheny County Children Youth and Families (CYF), and local school districts. In November 2008, Juvenile Probation and AIU received funds from The Grable Foundation, Heinz Endowment, and the Pittsburgh Foundation to expand the TPP. The expansion of this project in 2009 was in response to a request from magisterial district judges, the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and other Allegheny County school districts for additional support and assistance with a growing truancy problem. The goal of TPP expansion is twofold: first, to increase the number of schools that are actually using the program, and second; to increase the

REFERRALS TO JUVENILE COURT			
	2008	2009	% Change
Aggravated Assault	336	287	-15%
Aggravated Assault on Teacher	260	186	-28%
Arson	31	51	65%
Auto Theft Related	156	172	10%
Burglary	309	283	-8%
Carjacking	4	8	100%
Criminal Mischief/Institutional	180	89	-51%
Criminal/Defiant Trespass	110	79	-28%
Disorderly Conduct	86	53	-38%
Drug Charges (Including Crack)	598	540	-10%
DUI	41	38	-7%
Escape	18	13	-28%
Ethnic Intimidation	2	2	n/a
Failure To Adjust	363	327	-10%
Firearm Unlicensed or Possession	136	156	15%
Harassment	23	20	-13%
Nonpayment of Fines	1,066	978	-8%
Receiving Stolen Property	128	182	42%
Retail Theft	96	87	-9%
Robbery & Related	272	200	-26%
Sex Offenses	106	96	-9%
Simple Assault	550	534	-3%
Terroristic Threats	122	121	-1%
Theft & Related (Conspiracy/Attempt)	187	175	-6%
Transferred from Other County	66	51	-23%
Violation of Probation	390	439	13%
Weapons on School Property	139	128	-8%
SUBTOTAL	5,775	5,295	-8%
All Other Charges	316	305	-3%
TOTAL	6,091	5,600	-8%

overall number of children referred to the program by all school districts in Allegheny County. TPP is a proactive attempt to help families and schools assist with truant children before more serious problems arise. Probation school-based supervisors have been added to the mediation staff for truancy hearings, and additional TPP case managers have been hired through grant awards to process the additional caseload.

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. CISP also provides aftercare services to youth who are leaving out-of-home placement.

FAMILY DIVISION CHILDREN’S COURT

Children’s Court provides a forum of fair, prompt, and coordinated resolution of legal matters affecting children and families and strives to promote the best interests of children including each child’s right to a safe, permanent, and loving home, and to strengthen and preserve families.

By instilling the principles of its mission into all aspects of its work, Children’s Court achieves better outcomes for children and a brighter future for the community. Through collaboration with stakeholders and innovative programs, Children’s Court continues to promote the best interests of the children it serves, while preserving families whenever possible.

As a model court for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Permanency Practice Initiative, Children’s Court played an integral part in the First Annual Pennsylvania Children’s Summit in November, chaired by Judge Kim Berkeley Clark. Family Division Administrative Judge David Wecht led Allegheny County’s working group, which included Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco, Children’s Court Administrator Cynthia Stoltz, and Director of Human Services Marc Cherna, in drafting an action plan to further promote safe and permanent

homes for abused and neglected children in the dependency system. Judges Kelly Bigley, Cathleen Bubash, Guido DeAngelis, Kim Eaton, Thomas Flaherty, Beth Lazzara, Michael Marmo, John McVay, Kathleen Mulligan, and Dwayne Woodruff served as facilitators to 48 other working groups from across Pennsylvania. The three-day summit provided a dynamic, interactive opportunity for participants to prioritize next steps for the coming year.

National Adoption Month festivities also took place in November, culminating with the adoption of 48 children during a special Saturday celebration at the Family Law Center attended by Supreme Court Justice Max Baer. Other events included the unveiling of a mosaic glass sculpture commissioned for the courthouse’s family waiting area and the presentation of “Kids for Keeps Community Champion Awards” to three long-time foster parents who care for medically fragile infants and children with significant mental health issues. Additionally, Children’s Court hosted “Practices to Improve Permanency in Allegheny County,” a community education forum featuring Judge Stephen M. Rubin from the innovative Pima County Juvenile Court Center in Tucson, Arizona, and Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Deputy Secretary



The Brown family with Judge Guido DeAngelis (center) and their Office of Children, Youth and Families caseworker (right) on National Adoption Day.



Mr. McFeely has a special delivery for Attorney Joe Luvara and his new daughter on National Adoption Day.

FAMILY DIVISION CHILDREN’S COURT

Custody Statistics			
Proceeding	Number of Cases	Result	
Partial Custody Hearings before a Hearing Officer	484	276 (57%) resulted in consent order	
Custody Conciliations	893	440 (49%) resulted in final or interim order	
Mediations	924	487 (53%) resolved some or all custody issues	
Dependency Hearing Officer Statistics			
	2008	2009	
Reviews Conducted	5,171	7,243	
Cases Closed	680	644	
Case Closure Result			
Reunification with Parent	284	206	
Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodianship	72	69	
Adoption	200	198	
Over 18 No Longer Eligible for Services	124	171	
Emergency Shelter Hearings	1,119	1,272	
Termination of Parental Rights and Adoptions			
	2008	2009	
New Cases	235	251	
Terminations	233	155	
Withdrawals	13	15	
Adoptions	302	241	
Emergency Custody Authorizations			
	Court Hours	Non-Court Hours	Total
Requests	833	318	1,151
Issued	815	318	1,133
Denied	22	0	22
Restraining Orders	43	10	53
Order Attendance at Shelters	21	0	21
Private Petitions			
New Petitions		371	
Continued		132	
Mediated		40	
Withdrawn		55	
Dismissed		108	

Richard J. Gold. This forum provided an overview of unique initiatives designed to provide children with loving, permanent homes in a timely manner.

Children’s Court remains committed to building community partnerships. In 2009, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh provided on-site medical screening to 100 children entering or exiting foster care, a service not found elsewhere in the nation. The

Custody Conciliation Project, administered in partnership with Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, provided free legal representation to low income clients in 94 custody conciliation cases, resulting in the issuance of 41 final orders. The Child Custody Guardian Project provides *pro bono* and reduced fee guardians *ad litem* to children in high-conflict custody matters; 13 children benefited from the program this year.

New partnerships also were formed in 2009. In July, referrals began to an on-site behavioral health assessment team provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist families involved in custody disputes. Both substance abuse and behavioral health evaluations are offered and treatment recommendations are made available to the court. Thirty-seven referrals were made, resulting in 35 assessments and 16 individuals receiving treatment. Due to the success of this pilot project, Children’s Court and DHS will expand the program next year. Ninety referrals also were made to a new DHS program providing an on-site resource specialist for families not presently involved in dependency cases. As a result, 180 recommendations were made to families seeking social services providers with expertise in areas including co-parenting, family counseling, reunification, substance abuse counseling, and mental health treatment. Referrals are accepted from judges, hearing officers, attorneys, and staff. Families also have the opportunity to seek services on a walk-in basis.

Children’s Court personnel are committed to enhancing all aspects of court operations. The Child Custody Department, often the first contact families have upon involvement with the Family Division, continued to see a high volume of cases. In 2009, 20,961 clients were assisted at the reception desk, 11,654 phone calls were processed, and custody

FAMILY DIVISION CHILDREN’S COURT

officers reviewed 8 bench warrants. One hundred and seventy-seven orders were issued for clients who completed a memorandum of understanding after mediation and entered into a consent order that same day. In 2009, professional staff reviewed 2,029 *pro se* custody motions to ensure that the case management principle of “one judge for one family” is followed, enabling judges to make well-informed decisions. Professional staff also screened 1,192 *in forma pauperis* motions to determine fee waivers for indigent clients; 30% were processed on the same day they were received, allowing the court’s most needy clients to expeditiously file actions.

The Child Protection and Permanency Department, which oversees dependency, termination of parental rights, and adoption matters, assumed responsibility for the administration of judicial bypass proceedings and private dependency petitions in 2009. The department remains an effective liaison between the child welfare and legal systems.

Advanced automation continues to improve case management and other courtroom supports. Over 77,000 documents were electronically filed in 2009, and the e-filing and docketing of dependency orders will soon be augmented through implementation of the Common Pleas Case Management System that will track essential dependency performance measures. Video conferencing was conducted in 30 dependency cases, providing links to 12 locations, including Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Jail and various state correctional institutions. In 2009, video conferencing also was used for the first time in a custody matter.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES



Robert Barner
05-2-11



David J. Barton
05-2-17



Carolyn S. Bengel
05-2-05



Suzanne Blaschak
05-3-04



John N. Bova
05-2-18



Pat A. Capolupo
05-2-16



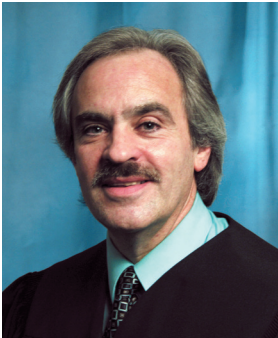
Mary Ann Cerpone
05-3-06



Ross C. Cioppa
05-2-09



Kevin E. Cooper
05-3-12



Ron Costa
05-2-31



Robert P. Dzvonick
05-2-03



Susan Evashavik
05-2-08



Robert L. Ford
05-3-02



James J. Hanley, Jr.
05-2-36

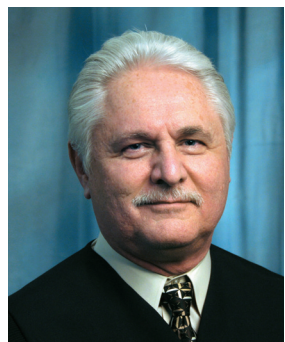


Jeffrey L. Herbst
05-2-07

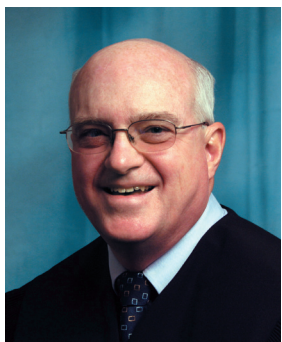


Kim M. Hoots
05-2-10

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES



Leonard J. HRomyak
05-2-06



Dennis R. Joyce
05-2-23



Richard G. King
05-3-14



Elissa M. Lang
05-2-04



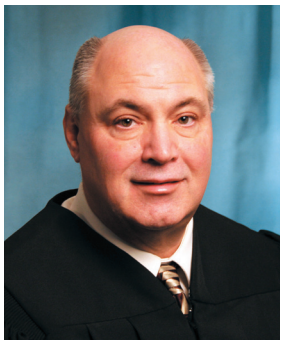
Blaise P. Larotonda
05-2-19



Armand Martin
05-3-09



Elaine M. McGraw
05-2-21



Thomas G. Miller
05-3-05



Mary P. Murray
05-2-25



Richard D. Olasz, Jr.
05-2-14



Richard G. Opiela
05-2-02



Oscar J. Petite, Jr.
05-2-28



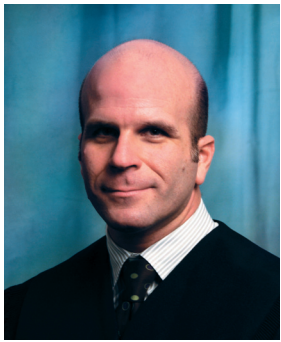
Robert P. Ravenstahl, Jr.
05-2-42



Eugene F. Riazzi, Jr.
05-2-13



Eugene N. Ricciardi
05-2-27



Anthony W. Saveikis
05-3-17

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES



Beth Scagline Mills
05-2-26



Scott H. Schricker
05-2-47



Tara L. Smith
05-2-01



David Sosovicka
05-3-03



Carla Swearingen
05-2-43



Thomas Torkowsky
05-2-15



Regis C. Welsh, Jr.
05-2-46



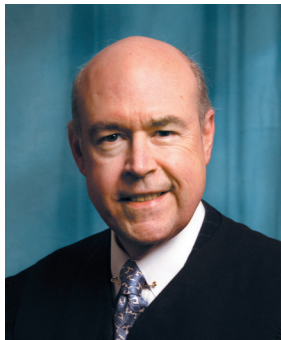
Eugene Zielmanski
05-3-10



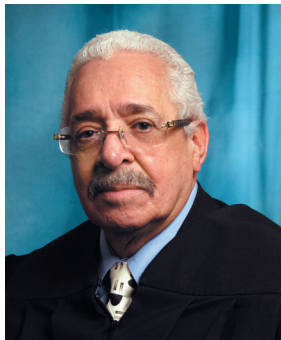
Gary M. Zyra
05-2-22



Edward Burnett
Senior Judge



Douglas W. Reed
Senior Judge



Edward A. Tibbs
Senior Judge

Magisterial District Judges NOT PICTURED:

Nathan Firestone
05-2-35

Randy C. Martini
05-3-13

Charles A. McLaughlin
05-2-38

William K. Wagner
05-2-12

Robert C. Wyda
05-2-20

Linda I. Zucco
05-2-32

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS

To provide a forum for fair and equal access to judicial services that promotes the expeditious resolution of public and private disputes through community-based locations throughout Allegheny County.

FILINGS					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Criminal	33,911	35,380	36,232	36,210	34,425
Civil	19,108	19,666	17,734	19,991	16,306
Landlord/Tenant	14,075	14,551	14,809	14,337	14,276
Non-Traffic	50,068	51,657	52,841	51,219	45,253
Private Criminal Complaint	13,674	12,661	11,677	11,736	10,831
Traffic	161,227	170,197	175,024	185,186	159,181
Total	292,063	304,112	308,317	318,679	280,272

As illustrated in the above chart, filings in magisterial district courts have generally risen over the past five years, with the exception of 2009 when there was a significant decrease. One reason for the smaller overall 2009 total is the significant decrease in filings in Pittsburgh Municipal Court (PMC) from 72,735 in 2008 to 62,290 in 2009. Of the 48 magisterial district courts, 11 experienced increased filings while 18 courts had significantly lower filings in 2009 than in 2008. It should be noted, however, that 2008 filings were exceptionally high due to the “click it or ticket” campaign carried out by police with the goal of raising awareness of the need for seat belts.

The G20 Summit was held in Pittsburgh on September 24 and 25. A majority of both private



Magisterial district courts administration staff. Seated (l-r): Pamela Brown, Darlene DeVentura. Standing (l-r): Robin Shook, Helen Jackson, Ken Jugan, and Maureen Bryant.



Newly-elected magisterial district judges (l-r): Anthony Ceoffe, James A. Motznik, Armand Martin, Maureen McGraw-Desmet, and Derwin Rushing are sworn in by President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel and will begin their terms January 4, 2010.

and public entities were not open for business on those two days, and some were not open for the entire week. Due to the increased presence of law enforcement throughout the judicial district and very strict traffic restrictions within the city, the typical number of traffic citations filed with all courts was greatly reduced.

The judicial district prepared to activate its

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS

FILINGS BY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT							
COURT	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	LANDLORD/ TENANT	NON- TRAFFIC	PRIVATE SUMMARY	TRAFFIC	TOTAL
05-0-03	13,830	0	1	8,842	79	39,898	62,290
05-0-04	43	0	0	0	0	0	43
05-2-01	611	280	322	1,052	682	6,565	9,512
05-2-02	810	361	135	757	480	4,213	6,756
05-2-03	788	435	196	901	209	4,339	6,868
05-2-04	402	290	128	911	39	3,172	4,942
05-2-05	424	396	221	1,018	101	2,612	4,772
05-2-06	752	685	475	759	344	1,297	4,312
05-2-07	544	354	415	709	324	3,024	5,370
05-2-08	391	163	107	667	856	3,498	5,682
05-2-09	581	227	405	1,205	120	3,828	6,366
05-2-10	583	253	691	1,042	183	822	3,574
05-2-11	543	429	335	958	170	4,060	6,495
05-2-12	450	474	65	523	336	4,600	6,448
05-2-13	726	504	764	2,174	11	2,271	6,450
05-2-14	946	587	164	652	573	1,914	4,836
05-2-15	598	284	224	1,497	200	4,148	6,951
05-2-16	497	359	157	543	78	3,264	4,898
05-2-17	376	257	204	371	95	3,677	4,980
05-2-18	940	312	232	703	38	2,383	4,608
05-2-19	522	308	212	1,230	106	4,115	6,493
05-2-20	594	290	104	627	161	2,986	4,762
05-2-21	538	375	79	459	388	3,996	5,835
05-2-22	514	354	72	395	65	2,190	3,590
05-2-23	523	340	167	1,035	98	2,935	5,098
05-2-25	929	497	238	823	93	3,621	6,201
05-2-26	200	372	80	537	84	987	2,260
05-2-27	0	350	487	915	51	2,730	4,533
05-2-28	1	448	1,213	748	295	490	3,195
05-2-31	0	391	952	549	123	39	2,054
05-2-32	326	231	195	261	119	1,112	2,244
05-2-35	0	270	287	475	25	917	1,974
05-2-36	104	202	292	88	46	7	739
05-2-38	127	295	272	711	87	164	1,656
05-2-40	0	311	582	211	56	306	1,466
05-2-42	0	278	613	1,519	48	71	2,529
05-2-43	374	385	324	340	169	2,838	4,430
05-2-46	453	406	52	407	258	4,825	6,401
05-2-47	737	446	480	1,493	351	2,886	6,393
05-3-02	134	146	40	197	12	4,319	4,848
05-3-03	510	246	51	588	170	4,089	5,654
05-3-04	364	147	20	380	728	2,131	3,770
05-3-05	221	217	55	255	37	830	1,615
05-3-06	1,109	320	401	1,698	143	3,041	6,712
05-3-09	535	460	185	1,468	1,642	1,319	5,609
05-3-10	0	155	152	145	22	29	503
05-3-12	0	252	490	884	99	32	1,757
05-3-13	0	193	232	355	58	437	1,275
05-3-14	303	451	569	926	255	1,154	3,658
05-3-17	472	520	139	610	124	5,000	6,865
TOTAL	34,425	16,306	14,276	45,253	10,831	159,181	280,272

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) during the G20 Summit. A plan was developed allowing for the possible closure of some courts and consolidation of all cases in other courts. Fortunately, the impact outside of the city was minimal and the Court Administrative Office did not have to activate the plan. However, suburban magisterial district judges were assigned to PMC and staff volunteered for duty there during the summit.

During 2009, the Court Administrative Office began performing procedural audits of magisterial district courts to ensure that all courts are in compliance with Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts’ procedures as well as those of the Fifth Judicial District. Procedural Auditor Robin Shook performed ten procedural audits throughout the year.

Also during 2009, the administrative office began thrice-yearly meetings with magisterial district courts’ secretarial staffs. Favorably received by the participants, the meetings serve as an informational forum linking magisterial district court and administrative staff.

PITTSBURGH MUNICIPAL COURT

To promote public trust and confidence in the judicial system by providing quality service to the public and law enforcement agencies in an impartial, efficient, and effective manner.

Pittsburgh Municipal Court (PMC) is committed to the expeditious and accurate processing of criminal cases and traffic and non-traffic citations. PMC strives to provide professional service to the public and law enforcement agencies that transact business with the court.

In 2009, the Arraignment Division of PMC conducted 20,227 arraignments and continued to utilize two-way simultaneous audio-visual communication to conduct preliminary arraignments

pursuant to Pa.R.Crim.P. 540. Video conferencing has been increasingly utilized to arraign accused individuals housed in corrections facilities throughout Pennsylvania.

In addition to preliminary arraignments, PMC's Arraignment Division processes the filing of criminal complaints, the issuance of arrest warrants and search warrants, and conducts marriage ceremonies. The division collects bail after regular business hours, and on weekends and holidays. In 2009, PMC collected \$1,315,576 representing bail, collateral on traffic and non-traffic cases, and Department of Court Records' fees.

Responsible for processing Emergency Protection from Abuse (PFA) Petitions beginning at 11:00 a.m. each weekday and 24 hours on weekends and holidays, PMC adjudicated 2,831 emergency PFA's

Magisterial District Judge	Court Number	Sessions Assigned	¹ PMC Cases	MDJ Court Filings In 2009	² Total Filings Per MDJ
Eugene Ricciardi	05-2-27	83	4,025	4,515	8,540
Oscar Petite	05-2-28	101	4,897	3,290	8,187
Ron Costa	05-2-31	112	5,431	2,053	7,484
Nathan Firestone	05-2-35	93	4,510	1,974	6,484
James Hanley	05-2-36	132	6,401	742	7,143
Charles McLaughlin	05-2-38	107	5,188	1,668	6,856
³ Vacant	05-2-40	107	5,188	1,470	6,658
Robert Ravenstahl	05-2-42	97	4,704	2,529	7,233
Eugene Zielmanski	05-3-10	166	8,049	503	8,552
Kevin Cooper	05-3-12	99	4,801	1,756	6,557
Randy Martini	05-3-13	151	7,322	1,275	8,597
Richard King	05-3-14	63	3,055	3,735	6,790
⁴ Carla Swearingen	05-2-43	2	97	4,534	4,631
Totals		1,313	63,668	30,044	93,712

¹ Equals Yearly Session Assigned x 48.49.
² Equals PMC Filings + MDJ Court Filings.
³ This office is vacant due to Judge Cathleen Bubash's election to the Court of Common Pleas.
⁴ Magisterial District Judge Carla Swearingen sits in a Friday rotation only because the majority of filings in her district are from Robinson Township.

PITTSBURGH MUNICIPAL COURT



Litigants and citizens waiting for cases to be called at Pittsburgh Municipal Court.

in 2009. Additionally, magisterial district judges conducted 103 marriage ceremonies in 2009.

Of the 63,668 cases filed at PMC's Non-Traffic, Traffic, and Criminal Divisions, 13,785 were criminal, 9,491 were non-traffic, 40,308 were traffic, and 84 were private complaints. PMC's Criminal Division conducts preliminary hearings for all offenses that occur within the City of Pittsburgh wherein the accused is charged with homicide and for Allegheny County Act 33 offenders.

PMC collected \$4,186,907 in fines and fees for traffic and non-traffic citations in 2009. As mandated by state law, the funds were distributed as follows:

County of Allegheny	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	City of Pittsburgh
\$704,658	\$2,002,393	\$1,479,856

PMC was well-prepared for additional cases that may have resulted from the G20 Summit, which was held in Pittsburgh. Prior to the G20 Summit, the entire PMC staff was cross-trained on the arraignment and summary offense processes. Additionally, staff members from other magisterial district courts were trained to assist during the G20 Summit. PMC was equipped, if necessary, to operate eight arraignment courts for every hour of the G20 Summit. Pittsburgh Police made 194 arrests during the G20 Summit, which necessitated the operation of four arraignment courts housed in the PMC building and staffed 24 hours each day from September 23, 2009 through September 26, 2009. Magisterial district judges from the entire county volunteered to preside at the arraignment courts. In the weeks following the summit, extra court sessions were held to accommodate the G20 cases. A valuable learning tool, organizing staff and operations within Allegheny County for the summit provided PMC the opportunity to reassess case flow management and improve procedures.

TRANSITIONS

On January 23, 2009, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed the **Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning** to serve as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division of the Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.

Judge Manning began his civic duty in 1973 when he became an Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County. In 1976, he was appointed to a position with the U.S. Department of Justice and served as an assistant U.S. attorney where he became one of the government's top prosecutors. He was named Senior Litigation Counsel for Western Pennsylvania and was one of only sixty-three lawyers nationwide with this designation. Judge Manning was subsequently chosen to serve as First Assistant U.S. Attorney. In 1988, Governor Casey appointed Judge Manning to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Judge Manning was then elected in 1989 and retained in 1999 and 2009.

Judge Manning has served as an adjunct professor of law teaching trial advocacy at Duquesne University and also counseling its moot court teams. He has performed volunteer work for the American Inns of Court and served on committees for the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. He was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing from 2002 to 2009.

Judge Manning has been actively involved with the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) his entire career. He served twenty-five years as a member of the Bench-Bar Conference Committee and as Conference Chair in 1985. In 1981, he was elected to a three-year term on the Judiciary Committee, and beginning in 1984 he was elected five times, and served more than eighteen years on the Board of Governors.

In 2002, Judge Manning received the celebrated Philip Werner Amram Award, which is awarded to a member of the ACBA who has made outstanding contributions to the ACBA, its Bench-Bar Conference, and the community at large.



The **Honorable David N. Wecht**, appointed on January 23, 2009 by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as Family Division Administrative Judge, has been serving in the division since February 2003 as a gubernatorial appointee. "Highly Recommended" by the Allegheny County Bar Association, Judge Wecht was elected to a ten-year term that same November.

Before serving on the bench, Judge Wecht was elected twice as Allegheny County Register of Wills. An elected member of Pennsylvania's Democratic State Committee, he was the party's vice-chair, 1998-2001.

As Register of Wills, Judge Wecht initiated many improvements, including the creation of a will consultation program free of charge for senior citizens and the drafting of a state law that prevents control of victims' estates by accused murderers.

Judge Wecht, a graduate of Yale College, *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, and Yale Law School, was selected as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. After his 1987-1988 clerkship, Judge Wecht practiced law with firms located in Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh until his judicial appointment.

Most recently, Administrative Judge Wecht has implemented changes to the structure of Family Division by combining the adult and juvenile sections into a unified family court. Administrative Judge Wecht promotes the "One Judge, One Family" concept as a "best practice" for the Family Division of the Allegheny County Common Pleas Court.



Five new judges will begin bench careers in January 2010.

The **Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III**, was appointed in 2008 by Governor Ed Rendell to Pennsylvania's Fifth Judicial District and was elected to a ten-year term in November 2009. Judge Williams, 57, of Penn Hills, was assigned to the Criminal Division where he practiced for 23 years as

TRANSITIONS

a defense attorney. As a litigator in both Common Pleas Court and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, he also specialized in real estate development, contracts, international transactions, and estate and trusts.

A Pittsburgh native, Judge Williams won a scholarship, allowing him to attend Yale University for his junior and senior years of high school. He returned to Carnegie Mellon University for his undergraduate education, earning a B.A. in Psychology. At the University of Pittsburgh, he earned a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology and completed course requirements for a doctoral degree. In 1985, Judge Williams graduated from Duquesne University School of Law with a *Juris Doctorate*.



The Hon. Joseph K. Williams, III takes the oath of office while his wife, Darryl, holds the bible. Photo courtesy of Sean Donnelly/Pittsburgh Tribune Review.



The **Honorable Susan Evashavik DiLucente**, 46, served as the magisterial district judge (MDJ) since 2002 for Forest Hills, Wilkins, Churchill, and Edgewood. She maintained a private practice while an MDJ concentrating on estate and family law with a firm founded by her father, Jerry, and current Court of Common Pleas Judge Michael A. Della Vecchia. Prior to becoming an MDJ, Judge Evashavik's law practice focused on personal injury and municipal law, representing many communities and the Allegheny County Port Authority.

Following two years of undergraduate study at Illinois' Northwestern University, Judge Evashavik transferred to D.C.'s American University where she earned a B.A. degree in International Relations in 1984 and also worked as a congressional assistant for U. S. Representative William J. Coyne while completing her degree. She earned her *Juris Doctorate* in 1989 from Dickinson School of Law. Graduating in the top 20% of her law class, Judge Evashavik was a member of Dickinson's Moot Court Team and honored with the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award.



Judge Evashavik DiLucente is administered the oath of office accompanied by parents, Girard and Carol Evashavik.



The **Honorable Philip A. Ignelzi**, 53, was in private practice since 1988 as a partner in the firm of Ogg, Cordes, Murphy & Ignelzi, specializing in plaintiff's personal injury/medical malpractice and other complex cases while also litigating white collar criminal defense. For the four years prior to private practice, he was an assistant U. S. attorney, a federal prosecutor in the criminal division. He clerked for U. S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania Judge Donald Ziegler for two years following law school.

Judge Ignelzi earned his undergraduate degree in business administration with a major in accounting from the University of Dayton in 1978. He earned his J.D. from the University of



TRANSITIONS

Pittsburgh School of Law in 1981, Order of the Coif, *cum laude*.



Judge Ignelzi takes the oath of office accompanied by his family. (l-r): Marianne Ignelzi, Sarah Ignelzi, Judge Ignelzi, and Jim Burns.

The **Honorable Arnold I. Klein**, 48, after working two years as an assistant Allegheny County public defender in the trial division, has been a general practitioner for the past 22 years handling all types of cases from traffic tickets to homicides. As a partner at Bacharach and Klein, Judge Klein focused on asbestos defense litigation, plaintiffs' personal injury, criminal defense, guardianships, and juvenile law.



Judge Klein celebrates his oath of office with his wife, Sara, and mother, Mildred.

He was court-appointed counsel to represent both criminal and orphans' court litigants and served as a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Elder Law Committee.

After earning his B.A. degree *summa cum laude* with majors in business administration and economics at the University of Pittsburgh, Judge Klein obtained his law degree at the university's law school in 1986. He is proud to be following in his father's footsteps, the late Judge Beryl Klein who served as a Beaver County judge from 1972-1979.

The **Honorable Donald R. Walko, Jr.**, 56, has represented Pennsylvania's 20th legislative district for the past 15 years. A member of the House Judiciary Committee for the last 12 years, he was serving as the chair for its subcommittee on courts when elected as a judge. Prior to election to the state General Assembly, Judge Walko practiced law for five years with two local firms, Kennedy, Cannon & Devinney and Alan Hertzberg & Associates before Judge Hertzberg was elected to the bench.

Judge Walko earned his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1975 at the Pennsylvania State



Family members (l-r): daughter Jessika, wife Julie, daughter Gabriella, son Nathaniel, father Don Sr., and son Nicholas, celebrate with Judge Walko at his oath of office ceremony.

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University. He studied law at Dickinson School of Law, earning his J.D. in 1978.

The **Honorable Michael F. Marmo**, appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell to fill a judicial vacancy in the Fifth Judicial District due to the resignation in May 2009 of the Honorable Robert P. Horgos, took his seat on the bench on September 1st. Assigned to the Family Division, Judge Marmo's commission expires in January 2012. He may seek a full ten-year term in the 2011 judicial election.

Judge Marmo has been a sole practitioner for 16 years concentrating on real estate law, elder law, estate planning, probate, and representation of small businesses. Since 1995, he has served as a special master with the Allegheny County Board of Viewers hearing property assessment appeals and eminent domain cases. He was the Emsworth Borough tax collector for 13 years beginning in 1982 and Allegheny County Deputy Recorder of Deeds from 1984 to 1995.

From 1995 to the present, Judge Marmo has been an adjunct professor at the Community College of Allegheny County teaching continuing legal education and paralegal program courses. He has been an adjunct professor at the Duquesne School of Law, his alma mater, since 2001. Before



Judge Marmo takes the oath of office while his wife, Kathy, holds the bible.

earning his *Juris Doctor*, Judge Marmo earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh and an MPA at Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Required by state law to retire at age 70, Judges Lee J. Mazur, Timothy Patrick O'Reilly, and Frank J. Lucchino completed their Court of Common Pleas commissions at year's end. Each will continue with the court as a senior judge.

The **Honorable Lee J. Mazur**, first appointed to the court by Governor Robert Casey in 1987 and reappointed in 1988, won election to a 10-year term in 1989 and retention in 1999. Elected as Plum Borough's district justice in 1970, Judge Mazur's 40-year judicial career followed a legal path that included public and private practice. After a law clerk position with Federal Judge Rosenberg in 1964, Judge Mazur worked with Neighborhood Legal Services (1965-68) and the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender (1969-1970). From 1970 to 1988, Judge Mazur coordinated and taught the paralegal program at the Community College of Allegheny. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1966 to 1972.

For the last 12 years, Judge Mazur has been assigned to the Orphans' Court Division but previously served in the other three divisions (Criminal, 1987; Family, 1990-1994; and Civil, 1994-1998). He will return to the Civil Division as a senior judge.

Judge Mazur graduated from Saint Vincent College in 1961 with a B.A. in economics. He earned his law degree at the West Virginia University School of Law.

The **Honorable Timothy Patrick O'Reilly** was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1995 and was retained in 2005. Initially assigned to the Juvenile Section of the Family Division, Judge

TRANSITIONS

O'Reilly last served in the Civil Division, where he will remain as a senior judge. Prior to becoming a judge, he was an elected district justice (1970-76) and while maintaining a private law practice was the solicitor for various municipalities and counsel for the National Labor Relations Board (1965-1969). From 1964 to 1970, Judge O'Reilly was a member of the U. S. Air Force Reserves.

In 1961, Judge O'Reilly graduated *cum laude* from Duquesne University. He earned his J.D. in 1964 at Yale Law School.

The **Honorable Frank J. Lucchino** has been the Orphans' Court Division administrative judge since 2002. Judge Lucchino served for one year in both the Family Division and Civil Division before assignment to Orphans' Court, where he will continue as a senior judge. He was elected to the common pleas bench in 1999 after 20 years as Allegheny County Controller (1980-2000) and practicing law for over 35 years as a partner with Grogan, Graffam, McGinley & Lucchino. Prior to controller, he was a Pittsburgh city councilman from 1974 to 1978 and a district justice from 1970 to 1973.

Judge Lucchino earned both his B.S. degree (1961) in engineering and J.D. (1964) from the University of Pittsburgh.

The retirement of the **Honorable Robert P. Horgos** from the Court of Common Pleas on May 1, 2009 was the culmination of a successful judicial career that spanned more than two decades. He was first elected to the bench in 1983 and subsequently retained for two additional 10-year terms in 1994 and 2004. He served in both the Criminal Division and the Civil Division, where he presided over many complex litigation cases involving asbestos, toxic torts, and class-action lawsuits.

After receiving his law degree from Villanova University in 1973, Judge Horgos launched his legal career by working for two years as a special trial

lawyer for the Allegheny County Public Defender's Office. His career continued to snowball with ongoing achievements. He served as a solicitor for the Clerk of Courts; Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County; Deputy County Solicitor; a member of the Pennsylvania Task Force for the Revision of Eminent Domain Laws; solicitor for the Neville Township Civil Service Commission; and a certified instructor at the Allegheny County Police Academy. He was appointed by the state Supreme Court in 2000 to serve on the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, where he became president judge. He also dabbled in politics by serving as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1981 and 1982.

The **Honorable Judith F. Olson** won one of three seats on Pennsylvania's Superior Court among a field of nine candidates in November's general election. A Common Pleas judicial gubernatorial appointee in October 2008, Judge Olson had since been serving in the Civil Division. Prior to the Common Pleas bench appointment, Judge Olson practiced law for 27 years specializing in complex commercial litigation and white-collar criminal cases.

Judge Olson transferred from Albright College to Saint Francis College where in 1979 she earned a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in Political Science. She graduated from Duquesne Law School in 1982, *cum laude*, ranked second in her class and a member of the Law Review. After clerking for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Judge Olson went into private practice.

Throughout her legal career, Judge Olson has been an active member of professional associations while also teaching and lecturing on legal subjects. She has extensive community service involvement as a volunteer with the Heart Association, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Operation Good Neighbor Foundation, and the Pastoral Council for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

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James Rieland Retires After 34 Years of Service

What began as a college internship in 1974 evolved into a lifetime career of helping juveniles for James Rieland.

After 15 years as a juvenile probation officer, Rieland was promoted to Juvenile Court placement manager in 1990. He left the court in 1994 to become the deputy director of casework services for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families.

With Rieland's return to Juvenile Court in 1997 as director of Juvenile Court Services, he embarked on a mission to implement "Balanced and Restorative Justice" (BARJ), a program for children who commit delinquent acts in the county. Pennsylvania was the first state to adopt a statutory mission based on the principles of BARJ. Rieland chaired the Balanced and Restorative Justice Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers from 1998 until 2004.

Rieland also spearheaded the creation of the Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP) in 1990. Community centers now operate in Garfield, Homewood, the Hill District, Wilkinsburg, and McKeesport as an alternative to institutionalizing repeat juvenile offenders.

In 2005, Rieland was appointed director of Allegheny County Probation, a position that required him to be responsible for an annual budget of more than \$60 million, a staff of approximately 500 people, and all adults and juveniles serving probation in Allegheny County. The annual number of offenders supervised by the Probation department typically includes approximately 17,000 adults and 5,000 juveniles.

Rieland received both his Bachelor's Degree in the administration of justice and his Master's Degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. In November 2009, he was honored



James Rieland, left, received the Dennis M. Maloney Award in 2009 for his work to bring the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice to Pennsylvania. Berks County Judge Arthur Grim presented the award to Rieland, who recently retired as director of Allegheny County Probation Services.

with the Dennis M. Maloney Award in recognition of his dedication to furthering BARJ principles throughout the state. He was recognized in 2007 as Juvenile Court Administrator of the Year by the National Juvenile Court Services Association and as Pennsylvania's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in 2002.

Rieland, who retired at the end of 2009 as director of Allegheny County's Adult and Juvenile Probation Services, said there is nothing he would do differently if he could go back in time.