

# **Allegheny County Adult Probation**



**2009  
Annual Report**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

### **THE MISSION OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE**

Allegheny County 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.

The core beliefs supporting the Mission are:

Through individual assessment, direction and assistance, most offenders can and will become contributing members of our community.

That offenders can and will be held accountable for the harm they cause to individuals as well as to the community at large.

Recognizing our responsibility for public safety, a comprehensive system of community corrections, including incarceration and re-entry, will be developed and supported.

The strengths and resources of our community are vital to the success of our offenders.

That excellence in the quality of Court services requires sensitivity to racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.



## **MESSAGE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR SEYKO**

The Adult Probation Department is committed to improving public safety and promoting positive behavioral change from offenders placed on probation, parole and intermediate punishment. In 2009, Adult Probation continued to move forward with accomplishments that enhanced probation and parole supervision practices in Allegheny County.

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) opened in the Arlington section of the City of Pittsburgh in January and began accepting offenders into the program in February. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency awarded \$200,000 to Allegheny County Probation to help fund the Center. During its first year of operation, the DRC had 470 referrals, 92 offenders enrolled in GED prep classes (6 passed the GED exam), 136 community service participants who completed 2157 hours of service, 49 offenders enrolled in anger management classes, 158 individuals received job search assistance, 34 gained employment, 72 participated in life skills training, and 664 drug tests were administered with 371 negative and 293 positive test results.

In March, community-based probation office supervisors, using the Proxy risk assessment instrument, assigned caseloads to three risk categories: low – medium – high. By separating caseloads by proxy scores, probation officers were able to set a range of supervision levels based on risk. In conjunction with the rollout of the initial risk assessment, the probation department developed the High Impact Unit (HIU), which specializes in intensively supervising the highest risk offenders. During the year, seven probation officers were certified as instructors in the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) risks/needs assessment instrument. The certified probation trainers then conducted training for all probation officers in the application of LSI-R tool in preparation for the 2010 rollout of the plan. The LSI-R will be administered to the medium and high-risk offender, which are the groups most likely to re-offend. This tool identifies offenders' criminogenic needs and allows probation officers to address those needs, thereby reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

Another highlight from the year included Drug Court graduating 47 offenders from the program and adding 91 new offenders to the treatment court. In addition, the DUI Court program had 59 offenders successfully complete its program and 118 new DUI Court participants added.

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

In 2009, all probation offices conducted Gagnon I violation hearings with the Allegheny County Jail via video conferencing. The move to videoconferencing saved time for probation officers and reduced the travel costs related to conducting the hearings in person at the jail.

This was the third year for Charm School, a probation office developed seven-week basic life skills curriculum for female offenders. The program was well received and viewed as a valuable learning opportunity by the participants.

The following pages of this report provide additional details of the work of our probation staff. As you read the report, you will see that the combined efforts of the Adult Probation Department are focused on making probation and parole a positive and productive experience for the community and the offender.

## ADULT PROBATION FACT SHEET

Number of Probation Officers:	113
Number of Managers and Supervisors, including Director and Deputy Director	24
Number of Support Staff	36

### CASELOAD AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

Probation	13875
Parole	1008
Intermediate Punishment	1244
ARD	5988
Probation without Verdict	434
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22549</b>

### SUPERVISION FOR:

OFFENSE GRADE	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	SUB-TOTAL BY OFFENSE TYPE	PERCENT BY OFFENSE TYPE
Felony	5848	1439	7287	32.32
Misdemeanor	11119	3921	15040	66.70
Other	167	55	222	.98
Sub-Total By Gender	17134	5415		
Percent By Gender	75.99	24.01		

RACE/ORIGIN	Male Offenders	Female Offenders	SUB-TOTAL BY RACE/ORIGIN	PERCENT BY RACE/ORIGIN
White	9502	2926	12428	55.11
Black or African American	7312	2394	9706	43.04
Hispanic or Latino Origin	34	7	41	.181
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0	3	.012
Asian	72	29	101	.45
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Two or more races	0	0	0	0
Not Known	211	59	270	1.2
Other				
Sub-Total By Gender	17134	5415		
Percent By Gender	75.99	24.01		

## **AVERAGE CASELOADS**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Caseload</b>
McKeesport Community Based Office	150
North Side Community Based Office	163
Central Community Based Office	115
South Hills Community Based Office	170
Wilkinsburg Community Based Office	100
Electronic Monitoring	41
High Impact Unit	99
Forensic Unit	130
Domestic Violence Unit	100
Sex Offender Unit	90
DUI Unit	360
Minimum Supervision Unit	1450
Intermediate Supervision Unit	610
Interstate/Inter-County Unit	342/668

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## **COMMUNITY BASED OFFICES**

Community Based Offices have been in existence at the Adult Probation Office since 1976 and have undergone many transformations over the years. Their purpose has always been to provide the maximum degree of supervision possible to the convicted offender, commensurate with available resources, and targeted at the protection of the community, in addition to the proactive rehabilitation of the offender.

The original five offices are located in the city's North Side, South Side, and Central areas and McKeesport and Wilkinsburg. These community sites provide probation/parole supervision for approximately 6658 convicted offenders. The Community Based Office supervises caseloads that range in size from 100 to 170 offenders per Probation Officer. In addition, there is a Minimum Supervision caseload located in the McKeesport office that consists of 1372 non-reporting, low risk offenders. The community-based sites also include specialized offender caseloads for Domestic Violence (average caseload: 97 per Probation Officer) and Mental Health (average caseload: 123 per Probation Officer). These specialized caseloads play an active role in the Domestic Violence Court (President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel presiding) and Mental Health Court (Judge John Zottola presiding) in the Criminal Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Mental Health Court was featured in a Frontline documentary that aired in the spring of 2009. In previous years, representatives from Erie, Cumberland, Cambria, Chester, Dauphin, Fayette Counties as well as Washington D.C., and legislative representatives from Harrisburg, Pa have observed Mental Health Court as a prototype.

In 2007, Community Based Offices established three “sub-offices,” known as Hubs, located throughout Allegheny County. These sub offices provide POs with a setting in which to meet with offenders and allows for greater collaboration with various law enforcement agencies. The sub offices allow POs to foster a strong presence in the communities, a presence that is greatly appreciated by victims and citizens alike. The sub offices are located in the following communities:

The East Hills Hub office is utilized by the Wilkinsburg Community Based Office and is shared with agents from the FBI, ATF, security personnel, Pennsylvania State parole agents and local police. This hub services the East Hills, Wilkinsburg, Homewood, and Verona areas.

The second hub station is located in the Brackenridge area and is located at a Salvation Army site and is utilized by the North Side Community Based Office.

The third hub is located in Clairton, Pa., at the Clairton Police Station. This site serves the Mon Valley area.

It should be noted that during 2008, the Community Based Probation Officers began utilizing the Proxy Scale scoring process, which is based upon the offender’s current age, the age of the offender at the time of their first arrest, and the number of times an offender has been arrested. The primary objective of the Proxy score is to determine the potential of the offender to recidivate, and to aid the PO in determining the best level of supervision for an offender to avoid recidivism. Based on the offenders’ proxy scores, a massive transfer of cases was conducted among the Community Based Offices in 2009. A universal system for placing the lowest risk offenders on non-reporting status was established. In addition, the “high risk” offenders were assigned to a newly formed High Impact Unit (HIU) for intensive supervision. The POs of the Community Based Offices were tasked with being “agents of change” for those offenders who fall in the medium risk range according to the proxy scoring process. Continued efforts in conjunction with the Proxy Scale scoring process will include administering the Level of Service Inventory–Revised (LSI-R) assessment tool during a PO’s initial interview with an offender. A total of seven probation officers and supervisors, which included community based staff, were certified as trainers of the LSI-R. They subsequently held LSI-R training sessions for the entire Probation staff.

For the continued efficiency and timeliness of the ACJ Gagnon I (stage one violation hearings), all of the Community Based Offices began utilizing video conferencing in 2009. During this process, the Adult Probation Officer is positioned in front of a TV monitor which has a camera built into the screen and a dialogue takes place between the PO (located at a designated field office) and the Hearing Officer, Public Defender and the offender, who are located at the Allegheny County Jail. This more efficient process saves time in that the Probation Officer no longer has to drive to the jail, pay for parking, go through the arduous process of entering the jail, and then wait for their individual cases to be heard by the Hearing Officer and Public Defender.

Community Based Probation Officers have increased their visibility in the community by conducting fieldwork every Tuesday and Thursday; some POs have also added Wednesday to their field schedule. The adoption of a standardized office schedule has

created a more consistent atmosphere within the agency. This is beneficial to both Probation Officers and the offenders in routine matters such as interoffice transfers as each Community Based Office operates on the same schedule. The staff for these offices is composed of five supervisors; five support staff members and 44 POs. The Community Based Offices successfully responded to the G-20 jail overcrowding issue by carefully scrutinizing those offenders best suited for release without jeopardizing public safety in order to alleviate jail capacity concerns.

It should be noted that the High Impact Unit (HIU) is also a part of the Community Based Offices and is comprised of one supervisor, support staff, and ten Probation Officers. PO caseload size averages 99 offenders. This specialized unit supervises offenders considered “high risk” as determined by the proxy score. POs in this unit are required to work non-traditional hours and weekends in an effort to provide intensive supervision to the offenders and increase public safety. Bar compliance checks with law enforcement officials and police “ride-alongs” are primarily conducted by this unit. Please refer to HIU section for additional information. The standard work for all six of the Community Based Offices includes weekly to monthly contacts (or more as needed) with offenders, random urinalysis and oral swabs, referrals for drug/alcohol assessment and treatment, mental health intervention, anger management, domestic violence counseling, GED preparation, and employment opportunities are made by the Probation Officers, who also monitor restitution and costs payments.

As many of the offenders we work with are in need of “basic life skills” and front-end assessments prior to being referred to educational and/or employment programs, a pilot-mentoring program (Charm School) was established in 2007. Various topics addressing transitional issues for positive change are discussed and taught to a class of female offenders over a seven- week period. Seven women were graduated in 2007, four graduated in 2008 and four were graduated in 2009. When the life of one female offender is positively impacted, then the program is considered to be a success. More classes are planned for 2010.

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## **DAY REPORTING CENTER**

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

The Center officially opened in January 2009 and began working with offenders in February. Located in the Arlington section of the City of Pittsburgh, the DRC has become engrained in the local surrounding communities including the 16<sup>th</sup> Ward and Knoxville Block Watch, Arlington Civic Council, Zone 3 Public Safety Committee, Beltzhoover Inter agency and Neighborhood Council and the Hilltop Alliance. In addition the DRC also hosted a neighborhood forum on gun violence and graffiti.

In its first year of operation the DRC received 470 referrals from Probation Officers based out of South Hills Community Center, Electronic Monitoring as well as High Impact. Of the 470 offenders:

- 92 were enrolled in GED preparatory classes.
- 158 participated in employment development skills/job search. Despite the tough economy 34 participants landed employment.
- 72 participated in a life skills program.
- 49 participated in an anger management course.
- 664 drug and alcohol screenings were conducted on site at the DRC.

In addition, 136 offenders completed 2157 community service hours in the Arlington and surrounding communities. Senior Community Monitor Dan Sommers and the Day Reporting Center were honored with the "Bob Award" named after the late Pittsburgh Mayor Bob O'Connor for efforts put forth throughout the year for a cleaner Pittsburgh. Staff will be recognized at an awards ceremony on March 25, 2010.



*Judge Joseph James, District Court Administrator Ray Billotte, Director James Rieland, Administrative Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, Manager Frank Scherer, Judge Kevin Sasinoski, President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel*

On October 19, 2009 the Day Reporting Center held an open house / dedication ceremony. On hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony was President Judge Donna Jo McDaniel, Administrative Judge Jeffrey A. Manning, Judge Joseph James, Judge Kevin J. Sasinoski, District Court Administrator Ray Billotte, Director James Rieland, Manager Frank Scherer and Pittsburgh City Councilman Bruce Kraus. A number of community leaders and Probation staff were on hand for the festivities. DRC staff hosted a reception and provided tours of the facility for the general public as well.

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## **DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) TREATMENT COURT**

Since its inception in 2005, Allegheny County DUI Court accepted 417 participants. To date there have been five graduation ceremonies in which a total of 123 offenders have completed the program. In 2009 alone we graduated 59 participants. There are 274 active offenders in the program, which includes.

- 67 offenders in program phase I
- 42 offenders in program phase II
- 37 offenders in program phase III
- 71 offenders in program phase IV
- 57 offenders in program phase V

There have been twenty offenders revoked from the program. Fifteen (15) were removed for technical violations (including but not limited to, failure to abstain from drug and or alcohol abuse, curfew violations, and failure to follow program expectations of electronic monitoring). Five (5) individuals were arrested on new criminal charges. (2 offenders arrested on DUI charges, 1 Aggravated Assault, 1 Simple Assault, 1 Possession with Intent to deliver), all of which resulted in new criminal convictions. Of the offenders who completed the requirements of DUI Court, there has been 2 new arrests on DUI related offenses. Of those, only one has resulted in a conviction to date, leaving a recidivism rate for DUI convictions below 1% of the graduated population.

Each year the number of participants accepted into DUI Court has continued to grow. In addition, the amount of graduates completing the program continues to grow each year. The next scheduled graduation is in March of 2010, and we are expecting a group of fifty plus offenders to complete.

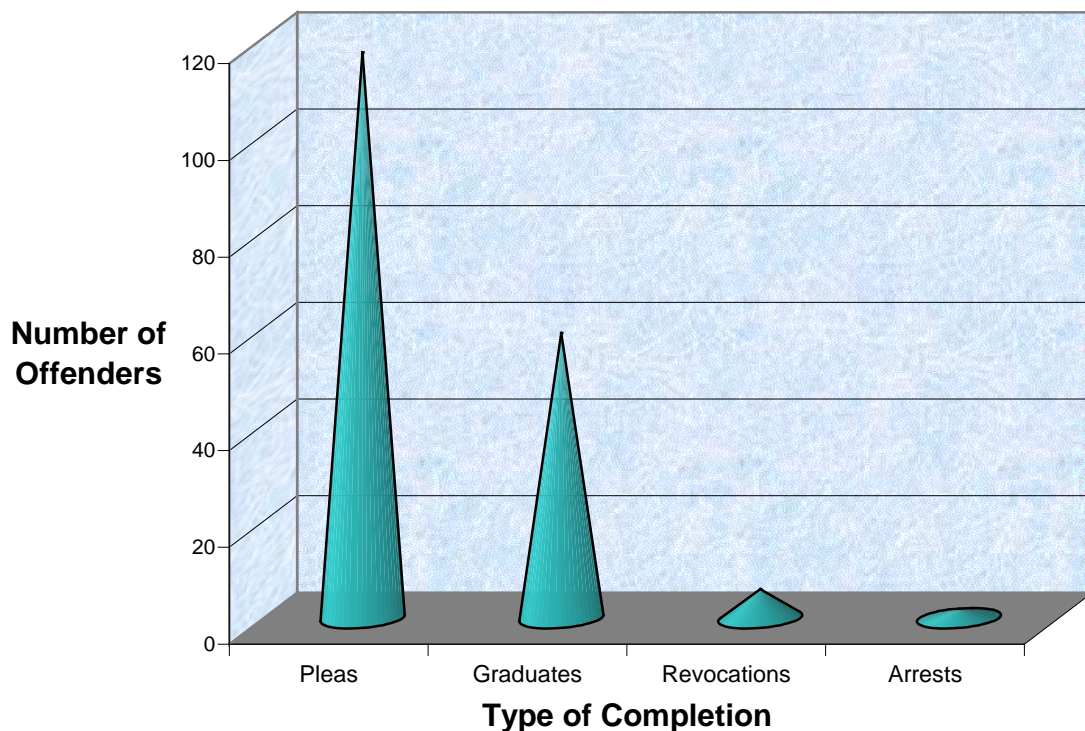
As always DUI Court consistently seeks ways to update and improve the program. Specifically this year we plan on focusing on technological innovations, to assist in the recovery of alcohol addicted offenders. We are currently seeking a grant to help in the cost of purchasing Bi-TAD (Behavioral Interventions Transdermal Alcohol Detection). This equipment will not only monitor offenders by means of radio frequency (in/out of range), but will also test for alcohol 24 hours per day. Violations will be submitted to our Electronic Monitoring BI server, so that reaction can be almost immediate.

As always the Honorable Kevin J. Sasinoski presides over DUI Court, with a sense of compassion for offenders addiction, but also a firm hand when needed. The staff of DUI Court has had some shakeups in regards to team members this year. We have welcomed Kristen Santoro (Probation Coordinator), Dennis Cline (South-West Electronic Monitoring officer) as well as Amy Linbergh ESQ from the Public Defenders Office.

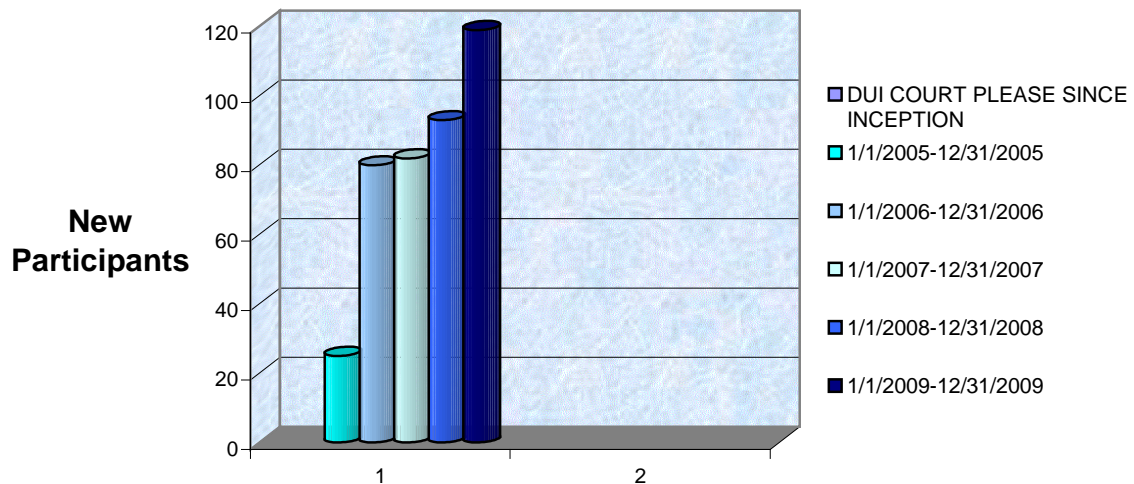
Treatment is a key focus in this program. We are proud to announce that in 2009, DUI Court began funding “Thinking for a Change,” a cognitive behavioral restructuring program that is presented by Mercy Behavioral Health. Participants attend class for 2 hours per week, for a period of 12 weeks. Since beginning the program, we have received some very impressive feedback and cannot wait for the positive outcomes the program is sure to bring.

There are many key contributors to this program, which include staff from the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas as well as from outside licensed treatment providers. We would like to thank MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), Greenbriar Rehabilitation, Gateway, Mercy Behavioral Health & Mon Yough for their continued support in our ongoing fight against Driving Under the Influence. We look forward to DUI Court’s continued success in 2010 along with a big thank you to all involved in this life-changing program.

## 2009 DUI Court Outcomes



## DUI COURT PLEAS



## **DRUG COURT**

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year Allegheny County Drug Court continues to be a collaborative effort of the District Attorney's Office, Adult Probation, the Public Defender's Office and Allegheny County Justice Related Services. Since the inception of Drug Court in 1998, there have been many changes within each respective party but there are two things that remain constant. The first is the steady guidance of The Honorable Lester G. Nauhaus, who has presided over the program since its inception. The second is that all the parties involved continue to work together to provide a great opportunity for individuals committed to making positive changes in their lives. The court targets criminal offenders who demonstrate a clear need for formal substance abuse treatment. In order to be placed into the program offenders plead guilty to all charges pending against them in front of Judge Nauhaus. The offenders are sentenced to 18 months of Intermediate Punishment with Electronic Monitoring and consecutive 12 months probation. Drug Court strives to assist program participants to remain clean and sober while engaging in positive activities such as education, community projects and employment. Prior to graduating, Drug Court clients must maintain employment, obtain independent housing, at minimum obtain a GED if they did not graduate high school and stay drug free. An additional requirement for all Drug Court clients is that they must



engage in any treatment that is deemed necessary. A grant through The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency provides funding for the treatment.

The ultimate goal of the Drug Court team is to reintegrate the offenders back into society serving as positive role models and productive citizens. Upon their plea the offenders are placed into inpatient and/or outpatient treatment, depending on the level of care needed. Participants stay in close contact with the court by attending monthly progress hearings. The hearings afford the offenders the opportunity tell the judge about the progress they are making within the program and any other issues that are affecting their life. Every step of the way the offenders are closely monitored by the dedicated Drug Court Team. Upon the completion of their Intermediate Punishment sentence, the offenders' cases are transferred to the appropriate community based probation center to finish out their sentences.

The program continues to grow every year. In 2009, 91 offenders who pled into Drug Court compared to 78 pled into the program in 2008. Also in 2009 Drug Court had 47 offenders who completed the program successfully and graduated which is an increase over 2008, which saw 34 offenders complete the program successfully. The graduation is an official ceremony complete with diplomas and the opportunity for the graduates to make a speech. Since the program's inception, there have been 385 graduates, with an overall program success rate of about 72 percent. Drug Court continues to be a successful alternative to treat individuals with drug addictions. Once an offender graduates from the program the likelihood of them being re-arrested is extremely low. We look forward to continued success in this unique program that has rescued many offenders from a life of crime, and in some cases, even saved their lives.

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## **ELECTRONIC MONITORING – HOUSE ARREST**

In 1989, Electronic Monitoring began with less than 25 offenders and 6 probation officers. The program has grown to include a manager, 4 supervisors, 33 officers and 15 support staff. 2009 marked the 21<sup>st</sup> year for operations at Electronic Monitoring and it brought with it record numbers. Since January 1, 2009 EM has supervised 4,056 offenders on Electronic Monitoring, and a number of cases with strict non-electronic monitoring to include curfew calls & home checks. As always EM officers adjusted to the increasing numbers and continued to provide a high level of community supervision.

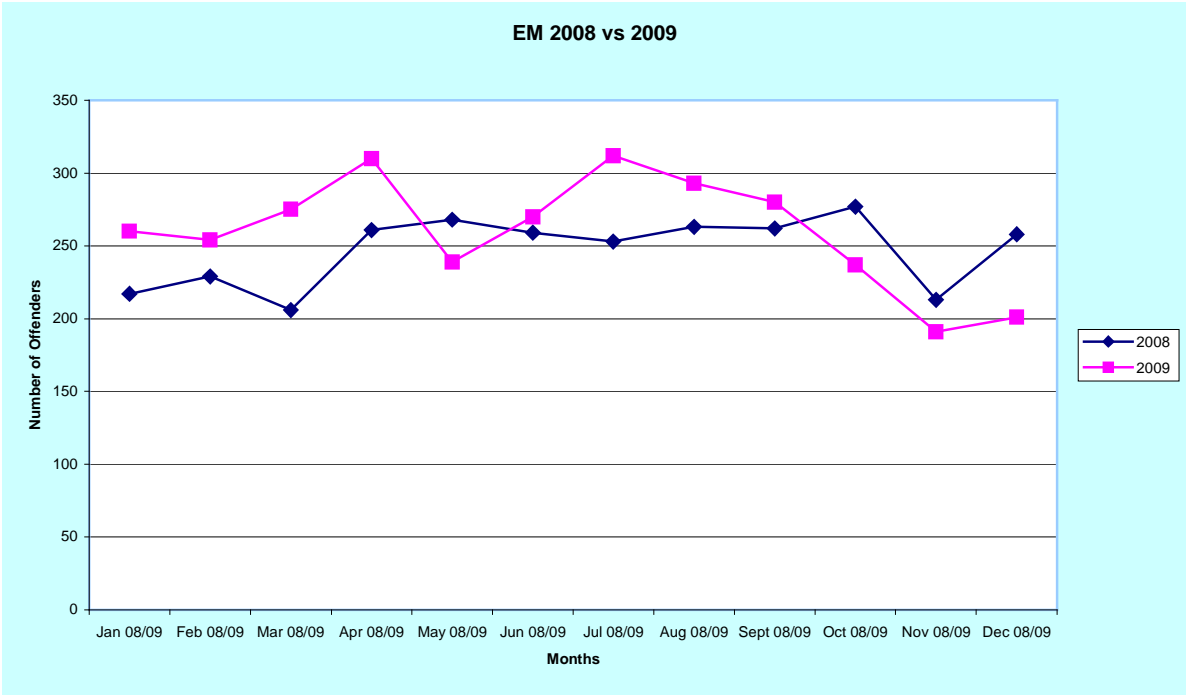
Electronic monitoring currently houses two specialty courts, Drug Court & DUI Court. These programs both participate in expanded length Electronic Monitoring sentences, and continue to be supervised by EM officers until they are ready for completion of the program. In addition EM officers supervise Pre-Trial cases, Veterans Court offenders, Mental Health Court offenders, as well as Family Division cases.

Since January there has been a large turnover in staff, which includes officers as well as support staff. In 2009 Lauren Pegher was promoted to supervisor and we welcomed Probation Officers James Aston, Lauren Gerlach, Robert Tutko and Bob Tekavec. In addition Karen Torris, Marcus Englert, Hakim Fontaine, Battista Montgomery & Terrence Muir joined our support staff team.

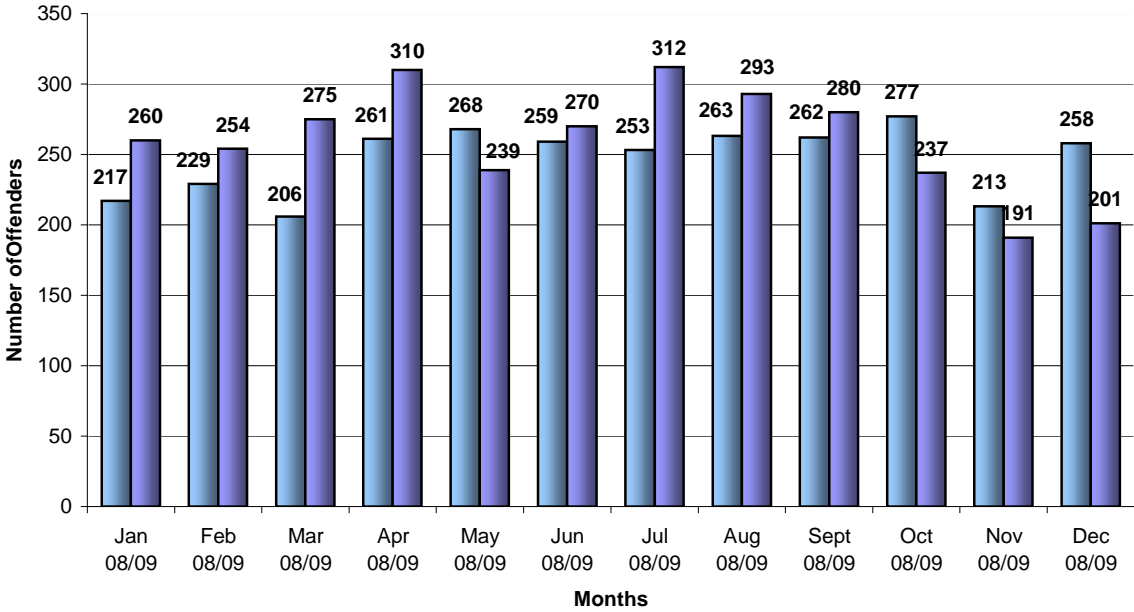
2009 brought about a year of change at Electronic Monitoring. During the G-20 conference caseloads at EM were reassigned in order to better manage the increased caseload numbers. Electronic Monitoring cases were re-assigned into Low, Medium and High Impact categories based on proxy scores and potential risk to the community. The caseloads were formed in conjunction with recommendations from consultant Mark Carey.

Since the creation of the EM high impact team, seven illegal firearms have been removed from the street along with an excess amount of heroin, marijuana, crack and ecstasy. EM officers also participated with other law enforcement agencies in 2009 on warrant sweeps, bar compliance checks and numerous arrests.

Frank Scherer, Manager of the Electronic Monitoring Program, is very proud of the staff. Their hard work and dedication helped produce an overall arrest rate of offenders under EM supervision of below 2%. All data would indicate that electronic monitoring has a positive impact on a higher level of supervision thus accounting for community safety as well as helping to reduce the county jail population.



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



## **INTAKE/COURT LIAISON UNITS**

The Adult Probation Court Liaison and Intake Units are responsible for processing incoming offenders into the Allegheny County probation system and representing the agency in probation-related hearings before the Court of Common Pleas. Located in room 504 of the Courthouse, the department is in close proximity to the courtrooms which allows for direct interaction with judges and their staff. In addition to the department supervisor, there are five probation officers and six support staff members assigned to this unit.

Immediately after their sentencing hearings, offenders who are placed under the supervision of the Adult Probation Department are brought to the Intake Unit where they are interviewed to obtain information regarding their residency and are provided with instructions regarding their period of supervision. Court papers pertaining to each case are delivered to Intake by court staff. The paperwork is copied and the pertinent information is manually entered into the Probation Department's case management system.

In addition to processing incoming offenders, the Intake Unit also does fingerprinting and DNA sampling of all offenders convicted of a felony offense in order to comply with the mandate of Act 185 of 2004. In 2009, the Intake Unit collected more than 1,200 DNA samples.

The Intake Unit is also actively involved in Early Disposition Plea (EDP) court and Phoenix Court. An Intake Clerk attends each court session and interviews each offender to obtain residency information and to instruct that offender on the regulations of supervision. Nearly 1,400 cases were processed through EDP Court in 2009.

The Court Liaison Unit (CLU) conducts Probation Violation Hearings for Criminal Division cases. The CLU officers work closely with Judges and their staff to schedule the hearings. Prior to presenting the probation violation hearings, they review violation reports submitted by Probation Officers. They also represent the Probation Office in detainer and review hearings.

CLU officers frequently assist other Probation Officers and attorneys who require assistance with various matters in courtrooms. They obtain warrants from judges on those offenders who have failed to appear for Court and also are responsible for the lifting of detainers when offenders are to be released from custody on a particular case. At a judge's request, CLU officers often obtain urine samples from offenders prior to their sentencing and occasionally administer breathalyzers. CLU presented over 3,600 probation violation hearings to the court during 2009.

In 2009, members of the intake unit collaborated with court technical staff to begin the process of automating the case intake process. This project is currently ongoing, but it is hoped that it will be completed in 2010.

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## **INTER-COUNTY AND INTERSTATE UNIT**

The Administrative Unit consists of five probation officers and one supervisor. Three probation officers are assigned to inter-county cases, one probation officer is assigned to interstate cases, and one probation officer is assigned to the state caseload. All of the probation officers assigned to this unit assist with the “process” caseload. The process caseload is more fully explained below.

The caseloads of the inter-county officers consist of offenders who were sentenced in Allegheny County but live in other counties in Pennsylvania. They coordinate the transfer of supervision to the probation offices in the counties where these offenders live and address any problems that may arise during the course of their supervision by the offender’s home county probation office.

The interstate caseload consists of offenders who were sentenced in Allegheny County but live in other states. The interstate officer coordinates the transfer of probation supervision to other states through the Interstate Compact, or in certain instances, monitors supervision of offenders by phone or mail. The interstate caseload is now managed electronically using the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System. This system is known by the acronym - ICOTS.

The state caseload consists of offenders that are designated by the Court to be supervised by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. If these offenders meet certain established criteria, the state officer coordinates the transfer of the offender to state probation and parole. In 2009, the Administrative Unit has been working to organize this caseload in a more efficient manner. It has also been working to catch up a backlog of cases that have accumulated on this caseload.

As indicated above, the Administrative Unit also handles a “process caseload”, which consists of offenders who have outstanding probation violation warrants. The unit’s PO’s handle these cases when offenders are arrested on the outstanding warrants. The improvements to the transfer and supervision of offenders who were sentenced in Allegheny County but reside in other counties in Pennsylvania, which was initiated in 2008, went well and has been in use for the entire year in 2009.

Allegheny County Adult Probation Department was one of the first counties in Pennsylvania to begin using ICOTS. This system is used to transfer the supervision of offenders who were sentenced in Allegheny County but reside in other states. All transfer information and all communication among the Compact offices is done electronically, and ICOTS replaces a cumbersome paper process. The implementation of ICOTS has been completed. ICOTS has transformed the Interstate transfer process into an expedient and efficient system. In 2009 Allegheny County probation officers attended ICOTS training sessions that were offered the Interstate Office in Harrisburg.



## **HIGH IMPACT UNIT (HIU)**

The High Impact Unit (HIU) of Adult Probation focuses on the “high risk” offender as determined by the proxy scores. These offenders are usually engaged in the most serious criminal acts, and are involved in the drug sub-culture such as drug dealing and addictions, robberies, thefts, and firearms.

The HIU provides intensive supervision, usually with multiple probationer and collateral contacts per week, and frequent drug testing. HIU officers typically spend most of the work week in the field, attempting to make contact with probationers at various locations, and interacting with local police and courts to share information about probationers’ activities. These POs are required to work non-traditional hours and week-ends. Searches and apprehensions occur in some instances, in collaboration with other Probation Office staff and law enforcement agencies. It is not unusual for firearms, other weapons and illicit drugs to be confiscated on such encounters. Often, smaller amounts of drugs and paraphernalia are confiscated and used to motivate a drug abuser who was reluctant to seek drug treatment to do so. HIU Officers participate in ride alongs with Pittsburgh Police and various other police departments throughout Allegheny County, as well as multiple law enforcement initiatives on a continuing basis. Years of cooperative efforts have maintained beneficial communication with enforcement agencies.

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## **INTERMEDIATE SUPERVISION CASELOAD / DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (ISC/DUI)**

The Intermediate Supervision Caseload (ISC) is responsible for supervision of low impact probation cases that do not have special conditions, except restitution. Currently there are approximately 1800 cases supervised by the ISC unit.

Each individual on ISC is required to attend an initial interview at which time the rules of probation are thoroughly explained and each offender is approved for ISC supervision. Offenders that have pending charges or those who indicate current drug usage or treatment are transferred to regular supervision. Also stressed at the initial interview is the offender’s requirement to pay restitution and/or costs if applicable.

Restitution cases are the main focus of the ISC unit. Officers enforce the court order by monitoring restitution payments and scheduling violation hearings when regular payments are not being made or when a case is nearing expiration and restitution remains unpaid. Through hard work and diligence, the ISC unit in cooperation with the Clerk of Courts is responsible for collecting the majority of restitution in Allegheny County.

The Pride Program (Program for Re-Integration Development and Empowerment of exploited individuals) is also included in the ISC unit. The pride program is collaboration between White Deer Run/Cove Forge Behavioral Health, the Pittsburgh Police, and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. The pride program is designed to offer individuals who are convicted of prostitution an opportunity to gain information, knowledge and skills necessary to change their often dangerous lifestyle.

Offenders who are in the pride program are required to attend weekly counseling and support sessions, drug and alcohol evaluations and treatment as deemed necessary, and psychiatric evaluations if deemed appropriate. Each offender also has a curfew of 8:00AM to 8:00PM. The probation office monitors the offender's attendance at the program and updates the court at weekly review hearings before Judge Sasinoski, the presiding judge over the pride program. Offenders who are noncompliant are scheduled for violation hearings or are remanded to the Allegheny County Jail.

The pride program originally began with less than 10 participants but has now grown to over 50 with several successful graduations from the program.

The DUI Unit is responsible for the majority of adjudicated DUI cases in Allegheny County. Currently there are over 1,000 cases supervised by the DUI Unit.

Each individual who is convicted of a DUI is required to meet with a probation officer at an initial interview, at which time rules of probation are thoroughly explained. In most cases, DUI offenders are required to complete Alcohol Safe Driving Classes and treatment as a condition of the probation or parole. The level of treatment is determined by a CRN evaluation each offender must complete. DUI officers coordinate the offender's safe driving classes and treatment within the four local regional alcohol programs, Alternatives, Mercy Behavioral Health, Mon-Yough, and WPIC. Offenders must complete the safe driving classes and treatment prior to the expiration of their probation or a violation hearing is scheduled.

DUI officers participate in numerous trainings throughout the year on related topics. Several of the trainings are in cooperation with local school districts including the Safety Bug and DUI simulator. The annual DUI conference is held every fall.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC)**

Mental Health Court (MHC) continues to flourish and grow with new innovative ideas for the efficiency of addressing the needs of offenders suffering with mental health issues who are under parole/probation supervision. It has been our pleasure to have been previously observed as a prototype MHC by representatives from Erie, Cumberland, Cambria, Chester, Dauphin and Fayette counties, Washington D.C. and legislative

representatives from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Our MHC was also taped for a documentary by Frontline, which was aired in the spring of 2009.

Mental Health Court has approximately 330 active participants and a waiting list of those offenders anticipating the review of their charges (certain felonies not permitted) by the ADA and Public Defender for admission into the program. Offenders are graduated from the program if compliance with probationary stipulations, in addition to cooperation with Justice Related Services (JRS) and Service Plans are met. Graduated offenders may also participate in the "alumni" program which allows for the offender to maintain contact with JRS if needed since they are no longer under probationary/parole supervision. It should be noted that graduated offenders receive a \$25.00 gift card for Giant Eagle, provided by JRS. The Blue Knights motorcycle club, of which one of the Mental Health Probation Officers is a member, also donated \$750.00 worth of gift cards for Mental Health court offenders in 2009, and \$500.00 the previous year. Those offenders who receive "positive" court reviews are also eligible to receive the gift cards. Participants can be discharged from the program for chronic new arrests, the gravity of new offenses, or continued non-compliance with Mental Health Court mandates. It should be noted that individuals who have been victimized by an offender must be in agreement for the offender's participation in the program prior to acceptance into Mental Health court.

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## **PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION UNIT**

The Pre-sentence Investigation Unit of the Allegheny County Probation Department prepares pre-sentence reports to assist the court in the sentencing of convicted offenders. In 2009 the Pre-sentence Unit received 657 new requests from the court for pre-sentence investigation reports. The scope of the reports prepared by the department varies depending on the type of report the Court has requested.

The Pre-sentence Investigation Unit can provide short, intermediate, or long reports and also provides updated reports when necessary for probation violation hearings. Five probation officers and a supervisor are assigned to the Pre-sentence Investigation Unit as well as three contracted PSI writers.

Pre-sentence reports include a detailed narrative of the offense based upon official records, as well as statements from the offender. All of the pre-sentence reports include the offender's adult criminal history, and juvenile criminal history - if the offender was 28 years old or younger at the time of the offense. The long reports also include the offender's prior adjustment to custody and to supervision within the community.

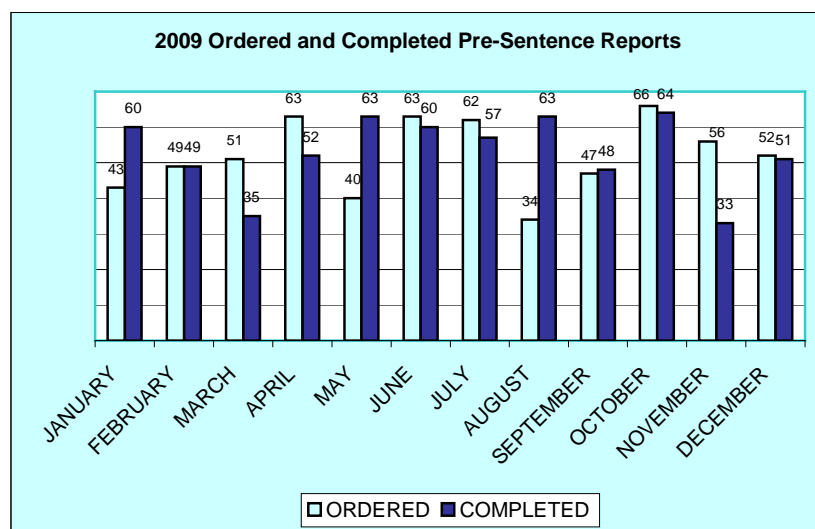
Pre-sentence reports present information on the offender's mental and physical health, and financial condition, including any work experience or vocational skills. The longer reports provide information on the offender's educational and family backgrounds.

Any victim affected by the incident may give a victim impact statement. The victim impact statement provides the victim the opportunity to describe in detail how the

incident has impacted their lives, physically, emotionally, and financially. It also gives the victim the opportunity to express their opinion on what they feel would be an appropriate sentence for the offender.

In late 2008 and into early 2009, the Adult Probation Department began a comprehensive review of the business practices of the Pre-sentence Investigation Unit. The Adult Probation Department is currently exploring various alternatives to provide the Court with timely and relevant pre-sentence reports that are more closely tailored to the severity of the crime of which the offender has been convicted or where the case involves a special victim.

In particular, for those cases involving youthful offenders with significant criminal history or offenses involving special victims (children, elderly, MR/DD, sexual offenses, or physically disabled), the department will continue to provide detailed pre-sentence reports. In cases where the offender is very likely to receive a sentence other than a prison term, the Adult Probation Department is now providing the court with an abbreviated pre-sentence report. The abbreviated report format meets the need of the court for relevant information about the offender while providing the court with meaningful information as to whether the offender is amenable to supervision within the community in a manner consistent with the need for public safety. During 2009, the Pre-sentence Unit began the process of determining how it will integrate the assessment tool known as the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) into Pre-sentence Business Practices. This process will be completed in 2010.



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## **SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT FOR SEX OFFENDERS**

2009 was the third full year of operation for the Special Services Unit. The average caseload stands at just over 90 offenders per Probation Officer. The unit continues to participate in the collaborative effort led by Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR). The District Attorney's office, various police departments, treatment providers and victim advocates meet and work together with the Special Services Unit to provide more effective ways of supervising sex offenders in the community. The unit also works with A Child's Place, Mercy Behavioral Health-Gatehouse and other agencies.

Through cooperation with the District Attorney's office, Special Rules for sex offenders have started to be implemented at sentencing. Measures to monitor a sex offender's computer activity continue to be available and may be implemented soon. Treatment for sex offenders is emphasized and constant communication is maintained with various treatment providers. Computers, guns, drugs, alcohol, pornography and various weapons were seized from offenders leading to new arrests, and/or technical violations of probation. The unit closely monitors sex offenders required to register for Megan's Law, causing several clients to be arrested on new charges for providing false information after registering with the State Police.

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## **TRAINING – 2009**

Ten new probation officers began work with the Adult Probation Office in 2009. After completing three weeks of basic training, each was assigned to various positions throughout the agency.

Numerous trainings were offered during the course of the year. In addition to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Firearms Commission, the FBI, the Veterans Administration and several others offered trainings. Marc Carey provided follow up training on Evidence Based Practice. Various treatment programs as well as in-house staff helped provide over 500 hours of training for Probation Officers last year.

All Probation Officers met the Board's requirement of 40 hours of continuing education.

## **WARRANT UNIT**

Although the members of the Warrant Unit were selected in 2008 progress with the unit did not move forward until an Officer was chosen to oversee the unit and that Officer was Timothy Drum. During 2009 Warrant Officer Drum and Manager Trozzi attended

the Board of Probation and Parole building entry training. Since that time Warrant Officer Drum has scheduled three trainings on building entry along with “Ground Avoidance Training”, “Spontaneous Knife Defense” and Baton Training.

Administration has met with the Sheriff’s Department to coordinate warrant processing training for our Warrant Probation Officer.

Contacts have been established with the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Narcotic Enforcement Team (DANET) and a number of our officers have met with that unit to execute active probation warrants.



## **PERSONNEL AT A GLANCE**

In 2009, Allegheny County Adult Probation employed 173 persons in various positions. Of that total, 113 are Probation Officers, 24 are management, which includes, the Director, Deputy Director, Managers and Supervisors, and 36 are Support Staff.

### **Hiring Statistics for 2009**

Number of Probation Officers Hired	10
Number of Support Staff Hired	4
Number of Part-time Staff Hired	1

### **Promotion Statistics for 2009**

Number of Promotions to Supervisor	2
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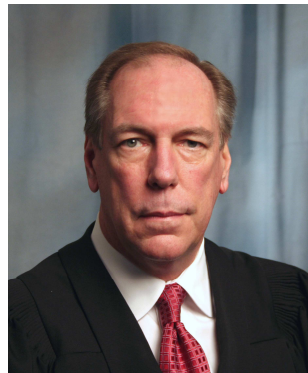
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## **JUDGES**

President Judge:  
*Donna Jo McDaniel*



Administrative Judge:  
*Jeffrey A. Manning*



### **Criminal Court Judges:**

**Edward J. Borkowski**  
**David R. Cashman**  
**Kathleen A. Durkin**  
**Donald E. Machen**  
**Anthony M. Mariani**  
**Lester G. Nauhaus**  
**Jill E. Rangos**  
**Kevin G. Sasinoski**  
**Randal B. Todd**  
**Joseph K. Williams, III**  
**John A. Zottola**

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS/EVENTS IN 2009**

Evidence-based Practices training presented by Mark Carey, March of 2009



Strategic planning meeting for rollout of Evidence Based Practices Initiative.

Probation trainers conducted training for Probation Officers in the application of LSI-R assessment/case management tool to prepare for 2010 rollout of plan to administer LSI-R to the offender groups most likely to re-offend

Day Reporting Center honors Police Officers of Pittsburgh's G-20 by painting the living quarters at the Burning Bush parish

The Charm School graduated four women in 2009 following the seven-week course in Life Skills/Social Skills training.





On April 1, 2009, a training was held for all Support Staff on an overview of Adult Probation. Supervisors and Probation staff from various departments gave presentations on what their function within Adult Probation.

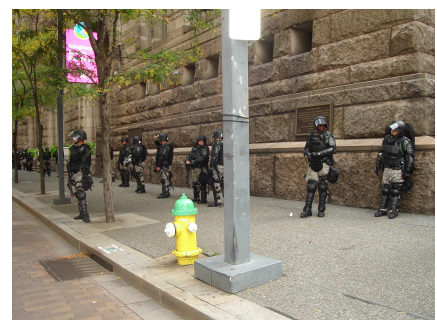
Firearms Training - During 2009 basic firearms training was provided for fourteen Probation Officers. This process of conducting training in Pittsburgh versus sending Officers to Harrisburg for this training saved our County \$10,000.



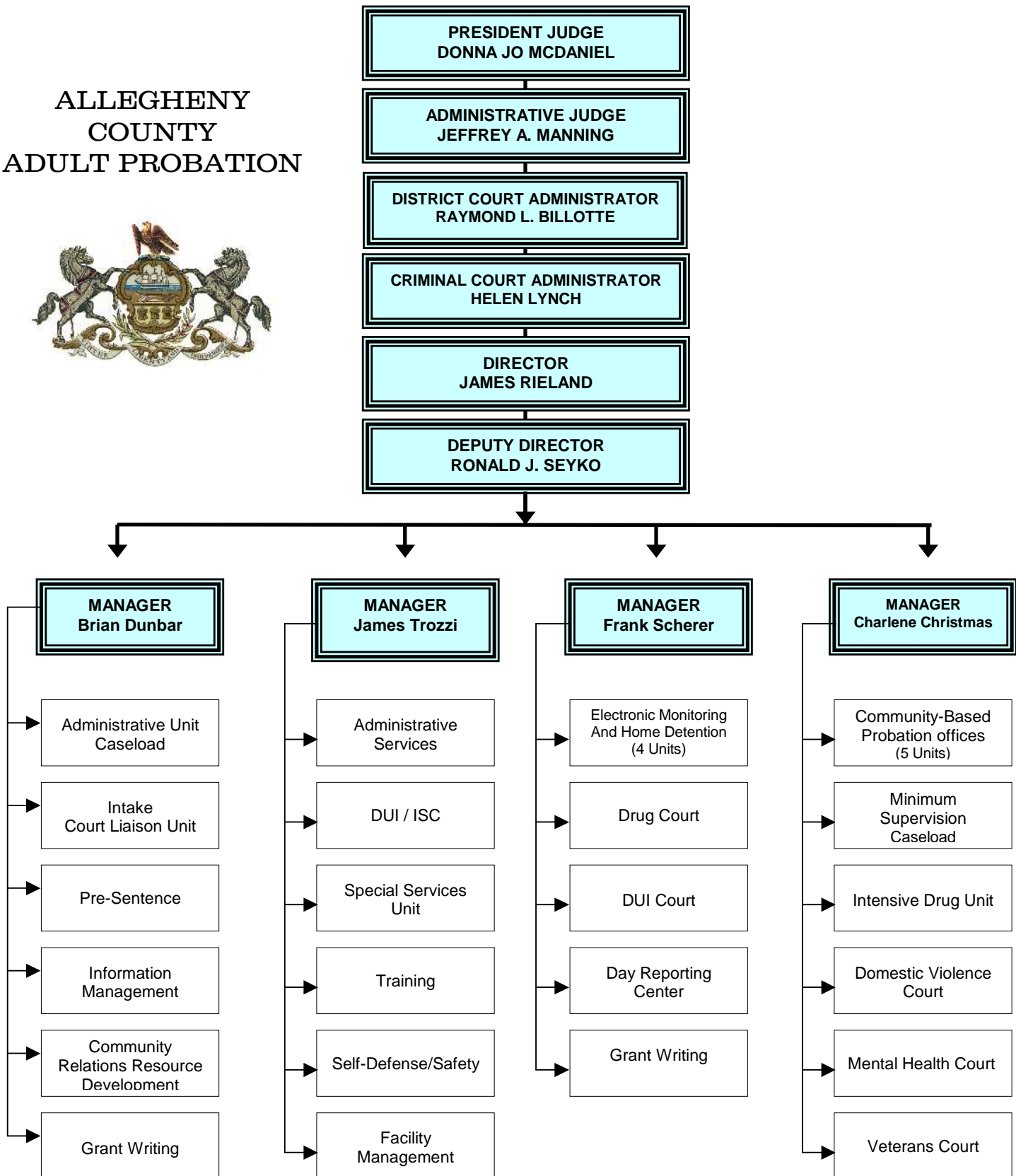
Swearing in ceremonies were held throughout the year for new Probation Officers. The ceremonies were held in conjunction with Juvenile Probation and were presided over by Administrative Judge Jeffrey Manning and Administrative Judge David Wecht.

Family, friends and fellow employees of the new Probation Officers were invited to the ceremonies and a small reception was held afterwards.

G-20 Summit – Adult Probation successfully implemented a plan to conduct business during the G-20 Summit in September of 2009.



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADULT PROBATION



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Website: [http://www.alleghenycourts.us/criminal/adult\\_probation/default.asp](http://www.alleghenycourts.us/criminal/adult_probation/default.asp)

### Office Locations

Administration  
564 Forbes Avenue – Suite 1212  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-350-2320  
412-340-2316 (Fax)

Central Probation  
5648 Friendship Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412-661-5748  
412-661-6340 (Fax)

Court Liaison/Intake  
504 Court House  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-350-0343  
412-350-4268 (Fax)

Day Reporting Center  
2320 Arlington Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
412-431-1014  
412-431-1428 (Fax)

Electronic Monitoring  
250 Mt. Lebanon Blvd. – Suite 220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
412-350-0400  
412-350-0408 (Fax)

High Impact Unit  
1700 East Carson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
412-431-7885  
412-431-8369 (Fax)

Interstate/Inter-County Unit  
564 Forbes Avenue – Suite 1212  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-350-2320  
412-340-6025 (Fax)  
ISC/DUI Unit  
1700 East Carson Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
412-488-2852  
412-488-2853 (Fax)

McKeesport Probation  
208 Sixth Avenue  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
412-673-7186  
412-673-7190 (Fax)

North Side Probation  
841 California Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-323-9800  
412-323-9483 (Fax)

Pre-Sentence Unit  
564 Forbes Avenue – Suite 1212  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-350-2320  
412-340-6025 (Fax)

South Hills Probation  
809 Bingham Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
412-381-9390  
412-381-9435 (Fax)

Special Services Unit (SSU)  
1700 East Carson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
412-431-3013  
412-431-8369 (Fax)

Wilkinsburg Probation  
Penn West Office Building  
903 West Street  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
412-473-4500  
412-473-4506 (Fax)