

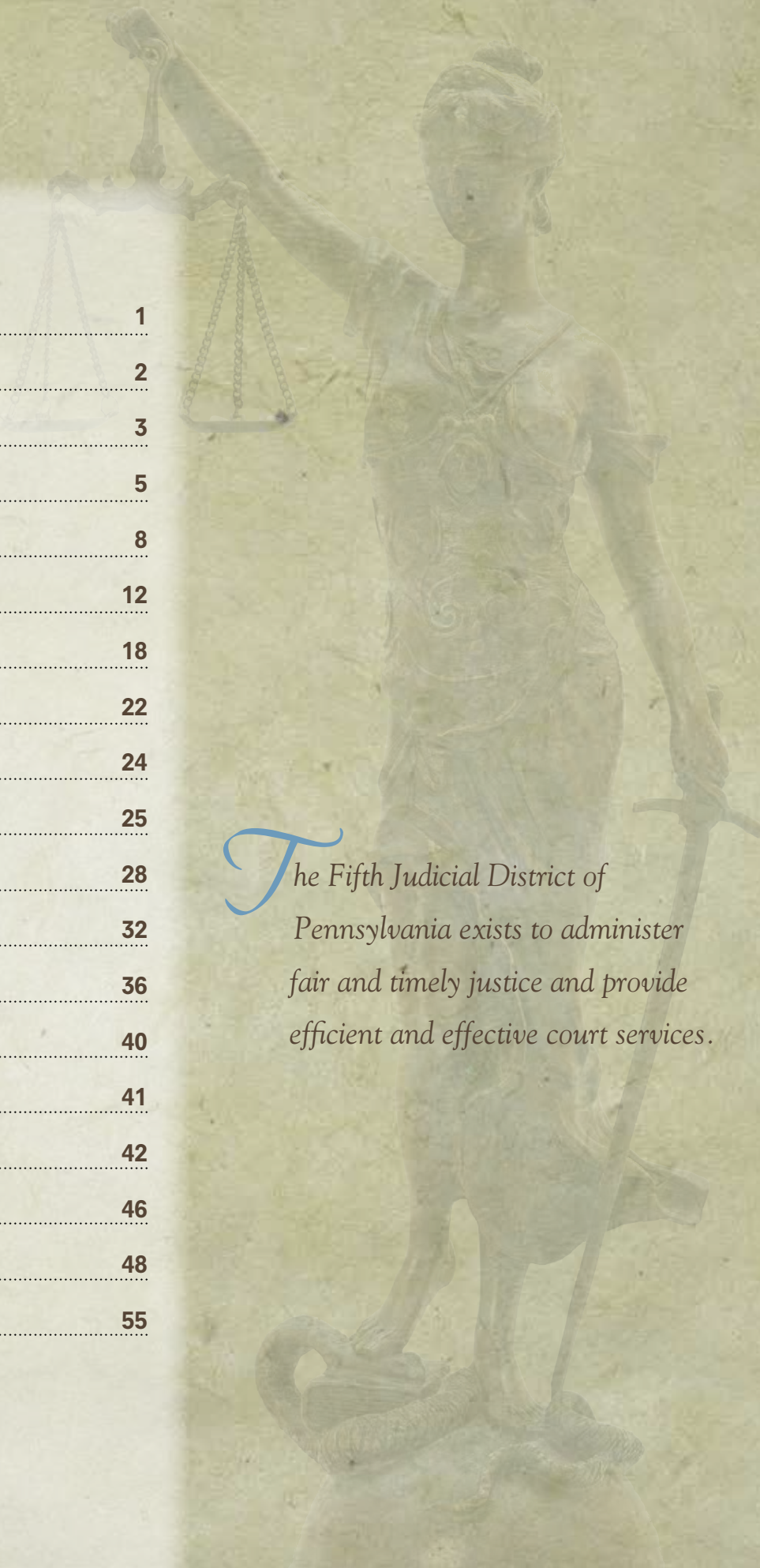


Annual Report



Table of Contents

President Judge and District Court Administrator's Message	1
Board of Judges Photo	2
Organizational Structure.....	3
Highlights and Accomplishments	5
Court Administration	8
Criminal Division	12
Adult Probation	18
Pretrial Services.....	22
Family Division	24
Adult Section	25
Juvenile Section	28
Children's Court	32
Civil Division	36
Arbitration	40
Board of Viewers	41
Orphans' Court Division	42
Summary Appeals	46
Magisterial District Courts.....	48
Pittsburgh Municipal Court.....	55



*The Fifth Judicial District of
Pennsylvania exists to administer
fair and timely justice and provide
efficient and effective court services.*

President Judge District Court Administrator's Message

We are pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, highlighting a year of continued innovation and system improvements. The Court experienced transition with the retirement of District Court Administrator Claire C. Capristo, Esquire and Human Resources Manager Charles Kennedy, both of whom possessed decades of Court system experience.

Existing resources were leveraged by the Court throughout 2015, and grant funding was obtained to enhance current programs and employ new projects for expanded services to the community including:

- The opening of a third Adult Probation Community Resource Center in the Monongahela Valley region of Allegheny County with the support of grant funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency;
- Implementation of evidence-based practices in Adult Probation through expanded staff training and development of dashboards for probation officers working in the field with the support of a Department of Justice-Bureau of Justice Assistance SMART Supervision grant;
- Selection by The Center for Court Innovation as one of four jurisdictions across the country to participate in an operational assessment in an effort to advance procedural justice;
- Termination of 31,174 inactive civil cases pursuant to Local Rule of Judicial Administration 1901;
- Partnering with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts to develop and test a statewide Orphans' Court case management and electronic filing system;
- Implementation of the statewide Common Pleas Case Management System for juvenile delinquency and dependency cases; and
- Collaboration between the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, the Family Division Children's Court and Juvenile Probation, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services-Office of Children Youth and Families led to the development of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). This initiative will improve outcomes for juveniles involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

These are a few examples of accomplishments of the Fifth Judicial District that support our mission of providing efficient and effective Court services. We invite you to look over the following pages that highlight additional achievements and services.



Linda L. Kelly, Esq. was appointed to serve as District Court Administrator of the Fifth Judicial District effective February 17, 2016. She served as Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 2011 to 2013 and was formerly employed for 30 years as a federal prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, where she served as senior litigation counsel, First Assistant United States Attorney, and twice appointed Acting United States Attorney.



Jeffrey A. Manning
President Judge

Claire C. Capristo, Esq.
District Court Administrator



Board *of* Judges

First Row:

Lawrence J. O'Toole
David R. Cashman
Jeffrey A. Manning
Kim Berkeley Clark
Timothy Patrick O'Reilly
R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.

Second Row:

Christine A. Ward
Arnold I. Klein
Michael A. Della Vecchia
Michael F. Marmo
Edward J. Borkowski
Philip A. Ignelzi
Kathleen R. Mulligan
Kathleen A. Durkin

Third Row:

Paul F. Luty, Jr.
Paul E. Cozza
Jill E. Rangos
Dwayne D. Woodruff
Donna Jo McDaniel
Joseph M. James
Alexander P. Bicket
Kathryn M. Hens-Greco

Fourth Row:

Mark V. Tranquilli
Kevin G. Sasinoski
Thomas E. Flaherty
William F. Ward
Cathleen Bubash
John A. Zottola
Guido A. DeAngelis

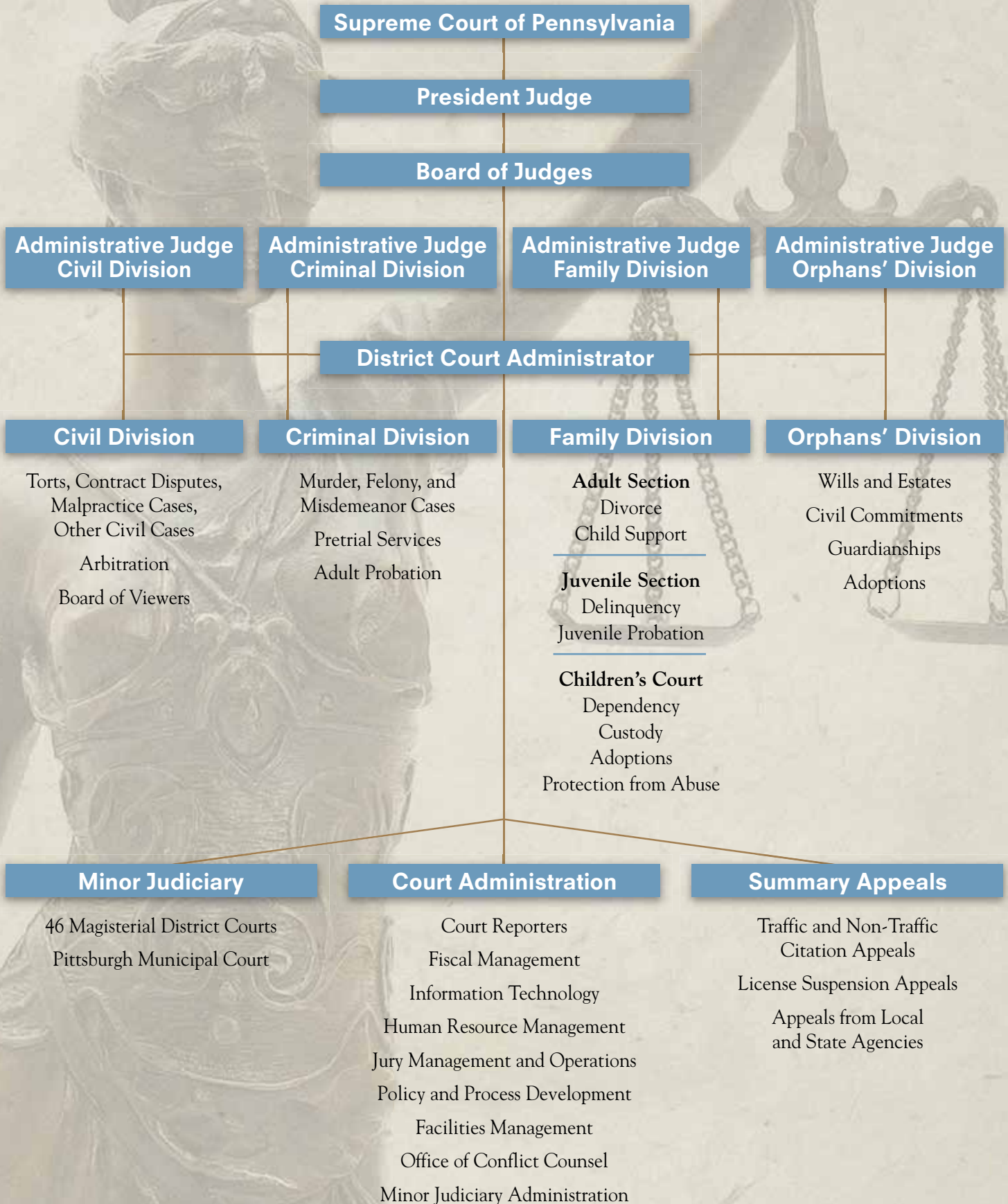
Fifth Row:

Jennifer Satler
Donald R. Walko, Jr.
Alan D. Hertzberg
Lester G. Nauhaus
John T. McVay, Jr.
Robert J. Colville
Anthony M. Mariani
Joseph K. Williams, III

Not Pictured:

Gerard M. Bigley
Kelly Eileen Bigley
Eleanor L. Bush
Kim D. Eaton
Susan Evashavik DiLucente
Ronald W. Folino
Judith L.A. Friedman
Robert C. Gallo
Robert A. Kelly
Beth A. Lazzara
Frank J. Lucchino
Lee J. Mazur
Michael E. McCarthy
W. Terrence O'Brien
Randal B. Todd

Organizational Structure





This statue was donated by grandchildren of the late John R. DeAngelis, Esq. to the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania in 2012. The statue is currently on display in the courtroom of Judge Guido A. DeAngelis in the Family Law Center.

Highlights Accomplishments

Judge Alan D. Hertzberg Awarded the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award

Judge Alan D. Hertzberg was selected to receive an Excellence Award in the Community Services category from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network at their annual banquet in March 2015.

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, whose mission is to ensure equal access to justice for Pennsylvanians facing civil legal issues, honors individuals and groups who exemplify excellence in improving the quality of civil legal services for low income individuals.

Judge Hertzberg garnered two awards for his dedication to pro bono initiatives in 2009. He was honored with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's 2008 Judicial Service Award for being a consistent supporter of pro bono legal services to the indigent. He received the Pennsylvania Bar Association's 2009 Judge's Award primarily as a result of the work he performed while serving in the Family Division at volunteer training programs. His involvement as a member of the administrative board of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership has also been valuable in the creation and implementation of legal services programs.

Judge Hertzberg received nominations for the Excellence Award from multiple organizations including the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, and Pittsburgh law firms.



Wesley Payne, Board President of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN), presents Judge Alan D. Hertzberg with the Excellence Award at the PLAN annual banquet in March 2015.

Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network — Marty Ginter, Photographer.



Criminal Justice Advisory Board – Joseph Asturi Appointed Honorary Member of the Allegheny County Chiefs of Police Association

Joseph Asturi, Governmental Affairs Administrator for the Fifth Judicial District, has devoted a significant number of work hours to the Allegheny County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) and law enforcement in developing conviction integrity initiatives. In partnership with Facilitator John Rago and the entire CJAB, Joe has worked with state legislators, Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., and city and municipal law enforcement officers in drafting legislation regarding the electronic recording of custodial interrogations, eyewitness examination reform, uniformed police wearing body cameras, and in drafting proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act. Initial reform efforts were concentrated on science-based and experience-tested best practices and are aimed at restoring and maintaining public confidence in law enforcement. In recognition of his efforts, Joe was appointed an honorary member of the Allegheny County Chiefs of Police Association in February 2015.



Judge Eleanor L. Bush Receives Awards in Recognition of her Advocacy for Children

The Honorable Eleanor L. Bush was named Child Advocate of the Year in April 2015 by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Children's Rights Committee in recognition of her distinguished advocacy for children. The Children's Rights Committee was established to study issues affecting children, to monitor and make recommendations concerning legislation, and to promote effective advocacy on behalf of children involved in the court system.

Prior to her judicial career, Judge Bush served as the legal instruction manager for Family Design Resources in Harrisburg and provided legal training and consultation for paralegals and social workers employed in child welfare agencies under the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network. She served as a consultant for the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, as the Legal Director at KidsVoice, as Staff Attorney for the Juvenile Law Center, and as assistant counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Judge Bush currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Children's Rights Committee.

Judge Bush was also honored with the Outstanding Service to Adoption Award by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Advisory Committee at their 23rd Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference in June 2014. SWAN, a partnership among the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, public and private adoption agencies, advocates, judges, the legal community, and foster and adoptive parents, strives to build better collaborative adoption processes in Pennsylvania. The Outstanding Service to Adoption Award was originated to recognize individuals, families, and corporations who, through noble work, educate the public and advance the administration of justice and public opinion of adoption.



Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Judge Bush accepts the Child Advocate of the Year Award.
L-R: Jennifer Pokempner, Esq.—Child Welfare Policy Director/Juvenile Law Center, Judge Jennifer S. McCrady-former Supervising Attorney/KidsVoice, Judge Eleanor L. Bush, Scott Hollander, Esq.—Executive Director/KidsVoice, Judge Christylee Peck—Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas, Lucy Johnston-Walsh, Esq.—Clinical Professor/Penn State Dickinson Law School.

Elections

In November 2015, **Judge Jennifer Staley McCrady** won election to serve a ten-year term in the Fifth Judicial District-Court of Common Pleas. Prior to being elected, Judge McCrady devoted her career to serving children and families. She was employed from 2000 to 2015 as a supervising attorney and Program and Policy Coordinator for KidsVoice, a multidisciplinary child advocacy organization, and as a teacher/counselor at The Whale's Tale shelter for at-risk boys (now Family Links), where she earned a "Staff Member of the Year" award in 1995. She left Family Links when she was provided an opportunity through the Civil and Family Justice Law Clinic at Duquesne University to become a certified intern for Legal Aid for Children, a position that allowed her to work as a legal advocate while still a law student. Judge McCrady performed her undergraduate studies at John Carroll and Duquesne Universities, and in 2002, earned a Juris Doctorate from Duquesne University School of Law. While working and attending law school, she volunteered for the Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA), serving one family for seven years and earning recognition as "Volunteer of the Year" in 2000. Judge McCrady has been assigned to the Family Division of the Court.



Judge Jennifer S. McCrady takes the oath of office accompanied by her husband, TJ McCrady, and her daughter, Charley.



Judge Hugh F. McGough takes the oath of office, administered by Judge Christine A. Ward, for the Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Hugh F. McGough was successful in his bid for election in November 2015 to a ten-year term in the Fifth Judicial District-Court of Common Pleas. He received a B.A. in English from Columbia College in 1978, a M.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University in 1982, and earned his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1992. Prior to being elected to the Common Pleas bench, Judge McGough held a clerk position for the Honorable Glenn E. Mencer, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He was an associate lawyer at the law firm of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, L.L.P., where he focused on employment and labor litigation, discrimination claims, and benefits administration, and served as Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh, where he counseled the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police in achieving reforms and addressed ordinance issues. In 2007, Judge McGough returned to the private sector and focused on employment, municipal, and criminal law, though he continued to be active in police reform and oversight serving as solicitor for the Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board. Most recently, Judge McGough was a Magisterial District Judge for District Court 05-2-35, encompassing Pittsburgh Wards 7 and 14, since 2012.

Prior to being elected to the Common Pleas bench in November 2015, **Judge Daniel D. Regan** was a partner at the law firm of Caputo, Caputo & Regan where he practiced general litigation and municipal law. He formerly served as a law clerk for the late Honorable John P. Hester in the Superior Court of Pennsylvania drafting opinions in criminal and civil appeal cases. He subsequently joined the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney where he served as an area prosecutor for the City of Pittsburgh, supervised the County's Nuisance Bar Task Force, prosecuted jury and non-jury trials, and presented cases to the Allegheny County Grand Jury. He was appointed as Solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh in 2009, where, among other accomplishments, he partnered with Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr. to create the City's Nuisance Property Task Force (NPTF) to identify problem properties and to facilitate cleanup or demolition. Judge Regan attended New York University, where he volunteered for the President's Community Service Team, and earned his law degree from the Yeshiva University Cardozo School of Law. He was awarded the Revson Law Student Public Interest Fellowship, which he served with the New York Attorney General Investor Protection Bureau. He currently sits on the Board of the Pittsburgh Marathon and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh.



The Honorable Daniel D. Regan takes the oath of office while his mother, Alice Regan, holds the Bible.

Court Administration



Claire C. Capristo, Esq.
District Court Administrator



Joseph Asturi
Governmental Affairs
Administrator



Russell Carlino
Administrator,
Juvenile Probation



Sean F. Collins
Director,
Information Technology



Christopher H. Connors, Esq.
Chief Deputy Court Administrator



Lisa Herbert, Esq.
Deputy Court Administrator



Lindsay Hildenbrand
Director,
Jury Operations



Charles Kennedy
Manager, Court Human Resources
(Retired July 2015)



Gary J. Kushner
Manager,
Office of Court Reporters



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



Thomas M. McCaffrey
Administrator,
Criminal Division



Michele Poulos
Manager,
Fiscal Affairs



Patrick W. Quinn, Esq.
Administrator,
Family Division



Janice Radovick Dean
Director,
Pretrial Services



Daniel Reilly
Manager,
Facilities



Melinda Sala, Esq.
Manager, Court Human Resources
(Effective November 16, 2015)



Francis "Frank" J. Scherer
Director, Adult Probation
(Effective August 2015)



Ronald J. Seyko
Director, Adult Probation
(Retired April 2015)



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



Angharad Grimes Stock, Esq.
Administrator,
Pittsburgh Municipal Court
Deputy Administrator,
Special Courts



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

Retirements

Claire C. Capristo, Esq. Announces 2016 Retirement

After 11 years of dedicated service to the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, District Court Administrator Claire C. Capristo, Esquire retired in mid-January 2016. Ms. Capristo joined the court as Chief Deputy Court Administrator, and in 2012 was appointed District Court Administrator. During her tenure with the court, she provided support and guidance in a vast array of projects to improve court operations and spearheaded innovative initiatives in program development and sustainability, performance management, budgeting, and information technology. She authored and implemented numerous protocols, both court-wide and departmental, governing conduct of court employees to enhance professionalism and ensure fair and objective guidelines that reflect the court's mission and goals.



Claire C. Capristo, Esq. retired from her position as District Court Administrator of the Fifth Judicial District of PA in January 2016.

Retirement of Charles Kennedy

Charles Kennedy retired in July 2015 after nearly 37 years of employment with the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. He began his career in 1979 as a Facilities Coordinator and subsequently served as an Administrative Assistant. In 1996, Mr. Kennedy's position was re-classified to Manager of Human Resources, a position he held until his retirement. His knowledge of HR law and procedure, which was unsurpassed, coupled with his professional, competent, and fair demeanor, earned him a high level of respect among judges, fellow administrators, and court employees. Under his leadership, an updated Human Resources database was created and implemented to interface with the Allegheny County electronic payroll system, and maintenance of personnel records was computerized. Mandatory training programs, including training topics such as performance management; recruiting, hiring, and retaining a superstar workforce; sexual harassment; and employment law were effected for supervisory and management personnel. Mr. Kennedy also played a key role on the Court's Strategic Plan: Strengthen Workforce and Work Environment committee, which addressed salary compression, court-wide training issues, and the implementation of a new employee orientation program. Mr. Kennedy is wished a healthy, happy retirement.



Court Human Resources Manager Charles Kennedy retired in July 2015 following nearly 37 years of service with the Fifth Judicial District.

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.



Court Administration

Office of Jury Management

The Department of Jury Operations is comprised of the Office of Jury Management (OJM), the Civil Jury Assignment Room, and the Criminal Jury Assignment Room.

The OJM is responsible for mailing juror summonses, processing juror questionnaires, and determining qualification in addition to responding to questions from potential jurors and the public regarding jury service. In 2015, the OJM began the process of simplifying the Juror Qualification Questionnaire by clarifying juror instructions and repositioning them on the questionnaire. Additionally, the court's web address is being added to the outside cover of the summons and on all outgoing correspondence to prospective jurors to encourage the use of online submission of the questionnaires.

Jurors are summoned randomly from voter and motor vehicle registration lists. Jurors appearing in either Criminal or Civil Division are greeted by Assignment Room staff and are provided information regarding their jury service. Since 1978, the court has employed a one-day or one-trial jury service system. If potential jurors are not selected to serve on a jury on the date they are summoned, their jury service is considered complete at the end of the day. If they are selected for a trial, they are required to serve for the length of that trial. In 2015, 1,425 jurors were selected for 107 civil jury trials, and 2,148 jurors were selected for 153 criminal jury trials. Many jurors find their experience to be educational and rewarding.

In memory of John R. Palovcak (June 14, 1952 – April 20, 2015)

The OJM would like to acknowledge John Palovcak for his 16 years of service to the court. His employment began in 1998 when he accepted a tipstaff position in the Civil Division, followed by a promotion to Minute Clerk. He most recently worked in the OJM providing clerical administrative support in the Criminal and Civil Jury Assignment Rooms. John will be greatly missed.

The Office of Court Reporters

The Office of Court Reporters within the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania is comprised of 35 reporters. The Audio Room, located in the Family Law Center, is associated with the Office of Court Reporters and is comprised of four employees who monitor recordings of Family Division proceedings. Reporters work in all divisions of the court, while many Family Division proceedings are recorded via the audio recording system.

Court reporters are highly trained professionals who capture the words spoken by case participants during court proceedings through the use of specialized equipment and software. Verbatim transcripts of such proceedings, also known as the official record, are prepared to assist in safeguarding the legal process. Litigants exercising their right to appeal may request a transcript which provides an accurate record of what transpired during their case. Court reporters are impartial and ensure that an accurate, complete, secure record of the proceeding is produced.

To become a court reporter, a person must participate in a specialized training program. Upon graduation, reporters may further their marketability and earn recognition for achieving high levels of expertise by pursuing certification. The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) offers a number of professional certifications. Court reporters also belong to state and national professional organizations that support and advance the mission of the profession of court reporting and offer continuing education to assist reporters in maintaining the high level of expertise required in their field.

In 1999, court reporters converted from personal typists, note-readers, and individually owned CAT (computer-aided transcription) software to computerized transcription software applications that are supported by the court. This was effected to establish uniformity of transcription modes within the office and to ensure a more efficient method for producing records from stenographic notes of reporters no longer employed by the court.

A number of Fifth Judicial District reporters underwent training and continuously hone skills in utilizing real time reporting which is accomplished through the use of advanced technology to produce written, verbatim text within seconds of the words being spoken as a proceeding occurs. This technology is advantageous for judges, counsel, litigants, and most notably, the hearing impaired.



The Office of Court Reporters would like to recognize the following reporters for multiple years of service with the court:

20 years

Janet Barto, Mark Corbin, and Mary Anne Salsgiver

24 years

Laurie Brennan and Mary Beth Perko

25 years

Teresa Benson and Veronica Trettel

26 years

Denise Zwick, Jane Sporrer, and Mary Spagnolo

29 years

Kimberly Holbein

32 years

Cheryl Chorba

33 years

Jane Hirsch, John Andrejcik, and Jacqueline Friday

39 years

Cathleen Muraca

40 years

Judith Dobies and Kathleen Banos

41 years

Philip Marrone and Susan Lloyd

Criminal Division Judges



First Row:

David R. Cashman
Jeffrey A. Manning

Second Row:

Donna Jo McDaniel
Kevin G. Sasinoski
Edward J. Borkowski
Jill E. Rangos
Philip A. Ignelzi

Third Row:

Thomas E. Flaherty
Anthony M. Mariani
Lester G. Nauhaus
Joseph K. Williams, III

Not Pictured:

Kelly Eileen Bigley
Robert C. Gallo
Beth A. Lazzara
Randal B. Todd

Criminal Division

During his second year as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division, 13 commissioned judges served under the leadership of Judge David R. Cashman. Senior Judge Lester G. Nauhaus continued to hear criminal court cases, and Senior Judge Robert C. Gallo presided over Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) and summary appeal cases until he retired on December 30, 2015. Judge John A. Zottola continues to preside over Veterans Court.

The Criminal Division is committed to furthering all facets of the criminal justice system with professionalism, 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 2015, the Court Arraignment office received 18,844 cases, 16,747 of which were scheduled for court. There was a total of 7,161 active cases on the Criminal Court docket at the close of December 2015, a 53 percent reduction since September 2009, when the court maintained 15,233 active cases. This reduction is due, in part, to consistent progress in reducing time to disposition, with a median average reduction from 261 days in 2010 to 169 days at the close of 2015.

In addition to a conscious effort by Criminal Division jurists to reduce the number of active cases, efficiencies were attributable to two accelerated court programs that result in expedited pleas: the Expedited Disposition Plea (EDP) program and the Phoenix Docket. The EDP program provides individuals the opportunity to enter a guilty plea via videoconferencing on the same day of their preliminary hearing. The Phoenix Docket expedites the disposition of uncomplicated criminal cases by providing the defendant with the Criminal Information, discovery, sentencing guidelines, and a plea offer at the time of formal arraignment. Within four weeks of 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. In 2015, 5,170 cases were disposed through the EDP and Phoenix Docket programs. These programs were recently featured in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Narrative Report dated March 2015, *From Postponements to Efficiency: Expedited Case Disposition in Allegheny County Criminal Court*.

In 2015, 2,338 ARD and 2,890 summary appeal cases were adjudicated by Senior Judge Robert C. Gallo. Criminal Division formally instituted a streamlined ARD revocation case flow process that has greatly improved not only the timeliness of scheduling and resolving revoked ARD cases, but has increased efficiency in providing information to defendants regarding their options in proceeding to a final disposition.

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole-Allegheny County Re-entry Program was established in 2014 to provide intensive supervision for high-risk offenders with a history of substance use and 18 months or more of parole supervision remaining on their sentence. Judge Anthony M. Mariani, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, county drug and alcohol case managers, mental health services, and the case management team, develops individualized treatment plans for each offender involving monthly progress reviews. Participants are required to successfully complete four phases of the program which may involve counseling, attendance at AA/NA meetings, alcohol and drug screenings, employment and/or education requirements, and regular contact with parole agents. Three individuals graduated from the program in 2015.



Court Arraignment Office staff. **Standing L-R:** Sue Richard, Sherry Borcik, Mary Hegner, and Supervisor Denise Colberg-Duffy. **Seated L-R:** Charles Feldmeier, Kevin Duffy, and Gary Ross

Criminal Division



The Drug and Alcohol Diversion Program is a cooperative effort between the Criminal Division, the Allegheny County Jail, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services to divert eligible pretrial defendants to treatment for substance use issues in lieu of incarceration while awaiting trial. The intended result of this effort is to address underlying issues of substance use that may have led to involvement in the criminal justice system, thereby improving outcomes for defendants, lowering recidivism, and saving costs associated with incarceration. In 2015, 236 offenders participated in the program, a 46 percent increase from 2014, and 156 individuals successfully completed the program, an 88 percent increase in the completion rate from 2014.

In response to a request by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the University of Pittsburgh-Institute of Politics convened a Criminal Justice Task Force comprised of criminal justice professionals, elected officials, key community leaders, and associated stakeholders in community corrections. The task force was established to study methods for improving the cost-effectiveness and fairness of current policies and procedures related to incarceration at the Allegheny County Jail. The task force was asked to research practices employed by jurisdictions across the nation that are similarly committed to effective and equitable reform, to examine relevant national and local data, and to rely on local experts to help frame recommendations for improving criminal justice processes. Representing the Fifth Judicial District are President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning and Criminal Division Administrator Thomas M. McCaffrey. The task force, co-chaired by Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, and Fred Thieman, President of the Buhl Foundation, meets monthly to explore specific, predetermined components of the criminal justice system and to identify where improvement is needed.

CRIMINAL REPORT

Filings and Dispositions

Cases Pending at End of Year 2014	7,359
New Cases Received in 2015	16,028
Cases Reopened During 2015	2,786

Cases Available for Disposition in 2015	26,173
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Cases Disposed in 2015

Transfers to Juvenile Court, Magisterial District Judge, Family Court, Administrative Closures, Consolidations, Remands to Lower Court	49
Dismissed, Withdrawn, Nolle Prossed, and Deceased Defendants	1,110
Satisfaction Agreements (Rule 586)	94
Speedy Trial (Rule 600)	2
Diversions Programs/ Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD-new cases only)	2,340
Nolo Contendere	142
Guilty Plea	11,820
Non-Jury Trial	493
Jury Trial	115

Total Cases Disposed 2015	16,165
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Cases Returned to Inactive During 2015	3,019
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Age of Pending Cases (Days)

1 to 180	3,067
181 to 365	2,656
366 to 720	889
721 +	377

Total Pending Cases at the Close of 2015	6,989
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The Criminal Division sponsored four continuing legal education (CLE) seminars in 2015. The first seminar, *Introduction to DNA Evidence*, was moderated by Judge Kevin G. Sasinoski and presented by Mark W. Perlin, Ph.D., M.D., Ph.D. and Kevin F. McCarthy, Assistant District Attorney, and provided an overview of the interpretation, presentation, and challenges of DNA evidence along with recent case law. Judge Beth A. Lazzara and the Mental Health Court team presented the second CLE, *Mental Health Court Update 2015*, and addressed the eligibility and screening process, participant requirements, attorney obligations, and ethical considerations. A third CLE, *Assessing and Managing Pretrial Risk in the 21st Century*, was presented by Zachary Dal Pra of Justice System Partners who provided an overview of Pretrial Services including assessment, legal and evidence-based practices, risk factors, and the decision-making framework. Criminal Division's fourth CLE, *Justice Related Services*, was conducted by Leigh Richardson, Unit Manager, and Stacy Tekely, State and Support Supervisor, who provided a summary of the eligibility criteria and referral process to obtain services from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services for those with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system.

In 2015, 15 staff members were recognized for multiple years of employment with the court, including Bruce Campbell, John D'Abruzzo, John Matter, Michael Ranallo (5 years); Timothy Palmer, Pat Pirollo, Shana Smith (10 years); Kevin Duffy, Sandy Leasure, Joseph Panucci, Elaine Zezza (25 years); Denise Colberg-Duffy, Keith Duffy (30 years); Jean Toner (42 years); and Margaret Cangelier (44 years).

Following 42 years of court service, Jean Toner retired in May 2015. Her career began in 1973 when she accepted a secretarial position in the Family Division, Juvenile Section. Jean was later assigned as Secretary to the Assistant Director of Court Services, Raymond A. Novak. She continued working for him upon his election to the Common Pleas bench. Upon Judge Novak's retirement, Ms. Toner was appointed as a Minute Clerk, and in her final years worked as an Administrative Assistant to several Criminal Division Court Administrators.



CASES SENTENCED IN 2015 – CONSOLIDATED BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE

OFFENSES		CONFINEMENT		INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT PROGRAM		PROBATION		No Further Penalty
	Cases	State	County	State	County	State	County	
Crimes Against Persons								
Criminal Homicide	31	31	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide by Vehicle	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Homicide	11	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	209	119	56	0	6	2	26	0
Kidnapping	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	18	17	0	0	1	0	0	0
Indecent Assault	27	11	6	0	0	1	9	0
Other Sexual Offenses	71	7	13	0	4	0	45	2
Sex Offender Registry	6	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Aggravated Assault	150	61	49	0	14	2	24	0
Sexual Assault	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	605	1	90	0	17	1	492	4
Recklessly Endangering Another Person	73	1	5	0	0	1	65	1
Corruption of Minors	37	2	11	0	2	0	22	0
Crimes Against Property								
Arson	13	3	7	0	1	0	2	0
Burglary	233	53	57	4	47	13	56	3
Forgery	59	0	18	1	5	1	33	1
Theft	615	27	88	1	21	10	464	4
Retail Theft	1,008	2	121	1	13	0	806	65
Identity Theft	19	1	2	0	1	0	15	0
Receiving Stolen Property	270	19	53	3	5	9	179	2
Bad Checks	30	0	0	0	0	0	27	3
Alcohol or Drug Offenses								
DUI-1st Offense	1,244	5	888	0	160	0	169	2
DUI-2nd Offense	717	13	78	1	625	0	0	0
DUI-3rd Offense	45	5	7	0	33	0	0	0
DUI-4th or Subsequent Offense	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUI §3731	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
Possession with Intent to Deliver (PWID)	826	126	200	4	82	7	404	3
Drug related offense (excluding PWID)	2,252	5	101	0	12	6	2,105	23
Crimes Against Public Peace								
Criminal Mischief	175	0	24	1	0	0	124	26
Criminal Trespass	248	6	49	0	7	2	165	19
Prostitution	139	2	9	0	1	0	123	4
Miscellaneous Offenses								
Terroristic Threats	106	5	30	0	2	1	68	0
Escape	95	12	38	1	3	1	35	5
Stalking and Harassment	218	2	37	0	1	3	155	20
Firearms Violations	420	99	100	0	34	6	177	4
Other Driving Related Offenses	438	16	102	1	247	0	12	60
Other Felonies	257	34	75	0	21	5	120	2
Other Misdemeanors	852	13	68	1	19	12	716	23
Disorderly Conduct	659	0	94	0	0	0	295	270
Total	12,213	739	2,480	19	1,384	83	6,939	549

Criminal Division ~ Allegheny County Problem Solving Courts

Over the past two decades, the criminal justice system has become increasingly focused on therapeutic justice, a concept built upon the idea that sentencing people to jail or probation without addressing the underlying issues that led to involvement in the court system is often ineffective in preventing re-offense. Problem solving court programs have been developed in response to this issue, with specialized court tracks designed to treat and rehabilitate offenders utilizing a team-based, holistic approach. Allegheny County operates a Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Domestic Violence Court, Sex Offender Court, and PRIDE Court. Each problem solving court team includes a dedicated judge, specially trained probation officers, representatives of the Allegheny County District Attorney and Public Defender Offices, Justice Related Services of Allegheny County, and community treatment providers. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, these court programs integrate treatment with offender accountability, with the goal of reducing recidivism, enhancing community safety, and breaking the cycle of criminal behavior. In Allegheny County, Sex Offender Court and Domestic Violence Court differ from other problem solving courts in that participation is not voluntary. Offenders with certain charges are automatically placed in these specialized programs, whereas participation in Drug, DUI, Mental Health, and Veterans Court programs is voluntary for offenders meeting eligibility criteria.

Problem solving court participants are provided a supervision plan, including mental health and/or drug and alcohol treatment, as deemed appropriate. Terms of supervision may also include educational and employment requirements such as obtaining a GED, and other conditions determined on a case-by-case basis. Graduation ceremonies are held for offenders who successfully complete Mental Health, Drug, DUI, or Veterans Court programs. A total of 1,121 participants in the Allegheny County problem solving courts successfully completed programs in 2015. The percentage of individuals who graduated from Mental Health, Drug, DUI, and Veterans Court programs rose from 57 percent in 2014 to 64 percent in 2015.

In order to measure the effectiveness of the problem solving court model, a list of performance metrics will be reviewed on a weekly basis beginning in 2016. Performance measures to be analyzed include in-program recidivism rates, employment status, education status and progress, housing outcomes, urinalysis testing results, probation violations, and post-exit recidivism rates. Through analysis, the court will be able to determine areas of strength and weakness within each of the programs and make appropriate adjustments. In the fall of 2015, Mental Health Court partnered with the Center for Court Innovation to conduct an evaluation and subsequently

design a strategic plan for the future of the program. This evaluation will consist of a comprehensive survey, a site visit, court observation, interviews with court staff and key stakeholders, and data analysis. The evaluation and strategic planning timeline began in October 2015 and will conclude at the end of September 2017.

On November 5, 2015, Veterans Court celebrated the graduation of 31 veterans, marking the program's largest graduating class since its inception. Implemented in 2009, the court directs veterans to treatment, including mental health counseling and alcohol and substance abuse recovery programs, which prove to be more beneficial than incarceration. Veterans Court has experienced a remarkable success rate, with less than two percent recidivism.



Allegheny County Veterans Court celebrated the graduation of 31 program participants on November 5, 2015. Seen above, a Naval Operations Support Center Sailor, based in Pittsburgh, PA, presented a United States flag to a family member who attended the ceremony on behalf of a deceased graduate.

DUI Court, implemented in 2005 to reduce recidivism by providing close supervision and rehabilitative treatment, celebrated 10 years of operation in 2015. Individuals who have been convicted of three DUI offenses within a 10-year period and who are facing the mandatory minimum sentence of at least one year of incarceration are eligible to participate in the program. Five hundred three (503) individuals, or 81 percent of participants, have successfully completed this program since inception, with 49 participants graduating in 2015.



The Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Adult DUI Treatment Court program on October 15, 2015, presided over by Judge Kevin G. Sasinoski. Jacquelyn Whittaker-Piatt, Adult Probation Supervisor (center of photo), is surrounded by judicial officers and DUI Court staff as she presents certificates of completion to DUI Court graduates.

Drug Court and Mental Health Court graduated 37 participants from each program in 2015. Sixty-four (64) percent of treatment court participants successfully graduated in 2015 compared to 57 percent in 2014.

Criminal Division ~ Adult Probation

The Allegheny County Adult Probation department (Adult Probation), in conjunction with the department of Pretrial Services, is responsible for providing supervision of offenders for the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. These departments employ 131 probation officers for this task. Pretrial Services oversees individuals who are under bail supervision or are participating in the Accelerated Rehabilitative Program (ARD), and Adult Probation is responsible for supervising offenders on probation, probation without verdict, parole, and intermediate punishment.

Effective December 31, 2015, there were 26,447 individuals being supervised by Adult Probation and Pretrial Services, of which 57 percent (15,102) had a misdemeanor as their highest charge, and 40 percent (10,624) were charged with a felony offense. The remaining 3 percent (721) were supervised with summary offenses only. Five percent (1,288) of individuals were under bail supervision and are considered Pretrial, and 16 percent (4,158) of offenders were supervised under the ARD program. The remaining 79 percent (21,001) were supervised under probation, probation without verdict, parole, or intermediate punishment by Adult Probation.



Cynthia Davis began her career with the court in 1972 as a Clerk Typist for then Director of Adult Probation Joseph Catalano. During her 44 year tenure with the court, Ms. Davis was promoted to various positions under seven directors at Adult Probation and was eventually promoted to her current position as Office Supervisor.

In 2015, Adult Probation continued to institute and refine the use of evidence-based supervision practices including:

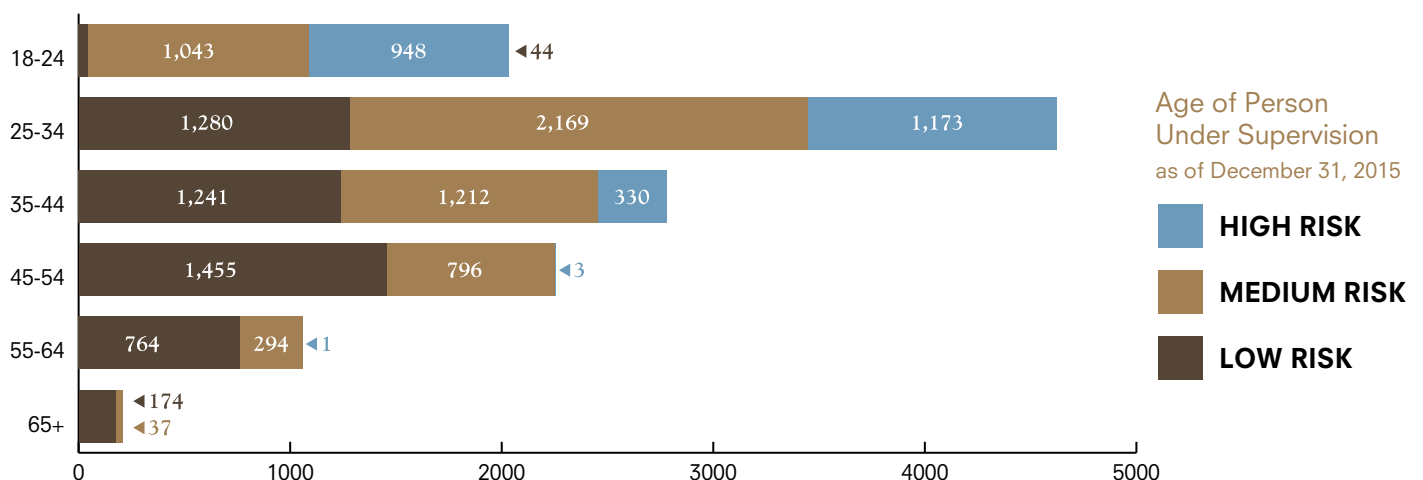
- Creation of a new Community Resource Center to serve individuals residing in the Monongahela Valley of Allegheny County;
- Receipt of a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Smart Supervision grant to improve quality evidence-based practices implementation;
- Increased utilization of specially trained units for high-risk and high-need populations;
- Creation of an employee feedback structure; and
- Validation of a new local risk assessment tool that will be used to advance justice reinvestment.

OFFENDERS SUPERVISED as of December 31, 2015

Probation	18,518	70%
Parole	1,137	4%
Intermediate Punishment	950	4%
Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD)*	4,158	16%
Probation without Verdict	396	1%
Bail*	1,288	5%
Total	26,447	100%

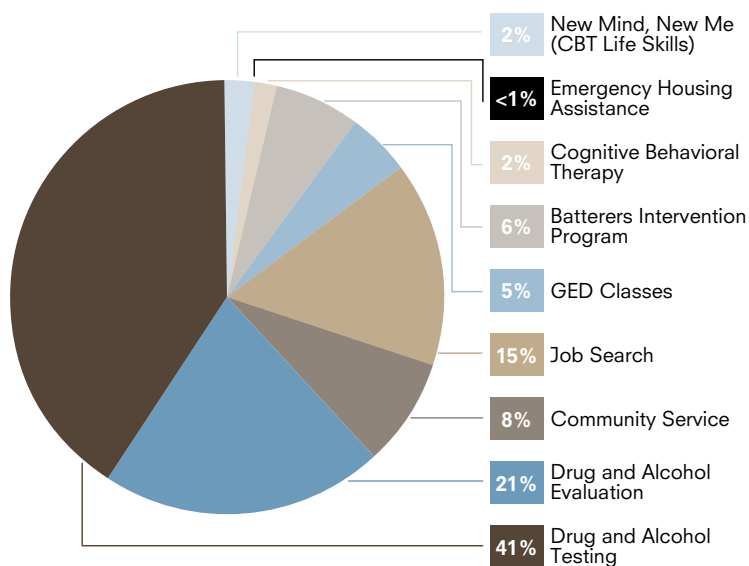
*Supervised by Pretrial Services

RISK LEVEL AND AGE GROUP OF OFFENDERS SUPERVISED as of December 31, 2015



Adult Probation opened its third Community Resource Center (CRC) in the Monongahela Valley in November 2015 with the support of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and local foundations through the Human Services Integration Fund. In 2015, 2,906 medium- to high-risk offenders were referred to one of these three CRCs, an increase of 12 percent from 2014. These centers provide a centralized location for offenders to complete court-ordered stipulations and to address identified needs with the goal of preventing recidivism.

PERCENT OF CRC REFERRALS, by Referral Type, 2015



Adult Probation received a three-year Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Supervision grant in 2015 for the purpose of providing tools to mobile probation officers to enhance monitoring capabilities. Adult Probation is partnering with the Urban Institute to develop appropriate performance benchmarks for each caseload, to implement 'dosage probation' supervision based on risk and needs, to provide real-time information on performance benchmarks to probation officers and supervisors via dashboards, and to improve the quality of all interactions through a three-year evidence-based practice training regimen. This project began in December 2015 with baseline evidence-based practice training for supervisors.



Ronald J. Seyko retired on April 10, 2015 after 35 plus years of employment with the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. Mr. Seyko began his career in 1979 as Coordinator of the Community Home Detention Project and subsequently received promotions to Juvenile Probation Officer (1981), Training Supervisor (1993), Manager of the Electronic Monitoring Department (2007), Deputy Director of Adult Probation (2008), and Director of Adult Probation (2013). Under Mr. Seyko's leadership as Director, a third Community Resource Center was opened in the Monongahela Valley area of Allegheny County. New policies were implemented to improve timeliness of initial probation officer contact following sentencing, and an agency-wide survey was conducted to measure the effectiveness of management and identify areas for improvement. Many thanks to Mr. Seyko for decades of dedicated service to the court and best wishes in his retirement.

Criminal Division ~ Adult Probation

Adult Probation supervises offenders through specialized units based on specific sentence conditions and/or offender needs. This includes operation of the electronic monitoring program for offenders sentenced to intermediate punishment and supervision of offenders involved in one of Allegheny County's seven problem solving courts. At the end of 2015, there were 784 offenders under electronic monitoring and 1,121 were supervised through one of the seven problem solving courts. A unit of specially trained officers was established in 2015 to supervise individuals participating in Mental Health Court. Additionally, a Mental Health Court Coordinator was employed to administer operations and provide support. By assigning officers to a single supervisor and unit, they are better equipped to collaborate and share relevant information. These initiatives resulted in a caseload reduction of 58 percent from an average of 113 individuals supervised in 2014 to an average of 48 at the end of 2015.

An agency-wide survey was conducted to measure the effectiveness of management, identify areas for improvement, and to create an accountable and transparent organization. More than 85 percent of employees participated in the survey, the results of which will be used to implement meaningful changes where appropriate.

Adult Probation partnered with an outside research firm to validate a new risk assessment tool which will be utilized on the local level for future assessments. Probation officers and jail staff collected more than 1,000 offender assessments in 2014 as a part of this validation project. The project is a justice reinvestment initiative, with the money previously spent on an external risk assessment reinvested in effective criminal justice programs. The new fund will be monitored by the local Allegheny County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB).



INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUPERVISION

as of December 31, 2015

Type of Unit	Offenders Per Probation Officer
Community Based Office Unit	100
High Impact Unit	106
Minimal Supervision Unit	1,182
DUI Unit	135
Electronic Monitoring	43
Sex Offender Unit	75
Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition*	832
Bail Unit*	215
Inter-State	467
Inter-County	486
State	3,659


*Supervised through Pretrial Services



Francis "Frank" J. Scherer (right) and Alan Pelton (left)

Frank Scherer began his career with the Fifth Judicial District in 1989 as an Adult Probation Caseworker and was subsequently promoted to Corrections Counselor, Probation Officer, Supervisor, Manager, Deputy Director, and most recently, Director of Adult Probation, in August 2015. He has been an integral part of the significant achievements that the department has experienced.

Alan Pelton's experience with the Fifth Judicial District began in 1991 when he was hired as a Probation Officer. His work ethic was rewarded by promotions to Supervisor, Manager of the Electronic Monitoring Unit, Manager of the Intermediate Punishment Unit, and most recently, Deputy Director of the Adult Probation department.



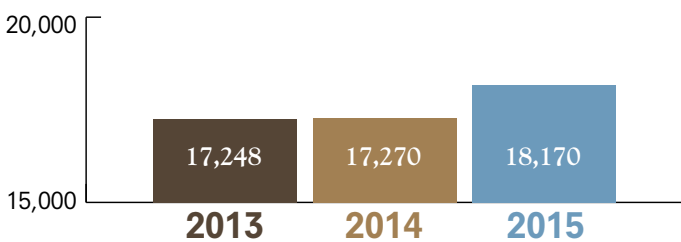
Adult Probation and Parole is charged by the Court of Common Pleas with the responsibility of providing effective, community-based alternatives to incarceration, improving public safety, partnering with community and law enforcement resources, and promoting positive behavioral change from offenders.

Criminal Division ~ Pretrial Services

The Pretrial Services Department continues to be recognized locally and nationally for its commitment to an evidence informed approach in administering the department. Throughout 2015, Pretrial Services assisted with and took the lead on many initiatives within the court, the county, and nationally to promote practices to improve the criminal justice system. Pretrial Services also hosted criminal justice groups from several states including Ohio and New Jersey and numerous jurisdictions within Pennsylvania.

The Pretrial Bail Unit performed 18,170 new investigations at the Allegheny County Jail in 2015, a 5.2 percent increase over 2014. Interviews are conducted with every defendant brought into the jail on new charges or bench warrants. Information gathered from the interviews is provided to the arraigning authority enabling an informed pretrial release decision. All investigations are conducted face-to-face using Pretrial Services' case management system and validated risk-assessment tool. The expansion of this tool to magisterial district courts is anticipated in 2016.

Bail Unit – Risk Assessments



The Bail Unit advocated for 1,628 bond modifications in 2015, a 12 percent increase over 2014, and presented 2,461 bond forfeiture cases in the Court of Common Pleas. The Pretrial Safe Surrender Program allows defendants with active 'failure to appear' bench warrants to appear at Pretrial Services, at which time they proceed to court for a bond reinstatement hearing. In 2015, 768 bench warrants were cleared through this program. Following a status review of all defendants housed in the jail specifically due to unpaid bond, the Bail Unit advocated for bond modifications for 487 defendants subsequent to preliminary hearing.

The Court Reminder Notification project, initiated in 2013 with financial support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, was enhanced in 2015 to further reduce incidents of failure to appear. Electronic notifications are sent to defendants via email, text, and landline using an information technology application to remind offenders of upcoming court dates. In 2015, 11,240 reminders for formal arraignments, 4,195 reminders for preliminary hearings, 1,398 reminders for pretrial conferences, and 1,465 reminders for trial were transmitted.

The Behavior Assessment Unit (BAU) continued to operate efficiently and expediently in 2015. Following a review of all departmental policies and procedures to improve BAU processes, the use of Dragon Medical dictation software was implemented to conduct court-ordered competency evaluations and to assist in preparing resultant reports. BAU psychiatrists completed 1,689 competency evaluations in 2015, including 1,272 new evaluations and 417 re-examinations. Involuntary commitments were recommended for 125 individuals, 109 of whom were committed to Torrance State Hospital. BAU social workers also completed 265 social histories associated with these mental health evaluations.

The Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Diversion Unit admitted 2,338 defendants into the program in 2015, the vast majority of whom were charged with DUI (1,985) and the remainder (353) with various other non-violent offenses. Working closely with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, the disposition of these cases has been a smooth and efficient process. Defendants in 90 percent of ARD cases successfully completed the program resulting in the dismissal and expungement of charges. The number of violations, including technical and new convictions, submitted to the court in 2015 totaled 1,368. A total of 486 ARD probation cases were closed early and the expungement process initiated due to early successful completion of all court-ordered stipulations. Defendants participating in the ARD program completed 25,588 hours of community service throughout Allegheny County.



Criminal Division Administrative Judge David R. Cashman administered the oath to Pretrial Services' new employees on November 4, 2015. Pictured L-R: Tara Waldo, Bail Investigator Lindsay Black, Pretrial Services Director Janice Radovick Dean, Criminal Division Administrative Judge David R. Cashman, Probation Officer Christopher Boyko, Shannon Zilavy, and Leroy Broadus.



Pretrial Services, through its Alcohol Highway Safety Program, continued to expand its preventative education efforts regarding the dangers of alcohol and drinking and driving. Prevention Coordinator Pam Wahal, (pictured above), in partnership with KDKA, spoke to students at Brashear High School presenting the *Don't Drink and Drive* message.

The Alcohol Highway Safety Program (AHSP) continued its work of education, intervention, and prevention regarding driving under the influence (DUI) through the promotion of multiple programs at local schools and in communities. Television and radio public service announcements highlighting *Don't Drink and Drive* messages were conducted reaching thousands of youth across Allegheny County. The AHSP, also responsible for the completion of court-ordered evaluations of DUI offenders and for managing the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation mandated DUI education programs, conducted 4,721 Court Reporting Network (CRN) evaluations in 2015. Additionally, the AHSP installed 488 ignition interlock devices in 2015, averaging 41 installations per month. Since 2004, not one person has been charged with DUI while operating a vehicle with an ignition interlock device installed.

The AHSP, in conjunction with Allegheny County Adult Probation and Parole, continued to operate the DUI Alternative to Jail program for first-conviction DUI offenders. This program is intended to reduce recidivism by providing DUI offenders four days of intensive treatment and programming through cognitive approaches focused on changing behavior. Four hundred forty-two (442) participants successfully completed the program in 2015.

Pretrial Services would like to recognize Marilyn Lahood (30 years) and Debbie Puc (30 years) for their multiple years of service with the court.

To provide accurate and timely information to assist the court in making informed decisions regarding bond, competency, and treatment, and 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 White House Office of Science and Technology hosted a *Data-Driven Justice* round-table discussion at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. on October 28, 2015. Janice Radovick Dean, Director of Pretrial Services, attended the symposium on behalf of the Fifth Judicial District. U.S. Chief Data Scientist DJ Patil led the discussion by presenting information regarding the current and potential uses for data in the criminal justice system. He further emphasized the federal government's full support of jurisdictions that utilize such data. Break-out sessions followed related to devising strategies to better collect, utilize, and analyze data associated with criminal cases. Future discussions, as well as the publication of a white paper, or informational document, detailing the importance of criminal justice data collection and its current and potential uses in achieving the best positive results for both the criminal justice population and system, and the community at large, are anticipated.



Family Division Judges



First Row:

Arnold I. Klein
Jennifer Satler
Mark V. Tranquilli
Kim Berkeley Clark
Kathleen R. Mulligan
Alexander P. Bicket
Kathryn M. Hens-Greco

Second Row:

Donald R. Walko, Jr.
Paul E. Cozza
Dwayne D. Woodruff
John T. McVay, Jr.
William F. Ward
Cathleen Bubash
Guido A. DeAngelis

Not Pictured:

Gerard M. Bigley
Eleanor L. Bush
Kim D. Eaton
Susan Evashavik DiLucente
Robert A. Kelly
Lee J. Mazur

The mission of the Family Division is to resolve family legal issues in a user-friendly forum which maximizes access to the court and best addresses the important and unique needs of children and families.

Family Division ~ Adult Section

Under the continuing leadership of Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, the Family Division's 17 commissioned judges and three senior judges addressed the large volume of cases and hearings assigned to the Adult Section in an efficient manner. Family jurists were assisted in this process through monthly training implemented by judges, administrative staff, and independent sources.

The judges assigned to the Family Division continue to refine and enhance the development of the one judge/one family concept implemented in 2010 under which one judge adjudicates all issues affecting a particular family. Division judges are also specialized in either adult (divorce, equitable distribution, custody, support) or juvenile (dependency, delinquency, dependent children/adoptions) matters. Protection From Abuse matters are resolved by all Division jurists.

The establishment and enforcement of child and spousal support and alimony *pendent-lite* constitutes a significant percentage of the Family Division Adult Section workload. In 2015, the Adult Section continued to effectively adjudicate its heavy volume of cases, while simultaneously developing, improving, and implementing initiatives, many of which involve expanding litigant access

Michele Ostapchenko

August 16, 1956 – March 12, 2015

Michele Ostapchenko began working for the Fifth Judicial District, Family Division Adult Section in April 1975. She passed away unexpectedly shortly before her 40th anniversary of employment. Michele held a number of clerical positions in several departments, including account clerk, supervisor, and general clerk. Her dedication benefited families and children who relied on Family Division services. Michele, a valued colleague and friend, is greatly missed.

to the court, which was emphasized in the Fifth Judicial District's Strategic Plan.

The opening of community-based regional offices in the South Hills (2011) and Penn Hills (2014) areas of Pittsburgh has greatly expanded and improved litigant access to the court. Litigants are able to file for support, petition to modify an existing order, and/or obtain information about their case at these regional offices. Support conferences and hearings are also conducted at the regional offices. With a smaller docket consisting of approximately 4,400 cases each, these offices operate with a specific caseload assignment management system involving a domestic relations officer and clerical support staff who are responsible for the establishment, modification, and enforcement of orders. This concept enables staff to provide personalized and efficient services and promotes litigant satisfaction while improving the performance of the child support function of the court on all measurable statistics.

In late 2014, the Adult Section implemented procedures which enable litigants to file support complaints and modification petitions by mail. The forms can be requested by telephoning the client call center. In 2015, 325 support complaints and modification petitions received by mail or facsimile transmission were processed by the court.

In conjunction with the State Bureau of Child Support, the Adult Section implemented a technology-based procedure for filing support complaints and modification petitions without appearing in court. Pleadings are reviewed by court personnel for sufficiency of the information and then filed by the court for processing. Court staff worked with state and other counties' personnel to refine, augment, and improve the electronic submission process, which has proven to be a popular innovation. In 2015, the court processed 273 support complaints and 870 modification petitions which were submitted electronically.

FAMILY DIVISION – CHILD SUPPORT

Support – Original Filings	2014	2015
Complaints Added (PACSES)	9,037	7,949
Support – Secondary Filings		
Modifications	10,037	10,043
Contempt Hearings	14,033	14,507
Total	24,070	24,550
Support – Judicial		
Support Contempt Hearings	546	657
Exceptions	159	205
Total	705	862
Support – Hearing Officer		
Hearing Officer Hearings	4,180	4,424
Hearing Master Complex Support	162	252
Total	4,342	4,676
Support – Professional Staff		
Screening	19,092	19,009
Conciliation	14,101	13,815
Contempt Hearings Conducted	14,033	14,507
Total	47,226	47,331

Family Division ~ Adult Section



Judge Kathleen R. Mulligan began her judicial career in 1993 when she was elected to the Fifth Judicial District Court of Common Pleas. She won retention for two subsequent 10-year terms in 2003 and 2013. Judge Mulligan served her entire judicial career in the Family Division and served as Administrative Judge for a three-year term beginning in April 1999. Her application for senior judge status was approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania effective November 5, 2015. She received her B.A. from Bucknell University in 1976 and her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1979.

The Family Division Adult Section conducted a bench warrant amnesty program in February 2015. Individuals with outstanding warrants were notified by mail, news releases, and electronic means to inform them they were being provided an opportunity to appear in court without fear of being arrested or incarcerated. Family Division staff met with all individuals who appeared over a two-day period to review cases, collect past due support, file modifications when appropriate, obtain employment information for wage attachment(s), or refer individuals for employment assistance. The goal of amnesty is to get the cases back on track to ensure consistent support for children. The 2015 amnesty program proved to be very successful. Five hundred four (504) warrants were cleared, \$32,125 in past-due support was collected, 73 individuals were referred to the employment search program, 26 new monetary orders were entered, 12 cases were closed, and 54 new wage attachment orders were issued. In addition to amnesty programs, collection of support monies is effected through the garnishment of pensions, inheritances, tax refunds, lottery winnings, driver's license suspensions, and hunting and fishing licenses.

The Adult Section strives to be accessible to litigants and attorneys regarding programs and services via the court website, www.alleghenycourts.us, through the use of a Client Services Call Center operated by information specialists who answer questions and provide information by telephone, U.S. Mail, and email. The Adult Section also utilizes a screening unit to answer questions, address concerns, assist with filing modification petitions, and provide information to litigants. During 2015, the screening unit assisted 6,407 self-represented litigants and 2,192 attorneys on a "walk-in" basis, representing service on over 10,600 cases. In addition, the Adult Section continued its practice of maintaining Wednesday evening business hours to accommodate employed parents who work during the day. In 2015, 661 people were served during Wednesday evening hours.

Consistent with the 2012-2015 Fifth Judicial District Strategic Plan, the Family Division Self-Help Center was developed to increase access to justice for all litigants, regardless of income. Participants are able to obtain assistance in the preparation of motions and pleadings from law students of the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University Law Schools, augmented by pro bono attorneys through the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Phone Power is an ongoing project through which delinquent obligors are contacted during evening hours. In 2015, nearly 6,000 calls resulted in the collection of over \$110,000 in additional support and multiple new wage attachments to ensure ongoing collection of support directly from employers. Additionally, early intervention calls are made to defendants following court appearances reminding them to make the first payment towards newly entered support obligations in order to avoid automated enforcement remedies.

In 2015, the court's seven full-time hearing officers and two complex support masters conducted 4,656 support hearings. Hearings are conducted in the downtown Family Law Center and the South Hills and Penn Hills community-based regional offices, providing litigants with increased access to the court. Proceedings may be conducted by audio/visual means with litigants and/or their attorney appearing in any of these three locations. Domestic Relations Officer conferences may also be conducted by phone with the parties in different offices.

The Employment Search Program provides a structured job search environment to assist delinquent obligors in finding and maintaining employment. The unit maintains a list of potential employers and community partners who assist in providing training and employment search options. During 2015, the unit worked with over 1,400 individuals and conducted 1,895 conferences and reviews. Over



The Family Division Adult Section conducted a Child Support Enforcement Awareness event in August 2015 at which time Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap provided child safety information to parents and gifts to children. Pictured **L-R:** Judicial Secretary Renee Giles, Human Resources Administrative Assistant Barbara Brutt, Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap, Family Division Administrator Patrick W. Quinn, Esq., Deputy Administrator Geraldine Redic, Esq., and Family Division Human Resources Administrator Kristin Nestor.

350 individuals in the program obtained gainful, steady employment in 2015. Follow-up services were provided to over 1,000 individuals.

The Adult Section played a significant role in contributing to Pennsylvania finishing second among the 56 states and territories in the five federal performance measurements of the Child Support Enforcement Program. Allegheny County exceeded the state-wide average in four of the five categories. By exceeding 80 percent in all five performance benchmarks, the court received the maximum amount of possible performance-based federal funding. Statistical highlights of the court's performance include the collection and disbursement of almost \$127 million in support to families and a one-year reduction in the amount of aggregate arrears owed by over \$6.2 million. Allegheny County has often been lauded by federal and state officials as the national leader among urban jurisdictions in federal performance standards.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Federal Performance Measures 2015

Support Order	91.23%
Paternity Establishment	112.16%
Current Payment	83.64%
Arrearage Payment	83.44%
Cost Effectiveness	100%

The Adult Section is also responsible for the administration and adjudication of divorce and equitable distribution actions filed in Allegheny County. There were 2,578 divorce cases filed in 2015, representing 89 fewer filings than in 2014. Pending divorce cases numbering 2,508 were disposed of with the entry of divorce decrees. Family Division jurists also conciliated 655 equitable distribution matters and conducted equitable distribution hearings in 74 cases. In addition, two Equitable Distribution Masters conducted 141 hearings in 2015.

FAMILY DIVISION – DIVORCE

Divorce – Original Filings	2014	2015
Filed	2,667	2,578
Divorce – Judicial		
Contested	621	655
Divorce – Hearing Officer/Master		
Contested	169	139
Uncontested	5	2
Total	174	141
Divorce – Professional Staff		
Uncontested	1,646	1,712

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

Family Division ~ Juvenile Section

As we commemorate 20 years of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), a number of milestones have clarified Juvenile Probation's mission and focused our efforts. Three white papers (authoritative guides) on competency development, accountability, and community protection have defined the BARJ goals and served as flags or guideposts to help orient and direct efforts. In addition, several important initiatives, including MacArthur's Models for Change, (a multi-state initiative working to advance juvenile justice system fairness and effectiveness) moved us forward in achieving the BARJ mission. Following 15 years of steady progress, Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system is uniquely positioned to embrace evidence-based practices.

In the spring of 2010, Pennsylvania launched its Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), supported by substantial research regarding "what works" to reduce risk among juvenile offenders. The JJSES Statement of Purpose that followed outlined the vision for collecting and analyzing data, relying on and incorporating evidence, and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement. Since that time, the Juvenile Probation Department has been retooling its operation and incorporating evidence-based practices at every major decision point.

JJSES has produced a seismic shift in how Juvenile Probation business is conducted, interweaving research and practice. Criminogenic needs, static risk, dynamic risk, responsivity, and other evidence-based concepts that were recently unheard of are now a part of the everyday vernacular.

The success of the JJSES initiative is not measured by the number of risk/needs assessments conducted or the number of youth completing aggression replacement training or using motivational interviewing techniques. Rather, the success is determined by how the JJSES improves Juvenile Probation's ability to achieve the goals of BARJ -- community protection, accountability, and competency development.

FAMILY DIVISION – PROBATION

Juvenile Probation – Allegations	2014	2015
New Allegations ¹	1,497	1,230
Reopened Cases ²	629	463
Additional Allegation Filed with New or Reopened ³	61	49
New Allegation on Active Juvenile ⁴	1,200	1,127
Total	3,387	2,869

Juvenile Probation – Judicial

Hearings ⁵	7,838	7,728
Warrants	1,246	1,197
Total	9,084	8,925

Juvenile Probation – Hearing Officer

Detention Hearings	1,206	1,508
Other Hearings	2,215	2,058
Total	3,421	3,566

Juvenile Probation – Professional Staff

Detention Hearings	1,210	1,508
Other Hearings	10,053	9,786
Warrants	1,246	1,197
Individualized Service Plan Meetings	573	449
Intakes – Allegations Received	3,390	2,861
Petitions Filed	2,048	1,709
Case Contacts ⁶	58,438	54,823
Total	76,958	72,333

¹ New allegations represent the first allegation ever received on an individual juvenile.

² After a juvenile's case is closed, it is reopened when a new allegation is received.

³ When multiple allegations for a new or reopened case are filed simultaneously, only one allegation is counted as "new" or "reopened." Additional allegations are reported separately under this category.

⁴ Allegations filed against juveniles currently under supervision.

⁵ Includes detention and all other hearing types.

⁶ Juvenile Probation Officers have regular contact with juveniles under supervision.

Evidence-Based Practice

- **Youth Level of Service Risk/Needs Assessment.** The foundation of evidence-based practices is the Youth Level of Service (YLS) Risk/Needs assessment, a validated instrument that examines eight “criminogenic” factors that research has linked to delinquent behavior. The completed YLS assessment produces a score that translates to a juvenile’s high-, moderate-, or low-risk to reoffend. The results of the YLS are factored into the probation officer’s pre-disposition report and recommendation to the court and helps determine the supervision plan for each juvenile under jurisdiction of the court. All juvenile probation officers have been trained to conduct the YLS. The Department has 12 certified master YLS trainers.
- **Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP).** Allegheny County Juvenile Probation is one of five departments in Pennsylvania piloting the SPEP. This protocol, developed by researchers at Vanderbilt University, is based on an analysis of over 500 studies of recidivism during the past 20 years. This tool produces a score and a performance improvement plan that helps improve outcomes for juveniles receiving court-ordered services in a community-based or residential setting. Throughout 2015, 24 separate interventions at 11 residential and community-based provider locations have been evaluated using the SPEP. Each provider received a performance improvement plan to further enhance their ability to deliver evidence-based programming.
- **Detention Risk Assessment.** Juvenile Probation is one of four departments in Pennsylvania piloting the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI). This instrument, validated by research completed in 2015, is designed to measure a juvenile’s risk to reoffend prior to or failure to appear at his/her initial hearing. The PaDRAI is an evidence-based decision-making tool that helps probation officers determine which juveniles should be securely detained and which may be released to an alternative to detention pending their initial hearing.
- **Alternatives to Detention.** The Hartman Shelter for Boys at Auberle, which opened in 2008, continues to serve as an alternative to detention for moderate risk males. The Gwen’s Girls Shelter serves as a detention alternative for delinquent females. Juvenile Probation also expanded the use of its Community Intensive Supervision Centers and electronic monitoring, when appropriate, to divert youth from secure detention.

- **Graduated Responses.** Juvenile Probation is involved in statewide work to implement a graduated response system that provides sanctions and incentives to positively shape juveniles’ behavior and reduce risk of re-offending. A sanction/reward matrix has been developed to assist probation officers in choosing the most appropriate sanction or incentive, considering the juvenile’s behavior and overall risk level. Responses must be swift, certain, and proportionate to be effective.

Juvenile Probation Activities

- **Victim Restitution.** Pennsylvania’s Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Mission requires that juveniles be held accountable for crimes committed and that they fulfill court-ordered restitution obligations to victims before supervision is terminated. Restitution not paid in full when an individual attains age 21 is indexed as a judgment with the Department of Court Records, and the court’s jurisdiction ends. In 2015, Juvenile Probation oversaw the collection of \$268,501 in restitution, fees, and costs. Of this total, \$172,022 was repaid to victims for losses incurred, \$17,981 was paid to the Victim Compensation Fund, and \$10,177 was directed to the stipend fund for victim restitution. The remaining \$68,321 includes court fees and costs incurred by juvenile offenders.
- **Crossover Youth Practice Model.** Under the leadership of Judge Guido A. DeAngelis, Juvenile Probation and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Children Youth and Families have been collaborating to implement the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) developed by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. The CYPM will improve outcomes for juveniles involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Significant progress was made in 2015. A memorandum of understanding was finalized to acknowledge the shared vision and commitment of the involved agencies; the Crossover Youth Protocol, developed by members of Juvenile Probation and Children Youth and Families, was implemented to guide the day-to-day activities of probation officers and caseworkers involved with youth from both systems; and all staff from both agencies were trained on the Protocol.

Family Division ~ Juvenile Section

- **Disproportionate Minority Contact.** Juvenile Probation continues to present the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) curriculum to local law enforcement officers and youth. The curriculum brings police and youth together in a neutral setting to speak freely with each other about their interactions on the street. Police and youth build competencies that address DMC related issues by interacting and role playing. In 2015, the Department held four DMC forums for approximately 75 youth and 40 law enforcement officers as well as a booster/refresher training for DMC trainers.
- **Allegheny County Music Festival.** Juvenile Probation participated in the annual Allegheny County Music Festival at Hartwood Acres over the 2015 Labor Day weekend. Funds are raised at the festival to pay for life-enriching opportunities and items that would not otherwise be available to youth active with Juvenile Court or the Department of Human Services. Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, several members of Juvenile Probation, and Human Services administration staff attended the festival to direct traffic and assist in the collection of a record amount exceeding \$40,000 in donations.
- **Probation/Police Partnership.** Juvenile Probation continues to collaborate with local law enforcement to enhance community protection. Probation officers routinely “ride along” with local police to learn more about neighborhood hot spots and interact with juveniles involved with the court. In addition, the Juvenile Probation Warrant Unit works closely with the Pittsburgh Police, the Sheriff’s Office, and municipal police agencies to locate and apprehend at-risk juveniles who have absconded or violated conditions of supervision. The Warrant Unit is comprised of approximately 20 probation officers and supervisors who volunteer to participate in addition to their regular duties. Since the Warrant Unit’s inception in 2004 through 2015, 992 juvenile absconders/violators have been sought. Of that total, 36 percent (354) were apprehended during a sweep, 43 percent (422) were apprehended by the police subsequent to the sweep, 14 percent (136) turned themselves in or were turned in by a parent following the sweep, and 7 percent (69) were subsequently closed or aged out of the system. One percent (11) remain AWOL to date.

Case Closing Information 2015

Number of Cases Closed	1,048
Average Length of Supervision: Probation	26 months
Average Length of Supervision: Consent Decree	8 months

Accountability Factors	Number of Youth Ordered	Amount Ordered	Amount Completed/Paid	Completed/Paid in Full	Completed/Paid 50% or more
Community Service Hours	640	25,181 Hours	25,117 Hours	92%	94%
Restitution	257	\$208,037	\$125,765	86%	90%
Completed the Three Hour Victim Awareness Curriculum	490		477	97%	99%
Public Safety	Number of Youth	Percent of Closed Cases			
Violation of Probation	106	10%			
New Adjudication	102	10%			
Skill-Building		Percent of Closed Cases			
Attended School, Vocational Program, or GED Training or Employed at Time of Case Closing		85%			

Of the 1,048 cases closed during 2015, 90 percent successfully completed supervision without re-offending, 86 percent paid restitution in full, and 92 percent completed community service obligations in full.



Lisa DiDomenico, Maria Mandalakas, Alicia Marsh, and Patty Moore won the Golden Gavel Award for the fourth quarter of 2015. These individuals played a vital role in the implementation of the Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) by volunteering their time to verify and correct information transferred from the Juvenile Case Management System to the CPCMS. **L-R:** Administration Clerical Supervisor Katie Berner, Administration Secretary Maria Mandalakas, Administrative Support Manager Jamie Mariana, Administration Secretary Alicia Marsh, Expungement Clerk Patty Moore, Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark, and Juvenile Probation Administrator Russell Carlino. Missing from photo: Lisa DiDomenico.

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.



Marvin Randall was honored with the 2015 JCJC Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year award.



Family Division ~ Children's Court

The Children's Court was involved in a number of innovative practice initiatives in 2015 in furtherance of its mission and the missions of the Family Division and the Fifth Judicial District.

Comprehensive Trauma Audit

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) completed a trauma audit of the Family Division in 2015 at the request of Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark. Spearheaded by Judges Clark and Kathryn M. Hens-Greco, recommendations from the audit are being utilized to assist the court in identifying best practices aimed at creating a trauma-responsive environment for both staff and the public, including improved signage throughout the Family Law Center and courtrooms. The trauma audit also informed the 2015 priority work of the Allegheny County Children's Court Roundtable, a flagship model of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Children's Roundtable, including a strategy for significant enhancements to the court's domestic violence operations.

Safe Space Project

Victims oftentimes re-live domestic violence trauma when conversing with court personnel and attorneys who gather information to assist them. Children who accompany caregivers applying for assistance often hear again, or in some cases for the first time, the tragic events leading to a request for court protection. Appropriate space for confidential interactions with litigants, including intimate partner violence victims and their children, is critical. Separate waiting areas are provided for court users involved in Protection From Abuse proceedings. A strategy to engage community partners to assist the court in identifying resources to build out and equip the space was developed in 2015. The strategy, scheduled to launch in 2016, is expected to meet established best practice guidelines for safe, secure space to handle the increasing volume of domestic violence matters and to ensure confidential communications in an emotionally supportive space.

Cross-Over Youth National Best Practice Model Project (CYPM)

Collaboration between Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and Allegheny County's juvenile justice and child welfare systems was initiated in 2014 to implement the innovative Crossover Youth Practice Model. The operational structure engaged in 2015 includes:

- An Implementation Team comprised of stakeholders from various systems including the court, juvenile justice partners, child welfare, education, and behavioral health agencies;
- A coalition of community leaders supporting the practice model's Implementation Team; and
- A core leadership team involving Administrative Judge Clark, Judge Guido A. DeAngelis, court administrators, and agencies noted above.

With oversight by Judge DeAngelis, the above teams established the framework for implementation of the CYPM by developing a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the vision and values of the partnering juvenile justice and child welfare agencies, and a joint evidence-based protocol specifying the policies and procedures for staff at each agency as they share responsibility for youth who are active in both systems. Both foundational documents were finalized in October 2015 followed by training sessions on the practice model for front-line staff from each agency. Formal evaluation of the CYPM will include a six month data collection effort that will track the number of youth who become involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

In August 2015, Family Division jurists attended training relating to sexual orientation, gender identification, and expression as it relates to adults and youth. R.J. Thompson, Esq., a human rights lawyer, organizer, and educator who currently works as the Community Educator of the Fair Courts Project at Lambda Legal in New York, was the presenter.

Issues concerning cultural competency and implicit bias were examined during a presentation in December 2015 for judges, staff, and Children's Court stakeholders. Presenter Dr. Shawn Marsh, a nationally recognized social psychologist with research and teaching interests in the areas of psychology and the law, adolescent development, trauma, and juvenile justice, was introduced by the NCJFCJ in association with the Implementation Sites Project. Children's Court is one of eight national NCJFCJ Implementation Sites to be provided tailored and proactive technical assistance on a spectrum of child welfare issues and promising practices.



Judge Donald R. Walko, Jr. and Family Division Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark celebrate Adoption Day with the Monroe family.

Children's Court celebrated National Adoption Month in November 2015. The Family Law Center was decorated with the artwork of local K-8 students who crafted posters depicting the theme, *What My Family Means to Me*. Artists, their families, and teachers were honored at a reception hosted by Administrative Judge Clark. Fifty-two (52) children, ranging in age from seven months to 12 years, were adopted during a special celebration held on November 21, 2015.

CHILDREN'S COURT – DEPENDENCY

Dependency Petitions	2015
Agency (Children Youth & Families – CYF)	1,128
Agency with Aggravated Circumstances (CYF)	26
Private/Police	306
Total	1,460
Secondary Filings	
Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights	194
Adoption Petitions	197
Total	391
Judicial	
Emergency Custody Authorization Requests	1,315
Shelter Orders	1,311
Adjudicatory Orders – Dependent	845
Adjudicatory Orders – Not Dependent	130
Permanency Review Orders	6,013
Bypass Orders	27
Total	9,641
Hearing Officer	
Shelter Applications	1,252
Shelter Recommendations	1,156
Permanency Review Recommendations	3,635
Total	6,043
Professional Staff	
Private/Police Petition Processing	306
Permanent Legal Custody Modification Processing	63
Total	369

Children's Court provides a forum for 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.

Family Division ~ Children's Court



The Children's Court Protection From Abuse (PFA) department provides services on a daily basis for adult and child victims of domestic and family violence, and in 2015, the department serviced 4,229 PFA applicants.

The PFA department continued to partner with community and legal agencies throughout Allegheny County who provide services and assistance to victims of domestic violence. As a participating member of the Allegheny County Domestic Violence Task Force, PFA staff contributed to the revision and publication of an updated edition of the *Handbook on Domestic Violence Legal Proceedings and Resources in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. This handbook was designed to assist those working in law enforcement and the court system on domestic violence cases by synthesizing the procedures, forms, and other materials. The manual, which includes recommended practices and contact information for local specialists and resources, was distributed to all police departments and magisterial district judges in Allegheny County.

The mission of the Child Custody department is to assist parents and caregivers in addressing custody disputes with the goal of providing resolutions which reflect the best interests of children. To effectively co-parent and formulate a custodial schedule, litigants are required to participate in the Generations program, a two-step mandatory dispute resolution process, before entering into formal court proceedings. Step one of this program is an education seminar for adults and children, and step two is a mediation session for parents only. Both sessions are held at the Family Law Center.

CHILDREN'S COURT – PROTECTION FROM ABUSE (PFA)

Temporary PFA Applicants Screened	2015
Applicants Not Filing Petitions	533
Temporary PFA Order Granted by Judge	3,554
Petitions Denied	142
Total	4,229
Final PFA Hearings	
New	3,616
Continued	1,269
Total	4,885
Indirect Criminal Contempt Hearings	
New	848
Continued	523
Total	1,371

In 2015, 2,202 adults participated in the Generations education seminar, which examined how conflict impacts children, how to improve communication skills, and the importance of developmentally appropriate custody arrangements. Six hundred eighty-nine (689) children between the ages of six and 15 attended an education seminar and participated in group activities to discuss changing families and to share personal experiences with their peers. Mediations totaling 1,405 were conducted to help parties reach a parenting agreement. Professional staff was able to convert 243 parenting agreements after mediation into a final custody order.

Domestic Relations Officers conducted 1,047 custody conciliations and 269 contempt conferences in 2015. Professional staff processed 70 walk-in custody consent orders, and clerical staff continued to provide support and assistance to thousands of litigants in person and over the telephone.

The Children's Court Office of Human Services provided 234 referrals to individuals involved in custody related cases, up 16 percent from 2014. Over the past seven years, the number of referrals totaled 1,040. The predominant requests in 2015 were for services including co-parenting/parental conflict, mental health needs, family counseling, supervised visitations, parenting education, and reunification/reconciliation counseling.

The Intensive Mental Health/Drug & Alcohol Program for Assessment, Coordinated Services & Treatment Referral (IMPACT) Project assists the Family Court in managing child custody and dependency cases and assists parents with mental health and/or drug and alcohol problems. The Children's Court, the Allegheny County Health Department, and the Department of Human Services collaborated to provide this unique, on-site center located in the Family Law Center staffed by individuals from the Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health Justice Related Services Unit. Judges, hearing officers, and court staff referred clients to the on-site center for drug testing/screening, comprehensive behavioral health assessment and evaluation, and assistance with coordinated case management.

CHILDREN'S COURT – CUSTODY

Custody – Original Filings

Custody Complaint	1,391
Divorce Complaint with Custody	273

Total	1,664
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Custody – Secondary Filings

Modification	956
Contempt/Enforcement	244

Total	1,200
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Custody – Judicial

Hearings	853
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Custody – Hearing Officer

Partial Custody Hearings	556
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Custody – Professional Staff

Mediation	1,405
Conciliations	1,047
Contempt Conferences	269

Total	2,721
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Civil Division Judges



First Row:

Christine A. Ward
Michael F. Marmo
Michael A. Della Vecchia
Timothy Patrick O'Reilly

Second Row:

Alan D. Hertzberg
Paul F. Luty, Jr.
Robert J. Colville
Joseph M. James
R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.

Not Pictured:

Ronald W. Folino
Judith L.A. Friedman
Michael E. McCarthy
W. Terrence O'Brien



Civil Division

The Honorable Ronald W. Folino, serving his second year as Administrative Judge, continued to oversee and manage all functions of the Civil Division, including general docket cases, jury and non-jury trials, the Arbitration division, the Commerce and Complex Litigation Center, and the Board of Viewers.

Nine commissioned judges and four senior judges are assigned to the Civil Division and preside over conciliations, arguments, and jury and non-jury trials. Civil judges were also assigned the following specific matters in addition to customary workloads:

Judge Robert J. Colville	Allegheny County drink tax cases
Judge Michael A. Della Vecchia	Backlogged asbestos and eminent domain cases
Judge Ronald W. Folino	Administrative Judge and Calendar Control Judge
Judge Judith L. A. Friedman	Housing Authority cases
Judge Alan D. Hertzberg	Housing Authority appeals and prisoner litigation
Judge Joseph M. James	Zoning Board appeals
Judge Paul F. Luty, Jr.	Miscellaneous cases
Judge Michael F. Marmo	Regular and expedited asbestos cases
Judge Michael E. McCarthy	Residential Mortgage Foreclosure program and structured settlements
Judge W. Terrence O'Brien	Office of Open Records appeals and Liquor Control Board cases
Judge Timothy Patrick O'Reilly	Liquor Control Board cases
Judge Christine A. Ward	Commerce and complex litigation cases and construction litigation
Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.	Commerce and complex litigation cases, class action and toxic substance cases; Water Authority appeals and general and special motions related to Arbitration cases

The Civil Division continued to execute proven policies and practices while exploring innovative methods for expediting case resolution. The following matters were processed by Civil Division judges in 2015:

- 547 cases appeared on the General Argument List. This number includes arguments on motions for Summary Judgment and Judgment on the Pleadings; 453 cases were adjudicated; 94 cases were relisted for hearing.
- A total of 1,969 cases were listed for trial (1,423 jury and 546 non-jury).

- 1,258 cases were scheduled for pre-trial conciliation, with the following results:

Settled	527
Transferred to Arbitration	24
Stricken from issue	2
Transferred to Bankruptcy Court	2
Transferred to another division/section	0
Relisted by the Calendar Control Judge	274
Summary Judgment granted	4
Scheduled for jury/non-jury trial	425

Civil Division

After conclusion of pre-trial proceedings, 691 cases were called for trial (299 jury and 392 non-jury), resulting in the following dispositions:

Jury verdicts	72
Non-jury verdicts	281
Settled prior to trial	257
Continued	56
Transferred to Federal Bankruptcy Court	7
Non-suits	4
Other	14

In his role as Calendar Control judge, Judge Folino continued to preside over all conciliations and motions relating to cases that were placed on a published trial list. The following matters were processed in 2015:

Cases conciliated from the trial list	138
Uncontested motions	1,065
Contested motions presented	655
Arbitration cases continued	104

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.

During 2015, judges presiding in Motions Court issued 7,707 orders and heard and adjudicated 540 preliminary objections, 59 preliminary injunctions, 403 Pa.R.C.P. 1303 hearings, and 657 miscellaneous hearings.

Despite representing a small fraction of cases filed, asbestos litigation is complex. Intricate causation issues related to death and serious bodily injury, the large number of defendants, and the multiple theories of liability and defense make these lawsuits time consuming and litigious. All cases managed under the court's "regular" and "expedited" dockets pursuant to the case management order filed at Administrative Docket #332 of 2005, as amended in August 2012, continue to be supervised by Judge Michael F. Marmo. Cases managed under the court's "backlog" dockets pursuant to the case management order filed at Administrative Docket #202 of 2005, as amended in 2010, remained under the supervision of Judge Michael A. Della Vecchia.

Judge Michael E. McCarthy continued to preside over mortgage foreclosure conciliations in 2015. This program, a collaborative effort between public and private sector entities to address the increasing number of property foreclosures in Allegheny County, diverts owner-occupied residential foreclosure actions into counseling for homeowners and conciliations between homeowners and lenders. In 2015, 598 cases were conciliated in the Civil Division under this program. Since implementation in 2009, 35 percent of homeowners were successful in modifying mortgages to retain possession of their homes. For details regarding the program, visit www.alleghenycourts.us/civil/foreclosure.aspx.

Judges Christine A. Ward and R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. have adjudicated cases transferred to the Commerce and Complex Litigation Center since 2007. Cases that may be assigned to the Center fall into two categories: commerce or complex litigation. The commerce category is subject-matter based and includes shareholder derivative suits, mergers and acquisitions, and intellectual property and trade secrets. The complex litigation category is based on the complexity of the issues, the amount in controversy, and the length of time required for trial. Many cases that meet the commerce category requirement(s) also meet the requirement(s) of the complex litigation category.

Local Rule of Judicial Administration 1901: *Prompt Disposition of Matters; Termination of Inactive Cases – Civil Division Matters Only*, was adopted by the Allegheny County Board of Judges in March 2015. This rule, which may be viewed on the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania website, www.alleghenycourts.us, provides for the termination of stale claims on the Civil Court docket which appear to have been abandoned or resolved by the parties without notice to the court.

At the request of Washington County President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca, and with the approval of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and Allegheny County President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, Fifth Judicial District jurists Michael A. Della Vecchia, Paul F. Luty, Jr., and Senior Judge Timothy Patrick O'Reilly volunteered to assist the Washington County bench in 2015. General docket cases were conciliated and settled, motions for summary judgment were heard, and backlogged asbestos matters were adjudicated and resolved.



Following a long career of distinguished judicial service, **Judge Paul F. Luty, Jr.**'s application for senior judge status was approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, effective January 1, 2016. Judge Luty's judicial career began when he was elected to the Common Pleas bench in 1989. He was initially assigned to the Criminal Division of the court and was transferred to the Civil Division in 1994. He subsequently won retention for two consecutive 10-year terms in 1999 and 2009. He will continue to serve as a senior judge in the Civil Division.

DOCKETED CASES

TORT (does not include mass tort)

	FILED
Intentional	47
Malicious Prosecution	7
Motor Vehicle	1,253
Nuisance	5
Premises Liability	342
Product Liability (does not include mass tort)	47
Slander/Libel/Defamation	23
Other	1,074
Asbestos	68
Tobacco	0
Toxic Tort – DES	1
Toxic Tort – Implant	0
Toxic Waste	0
Dental	8
Legal	22
Medical	245
Other Professional	18

CONTRACT (does not include judgments)

Buyer Plaintiff	291
Debt Collection: Credit Card	1,794
Debt Collection: Other	1,396
Employment Dispute: Discrimination	26
Employment Dispute: Other	51
Other	1,562

REAL PROPERTY

Ejectment	321
Eminent Domain/Condemnation	127
Ground Rent	1
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	1,400
Mortgage Foreclosure: Residential	2,261
Mortgage Foreclosure: Commercial	59
Partition of Real Property	18
Quiet Title	419

CIVIL APPEALS – Administrative Agencies

Board of Elections	6
Department of Transportation	798
Zoning Board	27
Statutory Appeal – Other	132

MISCELLANEOUS

Common Law/Statutory Arbitration	30
Declaratory Judgment	76
Mandamus	14
Non-Domestic Relations Restraining Order	0
Quo Warranto	0
Replevin	27

Civil Division ~ Arbitration

The goals of the Compulsory Arbitration section of the Civil Division include increasing public access to the court, lowering court costs, and effectively utilizing judicial resources. These goals are achieved by enlisting panels of arbitrators, comprised of three court-approved attorneys per panel, to adjudicate cases not in excess of the \$35,000 jurisdictional limit. Arbitration rules provide for concise pleadings, limitations on discovery requests, and relaxed rules of evidence, which facilitate fair and prompt resolution of claims within a short time after filing suit.

Of the 7,771 new cases filed in 2015, 6,363 represent contract, personal injury, credit collection, lemon law, and/or medical malpractice cases, and 1,408 represent landlord-tenant actions. In addition, 157 cases were transferred from the Civil Division general docket to Arbitration. In 2015, 470 arbitration boards heard 1,701 cases with an average arbitrators' cost per case of \$87.49. The appeal rate associated with arbitration awards in 2015 was 32.92 percent.



Arbitration Clerks L-R: LesMarie Singleton and Deirdre Abbey.

ARBITRATION CASES	2013	2014	2015
Pending on January 1 (includes cases filed in previous years)	1,767	1,529	1,581
New Cases Filed	7,496	7,065	7,771
Transferred from Civil Division	198	158	157
Total	9,461	8,752	9,509
Awards by Boards	1,837	1,869	1,701
Settlements, Non-Pros., etc.	5,301	4,580	4,915
Trial List Cases Disposed by Judge	794	722	901
Total	7,932	7,171	7,517
Appeals Filed	598	589	560
Rate of Appeals	32.55%	31.51%	32.92%

Civil and Orphans' Division personnel joined the Allegheny County Bar Association-Small and Solo Firm Practitioners Section in presenting a continuing legal education (CLE) review of best practices in arbitration and motions procedures in the Civil and Orphans' Court Divisions. Arbitration Supervisor Anna Majocha, Assistant Supervisor Brian Smarra, Civil Motions Supervisor Anthony Bagnato, and Orphans' Court Motions Supervisor Hugh Mulvey presented a brief history and overview of the Arbitration program, information regarding motions practice, and the difference between motions procedures in the Orphans' and Civil Divisions.

ARBITRATION BOARDS	2013	2014	2015
Number of Arbitration Boards Summoned	458	452	470
Number of Arbitrators Summoned	1,374	1,356	1,410
Arbitrator's Fee Per Day	\$150	\$150	\$150
Total Arbitrators' Fees	\$206,100	\$203,400	\$211,500
Less Non-Recoverable Appeals Fees	\$68,730	\$68,820	\$62,675
Total Costs	\$137,370	\$134,580	\$148,825
Average Cost per Case	\$74.78	\$72.01	\$87.49



Seated L-R: Assistant Arbitration Supervisor Brian Smarra and Arbitration Supervisor Anna Majocha. **Standing L-R:** Civil Motions Supervisor Anthony Bagnato and Orphans' Court Motions Supervisor Hugh Mulvey.

Civil Division ~ Board of Viewers

The Board of Viewers disposed of 5,092 real estate tax appeals in 2015 including residential and commercial property appeals, the remainder of the Allegheny County revaluation cases, and newly filed appeals.

Board of Viewers (the Board) members include Special Masters Michelle Lally, Administrative Chair, Mary Dauer Colville, Stephen M. Farino, Helen M. Lynch, and Michele Zappala Peck, attorneys-at-law, and Lay Masters Carmen V. DeChellis and Barbara R. Utterback.

In 2015, the majority of cases before the Board involved residential properties, and in most instances, property owners appeared *pro se*/without counsel. Through conciliations involving property owners and the three taxing bodies, overseen by the Special and Lay Masters, a review of relevant evidence including comparable sales, neighborhood-wide assessed values, and individual characteristics of the properties were considered. A large percentage of cases were resolved at the time of conciliation. Full hearings before the Masters were conducted on the remaining cases in which lay and expert testimony was offered, and Masters' reports were filed with the court. The rate of objections in 2015 to Masters' reports continued to be less than one percent.



Board of Viewers. Seated **L-R**: Michele Zappala Peck, Esq., Stephen M. Farino, Esq., and Mary Dauer Colville, Esq. Standing: Michelle Lally, Esq., Administrative Chair. Missing from photo: Carmen V. DeChellis and Barbara R. Utterback.

In 2015, 10 new petitions for appointment of Viewers were presented to the Board, including multi-parcel takings. Twelve (12) views were undertaken and 26 hearings were held. The takings encompassed a variety of projects including sewer and water line projects (new installations and repairs or improvements to existing lines); highway widenings and upgrades; and other takings for public projects. The sewer projects involved large undertakings in communities where no sewers previously existed, and the Viewers were tasked with finding both benefits and damages to the involved properties. Full evidentiary hearings, at which expert and lay testimony was presented, were conducted by the Viewers sitting in panels of three members.

As 2016 begins, the Board anticipates additional tax assessment appeals involving the correct application of the common level ratio to recent sales and eminent domain cases involving sewer lines as Allegheny County continues to work to comply with state and federal mandates.

BOARD OF VIEWERS

Eminent Domain 64

(New Petitions/Views/Hearings involving water and sewer line cases, partial and total takings, and private roads)

Tax Appeals 5,092

(Conciliations/Hearings/Settlements/Masters Reports involving residential and commercial real estate tax assessments appealed from the Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review decisions)

Total 5,156

Orphans' Court Division Judges



L-R:

Kathleen A. Durkin
Lawrence J. O'Toole
John A. Zottola

Not Pictured:

Frank J. Lucchino

To provide accessible, courteous, prompt, and efficient court services to all litigants and 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.

Orphans' Court Division

The Guardianship Department modernized its monitoring program involving incapacitated persons following the appointment of a dedicated examiner in 2014. Modernization included working with Court Information Systems staff to update and improve software programs utilized to track 3,640 guardianship cases in the Orphans' Court database. These improvements allow more time for staff to complete detailed reviews of annual reports of the estate and person, verify surety bonds, conduct field visits, and manage increased enforcement activities for delinquent filings by guardians and/or their counsel. Orphans' Court investigators continue to follow-up with records monitoring and field visits to incapacitated persons to insure their needs are being met. Taking the initiative from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force, Allegheny County's Guardianship Department strives to be at the vanguard of guardianship monitoring activity in Pennsylvania.

In recognition of its efforts relating to guardianship matters, the Allegheny County Orphans' Court Division was chosen by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) to be a test site for the Orphans' Court and Register of Wills Initiative in the development of a statewide case management and electronic filing system. Orphans' Division staff has been actively involved in assisting the AOPC with the development and testing phases of this significant statewide project.

GUARDIANSHIP – INCAPACITATED PERSONS

New Petitions Filed	239
Emergency Guardians Appointed	13
Permanent Guardians Appointed	150
Successor Guardians Appointed	20
Guardians Discharged	4
Petitions Withdrawn or Dismissed	36
Electro-Convulsive Therapy Petitions	33
Adjudication of Full Capacity	3
Petitions for Review	14
Bonds Approved	32
Safe Deposit Box Inventories	7
Court-Appointed Counsel	52
Independent Medical Evaluations	6
Petitions for Allowance/Ratification Presented	437
Annual Report of Guardians Filed	1,861
Final Report of Guardians (Person/Estate) Filed	126
New Petitions – Guardians of the Person of a Minor Filed	26



Orphans' Court Division

In 2015, the Civil Commitment Department completed an Electronic "Bridge" project by establishing connectivity between the court's electronic filing system and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS resultantly coordinates and manages Allegheny County's "302" program, which involves the first level of the involuntary civil commitment process. Formally known as Section 7302 of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act, 50 P.S. 7101, et. seq., this statute governs involuntary commitments for persons with mental health conditions who are in need of immediate treatment in order to prevent harm to themselves or others.

A total of 4,943 involuntary civil commitment petitions were filed in 2015. Hearings on these petitions were conducted by five Mental Health Review Officers at 24 hospital and treatment community sites throughout Allegheny County, with the addition of Passavant Memorial Homes, Long-Term Structured Residences in 2015. The e-filing system, implemented in 2014, has significantly enhanced the department's search, tracking, and monitoring of these cases.

CIVIL COMMITMENTS

Petitions

Prior to Judicial Review (Discharged, Withdrawn, Voluntary Admission)	566
By Mental Health Review Officer	4,377
By Judges (Petition for Review, Electro-Convulsive Therapy, Expungement)	107
Total	5,050

Hearings By Type Under Mental Health Procedures Act

303	Up to 20 Days Civil Commitment	3,001
304-B	Up to 90 Days Civil Commitment	1,214
304-C	Up to 90 Days Civil Commitment	123
305	Up to 180 Days Civil Commitment	16
306	Transfer Civil Commitment – location transfer between facilities	33
306-2	Up to 180 Days Civil Commitment	3
304-G2	Up to 365 Days Criminal Commitment	0
402/405	Up to 60 Days Criminal Commitment	319
406	Long Term Civil Commitment	1
ECT	Electro-Convulsive Therapy	33
EXP	Expungement	8
REVW	Judicial Review of Mental Health Review Officer Decision	66
Total		4,817

ADOPTIONS

	Scheduled	Decreed	Withdrawn/ Dismissed
Adoptions	119	107	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	3	1	0
Confirm Consents	70	70	0
Involuntary Terminations	53	42	3
Total	245	220	3

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)	331
Combined Decrees and Orders	551
Persons Adopted (some petitions include siblings)	130
Adult Adoptee Search Requests	60
Orders Signed Appointing Search Agents for Adult Adoptee Search Requests	18
Birthparent Search Requests	9
Orders Signed Appointing Search Agents for Birthparent Search Requests	5
Family Search Requests	6
Orders Signed Appointing Search Agents for Family Search Requests	3
Orders Signed on Petitions to Register Foreign Relative Adoption Decrees	6

NON-RELATIVE ADOPTIONS

Adoption Placement by Agencies

Adoption Connection, PA	2
Allegheny County Children Youth & Families	3
Bethany Christian Serv.	8
Blair County (PA) C&Y Serv.	1
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh	1
Curry County C&YS, New Mexico	2
Family Hope Connection of Jewish F&C Serv.	1
Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc	4
The Children's Home of Pittsburgh	15
Three Rivers Adoption Council	6
WV Dept. of HHR/Bureau of C&F Svcs.	1

Adoption Placement by Non-Agencies

Parent	4
All Other	2

RELATIVE ADOPTIONS

Step-Parent	54
Co-Parent Adoptions	8
Other Relative	13
U.S.A. Re-Adoptions	3
Adult Adoptions	2

Total Persons Adopted	130
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There were 508 accounts filed by personal representatives of decedents' estates, trustees, guardians, and/or agents in 2015, representing an increase of 18 percent over the number of accounts filed in 2014. Small estate petitions declined from 193 in 2014 to 154 in 2015. This may be attributed to the increased number of accounts and estate/family settlement agreements filed, which increased from 968 in 2014 to 1,062 in 2015. All accounts and small estate petitions are reviewed by the court's audit examiners for accuracy and compliance with statutory and court rules. Estate/family settlement agreements are reviewed to ensure that no "at risk distributions" have been made to minors and/or incapacitated persons and that their respective interests are protected in accordance with statutory and court rules. Audit staff also continued to work with the Department of Court Records, Wills/Orphans' Court Division to enforce compliance with the filing of estate status reports as required by Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rule 6.12.

Two hundred thirty-nine (239) new cases were filed in 2015 involving incapacitated persons, a slight decline from 2014. As of December 2015, there are over 3,640 guardianship cases in the court's database. In addition, 437 petitions for allowance and/or ratification were filed and reviewed by guardianship investigators to insure compliance with court rules and statutory requirements.

The number of adoption petitions increased slightly with the filing of 119 adoptions in 2015 versus 116 in 2014. Adoption search requests require a significant amount of staff time since adoption investigators must independently verify a requestor's standing, as required by Section 2931 of the Adoption Act, prior to an order being entered by the court appointing a search agent.

ESTATES

Audit Hearing of Accounts

Accounts Filed by Executors, Administrators, Trustees, and Guardians	508
Decrees of Distribution	452
Contested Hearings*	402

*Hearings on claims of creditors against estates, exceptions to accounts, and questions of distribution involving appeals from decrees of the Department of Court Records Wills/Orphans' Court 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, and corrections of birth records

Exceptions Heard by the Court En Banc	0
Opinions Filed by the Court	41
Pretrial Conferences Docketed	147
Return Days Scheduled	88

Petitions Filed

Small Estates (\$50,000 or less)	154
Additional Bonds	58
Appointment of Guardians of the Person and Estates of Minors	21
Approval of Settlement of Minors' Claims	363
Lifting of Suspension of Distribution	10
Sale of Real Estate	42
Petitions for citation against fiduciaries to file accounts or to show cause why they should not be removed	79
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	70
Miscellaneous Petitions	837

Total Petitions Filed	1,634
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Summary Appeals

The Summary Appeals branch of the Fifth Judicial District serves a hybrid function. Appeals arising from summary criminal convictions are heard, as well as certain civil statutory appeals of decisions by local and state administrative agencies.

A large percentage of civil statutory appeals arise from PennDOT driver license suspensions. Additional appeals include, but are not limited to, legal issues arising from decisions by government agencies such as civil service, land use, zoning, the liquor control board, school boards, and the health department. These appeals are adjudicated by Civil Division judges.

The majority of summary appeals arise under the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code. Other examples of summary appeals include cases of disorderly conduct, defiant trespass, obstructing traffic, harassment, retail theft, public drunkenness, and underage drinking. Appeals involving dog-licensing provisions and truancy are also heard by the Summary Appeals branch.

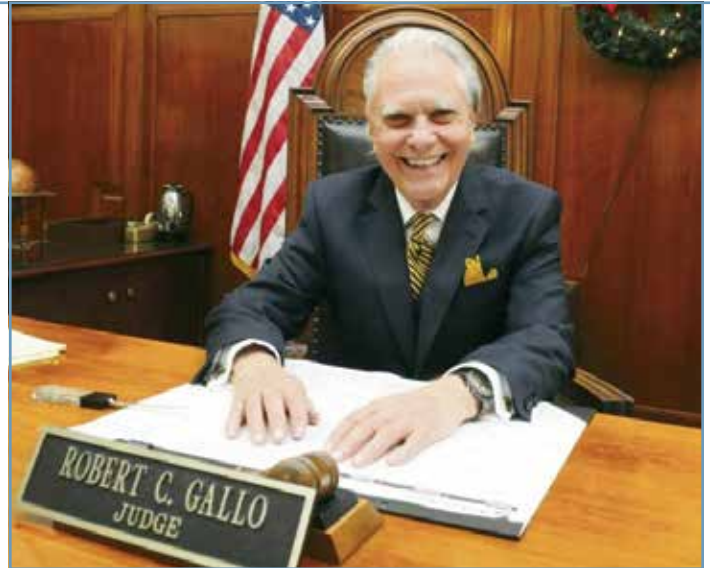


Photo courtesy of the Tribune-Review

After 26 years on the Allegheny County Common Pleas bench, **Judge Robert C. Gallo** retired effective December 30, 2015.

Judge Gallo was known to all as a fair and impartial jurist who listened to all parties, believing that everyone had their own story to tell. Over the last 13 years, he presided over Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition and Summary Appeal cases.

Judge Gallo was actively involved in numerous professional and charitable organizations, and many achievements were accredited to him. He is well regarded and respected by all who know him and is wished a healthy, happy retirement.

SUMMARY APPEALS – CASE DISPOSITIONS

Case Type	New Cases Filed	Cases Disposed
Criminal Summary Appeals	2,735	2,890
Motor Vehicle Code Suspensions	1,088	900
Pittsburgh Parking Authority	10	10
In Forma Pauperis	1,270	1,270
Nunc Pro Tunc Appeals	620	620
Total	5,723	5,690





Magisterial District Court Judges



Hon. Ronald A. Arnoni
05-2-20



Hon. David J. Barton
05-2-17



Hon. Carolyn S. Bengel
05-2-05



Hon. Suzanne A. Blaschak
05-3-04



Hon. Thomas P. Caulfield
05-2-08



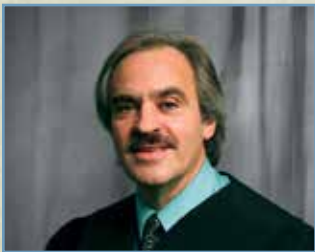
Hon. Anthony M. Ceoffe
05-3-10



Hon. Mary Ann Cercone
05-3-06



Hon. Kevin E. Cooper
05-3-12



Hon. Ron N. Costa, Sr.
05-2-31



Hon. Robert P. Dzvonick
05-2-03



Hon. Robert L. Ford
05-3-02



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



Hon. Jeffrey L. Herbst
05-2-07



Hon. Kim M. Hoots
05-2-10



Hon. Leonard J. HRomyak
05-2-06



Hon. Dennis R. Joyce
05-2-23



Hon. Richard G. King
05-3-14



Hon. Elissa M. Lang
05-2-04



Hon. Blaise P. Larotonda
05-2-19



Hon. Armand A. Martin
05-3-09



Hon. Randy C. Martini
05-3-13



Hon. Hugh F. McGough
05-2-35



Hon. Maureen McGraw-Desmet
05-2-21



Hon. Thomas G. Miller, Jr.
05-3-05



Hon. James A. Motznik
05-2-38



Hon. Mary P. Murray
05-2-25



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



Hon. Richard G. Opiela
05-2-02



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



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



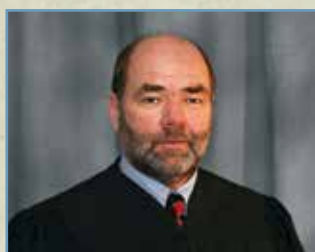
Hon. Guy Reschenthaler
05-2-16



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



Hon. Eugene N. Ricciardi
05-2-27



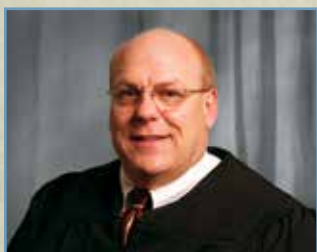
Hon. Derwin D. Rushing
05-2-40



Hon. Anthony W. Saveikis
05-3-17



Hon. Beth Scagline Mills
05-2-26



Hon. Scott H. Schricker
05-2-47



Hon. Tara L. Smith
05-2-01



Hon. David J. Sosovicka
05-3-03



Hon. Carla M. Swearingen
05-2-43

Magisterial District Court Judges



Hon. Thomas R. Torkowsky
05-2-15



Hon. William K. Wagner
05-2-12



Hon. Linda I. Zucco
05-2-32



Hon. Gary M. Zyra
05-2-22

SENIOR JUDGES



Hon. Robert Barner
Senior Judge



Hon. John N. Bova
Senior Judge



Hon. Pat A. Capolupo
Senior Judge



Hon. Elaine M. McGraw
Senior Judge



Hon. Edward A. Tibbs
Senior Judge



Hon. Regis C. Welsh, Jr.
Senior Judge



Hon. Eugene Zielmanski
Senior Judge

NOT PICTURED

Hon. Thomas S. Brletic
Senior Judge

Hon. Charles A. McLaughlin, Jr.
Senior Judge

Hon. Nathan Firestone
Senior Judge

Hon. Richard H. Zoller
Senior Judge

Hon. Nancy L. Longo
Senior Judge

Magisterial District Courts

The 46 Magisterial District Courts within the Fifth Judicial District provide a forum for fair and equal access to judicial services and allow for the expeditious resolution of public and private disputes. The Magisterial District Courts processed 237,630 cases in 2015, including Civil, Criminal, Landlord/Tenant, Miscellaneous Dockets, Non-Traffic, and Traffic matters.

The Magisterial District Courts collected \$20,388,299 in case fines, fees, and costs in 2015, \$3,240,768 of which was processed through the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts' PAePay payment applications. There has been an increase in the number of court participants utilizing the PAePay applications, with 22,081 individuals accessing this system for payment(s) on cases in the Fifth Judicial District in 2015. The PAePay Bail application, implemented in 2014, also experienced an increase in usage, with 196 payments made at the Magisterial District Court level in 2015, for a total of \$551,435.

E-PAY PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2015

January	\$239,205
February	\$353,123
March	\$300,322
April	\$264,168
May	\$258,895
June	\$246,655
July	\$256,889
August	\$253,928
September	\$291,734
October	\$262,646
November	\$254,586
December	\$258,617
Total	\$3,240,768

The Magisterial District Judges (MDJs), in addition to their annual state continuing education program, participated in a Fifth Judicial District MDJ meeting and educational session in May 2015. Topics included Truancy, KidsVoice, Constable Update, Veterans Court Update, Risk Assessment Tool (Arnold Foundation), Review of Rule 452, and language access for limited English proficient court customers. Presenters included Bruce Noel, Intake Manager; Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Erin Williams, MDJ Resource Specialist, Department of Human Services; Jennifer McGarrity, Esquire, KidsVoice Supervising Attorney; Melanie A. Predis Solomon, Allegheny County Controller's Office; Judges John A. Zottola and William F. Ward; Zach DelPra, Justice System Partners; Janice Dean, Director of Allegheny County Pretrial Services; District Judges David J. Barton and Dennis R. Joyce; and Lisa Herbert, Esquire, Deputy Court Administrator.

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) partnered with the Fifth Judicial District to appoint an MDJ Resource Specialist, Erin Williams, to assist with identifying resources for individuals with human service needs and to enable district courts and families to better address truancy issues.

The Fifth Judicial District also partnered with DHS to implement the Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) services project in 2015. Three providers, Family Resources, Woman's Center and Shelter, and Renewal, were awarded contracts in 2014 to provide human resources assistance including child abuse prevention counseling, programs for strengthening families, immediate needs for the poor and homeless, housing, and community corrections services. Persad, specifically created to serve the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, was contracted in 2015 to serve same-sex couples.

The Magisterial District Courts experienced multiple transitions in 2015 including the retirement of Judge Suzanne R. Blaschak, District Court 05-3-04, (29 years of service), Judge Kevin Cooper, Sr., District Court 05-3-12 (25 years of service), Judge Leonard J. HRomyak, District Court 05-2-06, (17 years of service), and Judge Gary M. Zyra, District Court 05-2-22, (37 years of service). Judge Guy Reschenthaler, District Court 05-2-16, resigned, effective July 11, 2015, upon his nomination as the Republican candidate for the 37th Senatorial District, and Judge Hugh F. McGough, District Court 05-2-35, resigned upon his election to the Common Pleas bench in November 2015. District Judge Nancy L. Longo resigned her senior judge status effective November 15, 2015, and District Judge Thomas S. Brletic resumed senior judge status in February 2015.

DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

Magisterial District Courts

Allegheny County Treasurer	\$3,894,393
Cities, Boroughs, and Townships	\$4,362,148
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue	\$12,131,758
Total	\$20,388,299

Magisterial District Courts



Thirteen re-elected Magisterial District Judges swore their oath of office administered by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd, at a ceremony held on December 18, 2015. Pictured L-R:

- Justice Debra Todd
- Anthony M. Ceoffe (05-3-10)
- Armand A. Martin (05-3-09)
- Thomas G. Miller (05-3-05)
- Mary P. Murray (05-2-25)
- Richard G. Opiela (05-2-02)
- Blaise P. Larotonda (05-2-19)
- Scott H. Schricker (05-2-47)
- Elissa M. Lang (05-2-04)
- James A. Motznik (05-2-38)
- Maureen McGraw-Desmet (05-2-21)
- Robert P. Ravenstahl, Jr. (05-2-42)
- David J. Barton (05-2-17)
- Derwin D. Rushing (05-2-40)
- Jeffrey A. Manning, President Judge



Newly-elected Magisterial District Judges were sworn in on December 18, 2015 at a ceremony attended by President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, who officiated, and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd, who administered the oath of office. Pictured L-R:

- Justice Debra Todd
- Tom Swan (05-3-04)
- Roxanne S. Eichler (05-2-11)
- Ronald A. Armoni (05-2-20)
- Craig C. Stephens (05-2-22)
- Ralph Kaiser (05-2-18)
- Kevin E. Cooper, Jr. (05-3-12)
- Jeffrey A. Manning, President Judge

Not Pictured:

- Anthony L. DeLuca (05-2-06)

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to recognize the Honorable Charles A. McLaughlin who passed away on August 19, 2015 at age 73. Judge McLaughlin was elected Magisterial District Judge of District Court 05-2-38 in 1985 and won three subsequent uncontested terms. He continued to serve as a Senior Magisterial District Judge until his death.

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.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed District Judge David J. Barton to a four-year term on the Court of Judicial Discipline, effective May 29, 2015. The Court of Judicial Discipline presides over and decides formal charges which are filed against judicial officers in Pennsylvania.



President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning administered the oath of office on June 5, 2015 to Magisterial District Judge David J. Barton upon his appointment by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to the Court of Judicial Discipline.

The Joint State Government Commission of the General Assembly, authorized by House Resolution 1032 of 2014, appointed District Judge Dennis R. Joyce to the Joint State Government Commission Truancy Advisory Committee. This committee was directed to conduct a comprehensive study of the issues of truancy and school dropout prevention in Pennsylvania. Judge Joyce was also appointed to the DUI Treatment Compliance Oversight Committee by the Honorable Michael J. Barrasse, Chair of the Committee.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania designated District Judge Richard G. King as Chair of the Minor Judiciary Education Board. This board is charged with the responsibility of providing legal education to Pennsylvania's minor judiciary, which includes Magisterial District Judges, Senior Magisterial District Judges, Arraignment Court Magistrates, and prospective judges of the above positions. Judge King, a member of this board since 2010, previously served as Vice-Chair.

Judge Thomas G. Miller, Jr. was appointed by Mark Bergstromm, Executive Director of the PA Commission on Sentencing, to the Pennsylvania Strategic Planning Committee Working Group.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania re-appointed District Judge Anthony W. Saveikis to the Minor Court Rules Committee. Judge Saveikis was also appointed by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald to the Allegheny County Farmland Preservation Board, whose mission is to protect viable farmland by acquiring conservation easements which prevent the development or improvement of the land for any purpose other than agricultural production.

The Fifth Judicial District would like to recognize the following employees who retired in 2015 for their years of dedicated service:

18 years
Linda Witherow, District Court 05-2-17

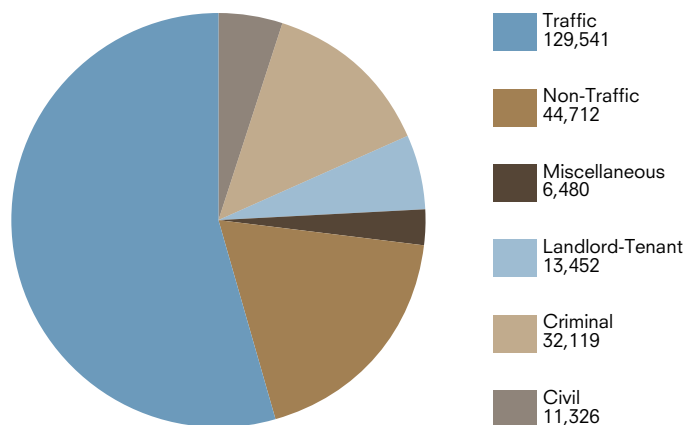
27 years
Anita Haun, District Court 05-2-38

27 years
Roslyn Wade, Traveling Secretary

31 years
Dolores Niedbala, District Court 05-2-18

35 years
Cecilia Bobich, District Court 05-2-08

DOCKET TYPE TOTALS BY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 2015



FILINGS *by* MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

Court	Civil	Criminal	Landlord-Tenant	Miscellaneous	Non-Traffic	Traffic	Total
05-0-03	1	11,343	0	326	9,269	27,175	48,114
05-0-04	0	8	0	4,005	0	0	4,013
05-2-01	219	499	222	81	801	4,509	6,331
05-2-02	294	779	167	43	832	3,232	5,347
05-2-03	270	624	193	25	1,450	2,633	5,195
05-2-04	239	367	114	45	682	3,262	4,709
05-2-05	347	398	243	32	782	3,994	5,796
05-2-06	511	815	637	66	1,276	1,723	5,028
05-2-07	356	933	406	80	902	2,474	5,151
05-2-08	161	464	280	58	1,194	2,730	4,887
05-2-10	168	594	627	54	910	4,779	7,132
05-2-11	225	676	388	20	1,226	4,562	7,097
05-2-12	318	317	84	52	463	3,429	4,663
05-2-13	256	882	668	82	1,522	1,230	4,640
05-2-14	264	1,000	352	51	1,459	2,493	5,619
05-2-15	260	678	240	26	1,495	2,974	5,673
05-2-16	239	537	106	5	602	3,831	5,320
05-2-17	156	458	210	61	458	4,841	6,184
05-2-18	174	784	364	27	771	2,273	4,393
05-2-19	179	442	157	62	1,043	3,961	5,844
05-2-20	243	542	94	78	622	2,482	4,061
05-2-21	255	433	88	66	894	3,059	4,795
05-2-22	161	454	81	26	447	1,655	2,824
05-2-23	226	482	186	26	918	2,320	4,158
05-2-25	267	662	271	70	736	3,165	5,171
05-2-26	294	272	148	76	389	933	2,112
05-2-27	196	0	358	60	343	1,049	2,006
05-2-28	294	0	505	6	517	294	1,616
05-2-31	288	0	589	2	322	16	1,217
05-2-32	273	345	165	48	432	1,877	3,140
05-2-35	226	0	150	166	447	254	1,243
05-2-36	144	103	221	74	81	4	627
05-2-38	219	0	276	47	365	75	982
05-2-40	184	0	637	12	229	87	1,149
05-2-42	215	0	883	48	731	42	1,919
05-2-43	229	680	77	19	675	2,962	4,642
05-2-47	309	945	627	37	1,291	2,332	5,541
05-3-02	127	274	24	39	309	5,183	5,956
05-3-03	201	750	34	44	721	4,462	6,212
05-3-04	348	408	44	22	652	3,849	5,323
05-3-05	218	235	118	8	391	394	1,364
05-3-06	272	1,154	509	38	984	1,831	4,788
05-3-09	449	550	271	24	1,998	941	4,233
05-3-10	115	0	93	25	115	1	349
05-3-12	169	0	456	2	637	17	1,281
05-3-13	221	0	413	25	270	455	1,384
05-3-14	373	784	561	61	1,322	1,314	4,415
05-3-17	173	448	115	130	737	2,383	3,986
Total	11,326	32,119	13,452	6,480	44,712	129,541	237,630

Pittsburgh Municipal Court

Pittsburgh Municipal Court (PMC) continued its commitment to promote public trust and confidence by providing quality service in an impartial, efficient, and effective manner.

A total of 48,114 cases were filed at PMC in 2015 including, 11,343 criminal, 9,269 non-traffic, 27,175 traffic, and 326 private criminal complaints. Cases disposed of in 2015 included 12,267 criminal, 9,688 non-traffic, and 29,129 traffic. Approximately 10 percent of criminal cases, or 1,288, resulted in final dispositions through the Expedited Disposition Plea (EDP) program.

The use of video technology continues to expand at PMC. In 2015, video technology was utilized to dispose of 474 traffic and non-traffic cases involving defendants charged with summary matters who were housed in the Allegheny County Jail and Pennsylvania state correction facilities. The Arraignment Division conducted 16,176 arraignments via video for defendants housed in the Allegheny County Jail, 129 for defendants housed in Pennsylvania state correctional facilities, and 185 bail hearings for defendants arrested in Allegheny County for charges filed in other judicial districts, pursuant to Pa.R.Crim.P. 517.

The on-line payment features available to court participants have continued to improve in 2015. The PAePay application, <http://ujportal.pacourts.us>, and nCourt, www.pittsburghpatix.com, provide the public with the ability to pay traffic and non-traffic financial obligations with credit/debit cards via the Internet.

- Total collections at PMC in 2015 were \$3,207,111 representing fines, fees, and collateral for traffic and non-traffic citations.
- Over 4,000 court participants utilized the MDJS PAePay application at PMC, which resulted in the collection of \$842,868 through the PAePay application and \$441,451 through the services of nCourt. This is approximately 40 percent of the total payments received and processed at PMC.
- PMC processed bail payments on 84 cases through the PAePay Bail Application. The total amount of monetary bail collected for PMC through the PAePay Bail application was \$198,285. This amount was for cases filed at PMC only and does not include the monies processed for other Allegheny County magisterial district courts.

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.

The Arraignment Division of PMC maintains a 24 hour, 365 days a year schedule, with magisterial district judges from all Allegheny County district courts presiding on a rotating basis. The following matters were addressed by the Arraignment Division in 2015:

- The Arraignment Division collected and processed bail and collateral on Summary, Criminal, and Family Division cases in the amount of \$965,072 representing primarily bail on Criminal cases, but also collateral on traffic and non-traffic cases and Department of Court Records' fees.
- The Arraignment Division processed the posting of bail by bail bond agents.
- 16,176 preliminary arraignments were conducted via two-way simultaneous audio-visual communication with the Allegheny County Jail pursuant to Pa.R.Crim.P. 540.
- Magisterial District Judges assigned to the Arraignment Division conducted 95 marriage ceremonies in 2015.
- The Arraignment Division oversaw the filing of criminal complaints and the issuance of arrest and search warrants for all Magisterial District Courts during non-business hours and for the City of Pittsburgh during all hours.
- The Arraignment Division processed 153 defendants awaiting extradition to another state and 215 bail hearings for defendants arrested in Allegheny County for offenses that occurred in other Pennsylvania judicial districts.
- Emergency Protection From Abuse (PFA) Petitions are processed at Arraignment Court in the evenings, during the week, and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. In 2015, 2,790 petitions were processed, and 784 warrants for Indirect Criminal Contempt pertaining to PFA violations were issued.

Pittsburgh Municipal Court

President Judge Jeffrey A. Manning issued Amended Administrative Order of Court No. DJ-15-7 in 2015 to clarify the assignment of summary cases that occur within the corporate limits of the City of Pittsburgh. Prior to the implementation of the amended order, PMC management held meetings with representatives of the University of Pittsburgh Police Department, UPMC Police Department, and the Pennsylvania State Police to establish procedures and protocols for the filing of these summary citations at PMC to ensure a seamless transition.



L-R: Todd Lesesne and Jerry Cavalovitch were promoted to Assistant Manager and Manager, respectively, of Pittsburgh Municipal Court in March 2015.

PMC collected \$3,207,112 in fines, fees, and collateral for traffic and non-traffic citations in 2015. Distributions required by state law include the following:

County of Allegheny	\$510,553
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$1,540,989
City of Pittsburgh	\$1,155,570

Jerry Cavalovitch, Supervisor of PMC for the past 10 years, was promoted to Manager of PMC in March 2015 and oversees the day-to-day operations. Todd Lesesne was promoted to Assistant Manager of PMC in March 2015 and previously served as the Clerical Supervisor for the Non-Traffic Division.

PITTSBURGH MUNICIPAL COURT

Magisterial District Judge	Court Number	Sessions Assigned	PMC Cases ¹	MDJ Court Filings In 2015	Total Filings ²
Hon. Eugene N. Ricciardi	05-2-27	66	2,294	2,040	4,334
Hon. Oscar J. Petite, Jr.	05-2-28	105	3,649	1,615	5,264
Hon. Ron N. Costa, Sr.	05-2-31	118	4,101	1,219	5,320
Hon. Hugh F. McGough	05-2-35	114	3,966	1,248	5,214
Hon. James J. Hanley, Jr.	05-2-.36	153	5,317	627	5,944
Hon. James A. Motznik	05-2-38	120	4,170	984	5,154
Hon. Derwin D. Rushing	05-2-40	121	4,205	1,152	5,357
Hon. Robert P. Ravenstahl, Jr.	05-2-42	106	3,684	1,919	5,603
Hon. Anthony M. Ceoffe	05-3-10	180	6,255	351	6,606
Hon. Kevin E. Cooper	05-3-12	132	4,587	1,280	5,867
Hon. Randy C. Martini	05-3-13	109	3,788	1,385	5,173
Hon. Richard G. King	05-3-14	59	2,050	4,394	6,444
Total		1,383	48,066	18,214	66,280

¹ Equals Yearly Sessions Assigned x 34.75 Cases Per Session

² Equals PMC Filings + MDJ Court Filings



Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania – County of Allegheny

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