



# The Court Reporter

## [A Message From Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio](#)

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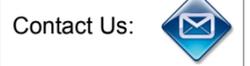
Collaboration has been an essential element in the many programs and initiatives the Court has created, implemented or embraced over the last 15 years. We are always eager to hear different viewpoints and different methods and apply them to programming we seek to introduce to people we serve at the Court. Such collaboration is certainly vital in regard to the ever-evolving treatment of substance misuse. While the Court has systems in place that have proven successful, it is imperative that we continue to seek alternatives and applications that further our commitment to providing youth the opportunity to live a productive and substance-free life. That is why I commend Judge Joy Malek Oldfield and Ronya Habash from the Turning Point program and the Court's Lisa DiSabato-Moore for participating in a national conference with dialogue that concentrated on battling substance misuse and providing treatments for both adults and youth.

It was also my privilege to preside over the recent unveiling of a banner that recognized former School Board President Helen E. Arnold. She is the latest honoree in the Court's observance of Black History and Women's History Months. We shared a passion for education and it is fitting that the Court and the community acknowledge her commitment to see that the students of the Akron Public Schools receive a quality education.

*Linda Tucci Teodosio*



Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio



## [Court Honors Former School Board President on Banner](#)

For the past 11 years, the Summit County Juvenile Court has observed Black History and Women's History Months by producing a banner that outlines the achievements of locally or nationally prominent women, as well as two men, and their impact on local history. This year's honoree is Helen E. Arnold, the first African-American woman ever elected to the Akron School Board. The banner was unveiled at the Juvenile Court Center on Dan Street on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Helen E. Arnold had a burning desire to see that her nine children receive a quality education when they attended Akron Public Schools. It inspired her to join the PTA to stay abreast of the educational experience of her children. Soon, that passion for education provided the impetus for her to run for the Akron School Board. She was elected in 1978, and she went on to serve 24 years on the School Board, eventually being elected by her colleagues as Board President.

Ms. Arnold influence extended beyond Akron. She also served on the Ohio School Board Association and became a co-founder of the Black Ohio School Board Association.

At the unveiling of the banner, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio recounted the many accomplishments of Ms. Arnold. She also offered hope that Ms. Arnold's commitment to education would motivate those for whom she represented so avidly on the School Board.

"I hope that she will serve as an inspiration for students throughout the Akron Public School system," said Judge Teodosio. "Her example of commitment and accomplishment; her message that nothing is more important than a good education and that they can achieve anything that they want in their lives, is something I hope resonates with each and every one of them."



Judge Teodosio addresses the crowd before the unveiling of the banner.

Many of Ms. Arnold's family members were in attendance. Daughter Donna Carter and granddaughter Alisa Harris spoke on behalf of the family.

Both representatives mentioned Ms. Arnold's devotion to children throughout the school system, and Ms. Carter offered that six years ago the Arnold family established a scholarship program that selects a student to receive a scholarship at the school that bears the name of her mother.

One of Ms. Arnold's colleagues on the School Board was in attendance, Rev. Curtis Walker. He was on the Board when it was given the task of naming that new community learning center. There were many names being considered, he said, but there was a consensus when the name of Helen Arnold was presented.

"It's fitting that the building rose up across the street from the work being done at the Akron Urban League," said Reverend Walker. "It stands as a beacon to her work for so many years on the Board, and it also stands as a legacy of the Arnold family."

The Helen E. Arnold Community Learning Center opened in 2004, three years after her passing.

During February and March, which observe Black History and Women's History Months, respectively, Ms. Arnold's banner will now hang in the lobby of the Juvenile Court Center with other banners recognizing the contributions of such historical luminaries as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriett Tubman, whose Underground railroad has several stops in Summit County, Sojourner Truth, whose famous "And Ain't I a Woman?" speech was delivered in downtown Akron, U.S. Poet Laureate and Buchtel graduate Rita Dove, local community activist Mary Eagle, the pop group Ruby and the Romantics and the seminal role the Howard Street Corridor played in the entertainment field, Dr. Fannie Brown's leadership in the Coming Together Project following the Beacon Journal's Pulitzer Prize winning series, "A Question of Color," longtime NAACP President Ophelia Averitt and Judge Mary Cacioppo, a pioneer in the Summit County legal community, and Akron's first African-American Councilman Ed Davis.



Judge Teodosio and Rev. Curtis Walker, far left, and Chief Magistrate Rob McCarty, far right, stand with members of the Helen E. Arnold family following the unveiling of the banner honoring her contributions as Akron School Board President.

## [Local Judge, Court Staff Member Participate in National Dialogue on Drug Misuse Treatment](#)

Summit County Juvenile Court Special Projects Administrator Lisa DiSabato-Moore, Common Pleas Court Judge Joy Malek Oldfield and Probation Officer Ronya Habash were recently invited to participate in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) national expert panel to develop guidance to the field for implementing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals with substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system.

Judge Oldfield is one of two judges who presides over Turning Point, a problem-solving adult drug court under the General Division of Common Pleas and Ms. Habash serves as the program's Probation Officer. The two-day conference in Maryland brought together officials and stakeholders who worked to identify common MAT implementation challenges for their jurisdictions, discussed unique and role-specific challenges and solutions that may vary by geography, size, and target population. Also on the agenda were discussions gauging the impact of disparities on the implementation of MAT and associated issues of access to treatment and developed recommendations for what other MAT/system stakeholders need to know to successfully work with and engage them as colleagues.

"We've certainly seen success in using MAT with Turning Point participants. We know that recovery requires effective treatment and medication as part of an integrated treatment plan. It has proven to be effective for many drug abusing offenders," stated Oldfield.

While the Juvenile Court has not implemented MAT initiatives, it is at the forefront of substance misuse programming involving differing demographics with the common goal of recovery for participants. The Crossroads Program is an intensive probation program for youth identified with the co-occurring disorders of substance misuse and mental health disorders. The Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC) offers services to family members who have been separated because of a parent's substance misuse issues. Once the parent successfully completes the program requirements, including clean drug screenings, the family is reunited. Restore Court seeks to empower Court-involved youth to reverse the effects of being the victim of human trafficking, which often involves substance misuse. Once youth complete the three phases of the program, the charges against them will be dropped and their records expunged.

"I think it is important to hear what other communities are doing to address this issue," said DiSabato-Moore. "I came away impressed with their efforts, but I came away even more confident with the methods Summit County's judicial system has utilized."

Judge Oldfield echoed DiSabato-Moore's sentiments.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to participate on this important panel, sharing successful strategies, identifying obstacles and recommending solutions to effectively implement medication-assisted treatment in drug courts," concluded Oldfield.