

2014 Annual Report

William P. Kannel
Juvenile Court Center

**Summit County Court of Common Pleas
Juvenile Division
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio**



Turning lives around one child at a time.



Linda Tucci Teodosio, Judge

Robert Bickett, Court Administrator
David Horner, Asst. Court Administrator

Summit County Juvenile Court Vision Statement

"The Summit County Juvenile Court strives to serve the best interests of our children through outreach, early intervention, community education and innovative programming, while fairly administering justice to all whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system."

The Magistrates of the Summit County Juvenile Court

In years past, the Court Magistrates handled two specific dockets: five Magistrates heard delinquency cases, five Magistrates heard dependency, neglect & abuse cases and a part-time Magistrate handled the Traffic Court docket. However, last year, the Court introduced programming designed to promote continuity for families involved in the juvenile justice system. Simply put, “one family, one Magistrate.” Now, Court Magistrates have blended dockets of both delinquency and dependency, neglect and cases. Pictured below are the Summit County Juvenile Court Magistrates.



Tavia Baxter Galonski



Katherine Bertsch



Bradford Christman



Daniel Cody



Thomas Freeman



Kristin Maxwell



Robert McCarty



Denise McGuckin



Mary Ann Mendlik



Rita Rochford



Esther Thomas

Court Finance

Prepared by Robert A. Bickett, Court Administrator

The 2014 Summit County Juvenile Court budget, consisting of both county and state/federal funding, totaled \$15,415,373

General Office/Judicial	\$3,328,800	RECLAIM Ohio	\$4,875,651	Personnel/Salaries & Benefits	\$9,865,838
Probation/Administration	2,046,700	Title IV-E	932,816	Contract Service	2,928,920
Detention Center	<u>2,875,600</u>	Title XX for Family Resource Center	370,000	Other	<u>2,620,615</u>
Total County Funding	\$8,251,100	Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice	405,471	Total Expenditures	\$15,415,373
		Targeted RECLAIM Ohio	351,896		
		Juvenile Accountability	26,480		
		Victims of Crime	31,434		
		National CASA	75,500		
		Title II DMC	12,275		
		OJJOP Family Drug Court	<u>82,750</u>		
		Total State/Federal Grant funding:	\$7,164,273		

STATE/FEDERAL FUNDED SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS TO COURT

<u>SERVICE PROVIDER</u>	<u>CONTRACT AMOUNT</u>
Day Treatment	
Akron UMADAOP	55,000.00
Electronic Monitoring	
Oriana House, Inc.	85,000.00
Out of Home Placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment Shelter	137,750.00
Juvenile Court share of Summit County Family And Children First Council/Summit County Cluster for Youth Funding Agreement	100,000.00
Short Term out of home placement	
Shelter Care Youth Assessment	220,000.00
Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT)	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	159,000.00
Drug/Alcohol Assessments Services	
Community Health Center	32,000.00
Summit County Health District	55,346.00
Mentoring	
CYO and Community Services	25,000.00
Akron UMADAOP	16,150.00
Akron Area YMCA	16,150.00
Mental Health Counseling	
Child Guidance & Family Solutions	25,000.00
Competency Evaluations	
Summit Psychological Associates	15,000.00
Community Service/Restitution Program	
Funds to victims	50,000.00
Long Term out of Home Placement	
Various Placement Agencies	600,000.00
Diversions Programming	
Distributed in varying amounts to 14 Police Departments and Sheriff's Office	208,575.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Model Program	
Village Network	144,000.00
Parent Advocates for Court Involved Youth	
Mental Health America of Summit County	10,000.00
Youth & Family Counseling	
Greenleaf Family Center	45,000.00

Additional 2014 Funding

Prepared by Grants Administrator Woody Tyrrell

In addition to the county's general fund and formula funding from state/federal sources that sustain its operation, the Court actively pursues additional revenue through local, state and federal agency grant funding. These funds are typically used to create, maintain or expand programs at the Court aimed at meeting our goal of assuring that each child entering the Court leaves with increased opportunity for success in school, work, family relationships and the community. ***In 2014, grant funding committed to the court for special programming totaled \$1,398,544.00. Twenty-two (22) full- and part-time court positions and several positions for community service providers are supported by these funding streams.*** The programs either fully or partially operated by this funding in 2014 are:

Intensive Probation Supervision, \$14,205: The Court's Probation Officers offer intense services and case management to high risk offenders. Most Intensive Probation cases are placed on a suspended commitment through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). All participants are engaged in a minimum of 32 hours per week in structured activities. ***Funding is provided by Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

The Peace Justice and Equality Committee received **\$12,275.00** to create and implement innovative Restorative Justice programming in targeted communities as a way of addressing **Disproportionate Minority Contact** in Summit County. ***Funding is provided by Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funds and administered by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.***

The Family Resource Center, \$370,000: Intensive case management is delivered to Court-referred, at-risk youth and their families at the Court and in the community. The FRC is also a resource for other youth and the community as a whole. It serves as a central point of referral for all services available throughout Summit County for youth and their families. More than 400 families were served in 2014. ***Funding is provided by Federal TANF/PRC funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Russell M. Pry, Executive.***

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Program, \$320,761.00: Intensive probation and case management services, drug/alcohol/mental health treatment and/or cognitive behavioral therapy is delivered in home families of youth who are at the greatest risk of commitment to Department of Youth Service institutions. Approximately 35 youth and their families are served annually. ***Funding is provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the program is administered in collaboration with the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.***

Additional 2014 Funding, con't.

Jobs Re-entry Program, \$125,000: Provides intensive case management services to 20-30 youth/year in the custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services and after their release aimed at developing life and job skills, linking them to education and training opportunities, jobs, higher education, providing mentoring and generally helping to transition them successfully back into their families and the community. ***Funding is provided by the Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Russell M. Pry, Executive.***

Family Reunification through Recovery Court Program *(with a second year award of \$159,309; \$538,636 3-year total):* Creates a specialized docket intended to re-unite and stabilize family units through the provision of suitable Intensive treatment and intervention for families who have had their children removed as a result of substance abuse or when it has been determined to be a major contributing factor to the children's removal. The Court closely collaborates with Summit County Children Services and a host of other county agencies and providers in partnership with the county's federally funded STARS program. ***Funding is provided by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.***

Specialized Docket funds were received in 2014 for the Court's two Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets—***Crossroads Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse Court*** and the ***Family Reunification through Recovery Court***. Combined, the two problem-solving courts received **\$56,686.00** from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as part of newly approved state legislation under House Bill 483

CASA/GAL Child Advocate Team, \$265,588: Provides a team of Licensed Social Workers (LSW) GAL positions devoted to directly providing child advocacy/case management services to children removed from their homes. Typically these professionals are assigned in place of volunteer CASAs when the youth removed from the home are also involved in delinquency cases, when they are placed outside of Summit County and extensive travel will be involved for the assigned worker or in otherwise complicated/complex removals. ***Funding is provided by Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Russell M. Pry, Executive.***

Additional CASA/GAL Program Funding for 2014 was again provided by a variety of sources including:

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, \$31,434 for operating costs and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA), \$3,286 for supplies and technology were received through and administered by the ***State of Ohio Attorney General's Office.***

The **National CASA Association** granted the CASA/GAL Program **\$40,000** to partially fund staff and training to support specialized and targeted work with youth in Children Services custody who were exposed to substance abuse. The Summit County CASA Volunteer Board Association also generously contributes significant funds to the CASA program as reported in the CASA Program section of this annual report.

Detention Services

Phil Lucco, Superintendent

The Summit County Juvenile Court's Detention Center strives to provide a safe and secure environment for the youth who are housed in the facility while promoting public safety. Those were among the priority items the American Correctional Association (ACA) examined when it began its audit of the Detention Center in 2014. Accreditation of the Detention Center has been a goal of Judge Teodosio's administration of the Juvenile Court, and the Detention Center is on the threshold of achieving accreditation. The ACA notified the Court that the Detention Center passed each of the mandatory audits and received an overall rating of 98.66. The Court hopes to receive full accreditation status in mid-2015.

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Center consists of seven main housing units plus two annex units, making the total capacity for 100 juveniles, although the daily population averages 51 youth, 43 males and eight females.

Full-time Detention Center staff members are required to receive a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education and training annually. All Detention staff members are responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, personnel and other persons, and assist with the security of the facility. Detention Officers are also responsible for transporting juveniles to Court hearings, medical appointments, counseling appointments, diagnostic evaluations and other appointments deemed necessary by the Court.

An emphasis on education exists in the Detention Center. Certified Akron Public School teachers offer courses in health, history, language arts, math, reading and science. When the youth re-enters school upon release, a school counselor assures that the curriculum the youth studied while in Detention is reported to the school he or she attends. Recognizing that youth learn at different levels, Judge Teodosio worked to have the PLATO educational program installed on a new computer lab, shown at right. PLATO allows youth to learn particular courses at their own rate of aptitude. Credit recovery from the courses studied while in the Detention Center can now be applied to their record and assist in receiving the necessary credits needed to graduate from high school. Additional tutorial services are provided by Akron Public Schools through the Title I Program.



Judge Teodosio has always encouraged youth in Detention to expand their scope of interests and has provided several vehicles to pique that interest. Judge Teodosio arrived in 2003 to find a library stocked with less than 500 books. She sought donations and soon the volume of books surpassed 5,000. She implemented a 100 Book Challenge to promote reading, and today, some members of Summit County Library staff come in once a week so youth can check out books from the Detention library.

The Detention Center also has an active garden in which the youth grow vegetables that are available at a salad bar Judge Teodosio had installed in the cafeteria. The flowers are transplanted on the grounds of the Juvenile Court Center campus.

A creative writing and art program have also been offered.

The Detention Center has also employed the methods of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and continues to work to maintain the high standards it seeks to achieve. In fact, the Summit County Juvenile Court was one of the JDAI model sites in the state of Ohio and it takes its role and the mission of JDAI seriously.



Among the most recent additions that adhere to the JDAI philosophy is a Therapy Room, where youth can to manage their emotions. A second Mental Health Social Worker was added to the Therapy Room in late 2014. They can conduct group counseling in the room, or offer individualized sessions. Through the assessment process each youth undergoes upon coming into the Detention Center, some youth are identified with developmental or mental health issues and could require the services provided in the Therapy Room. The room is equipped with a sensory corner (left) and

Detention Services, con't.

the Social Worker can determine what items are most beneficial to help the youth de-escalate. Youth do not have unfettered access to the room. They are brought down to use the sensory corner for limited, scheduled time according to their level of need. The therapy room is equipped with carpet and other items that create a therapeutic environment for youth in need of behavioral health intervention. There is also a full-time Psychologist on the Court staff, as well.

In 2014:

- **2,157** juveniles were brought into the Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility. Whenever a juvenile is brought to Detention they go through the Intake process which consists of reviewing all paperwork and having the Detention Risk Assessment completed to determine whether the juvenile should be held or released.
- **672** juveniles were held in the detention facility; 495 were males and 177 were females.
- **1,483** were released through the aforementioned admission process which consists of having the Detention Risk Assessment completed and the juvenile scoring below 24 points.
- The average daily population of the facility was **51.16**.

The average bed days in Detention were **17.71 days** (the average bed days represent the number of days a juvenile held in Detention spends in the facility from the time assigned to a unit until departure/release). There were 9 juveniles who had motions filed to have them bound over to the adult system. The Detention Facility continues to use the Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment device which provides information to allow staff make better decisions as to which juveniles should be to be held in Detention and which can be released.



Pictured above are holding units in the Intake area of the Juvenile Court's Detention Center



Shown here are three individual rooms in Kannel Hall, one of six wings in the Detention Center.

Art Project Completed in Detention Center

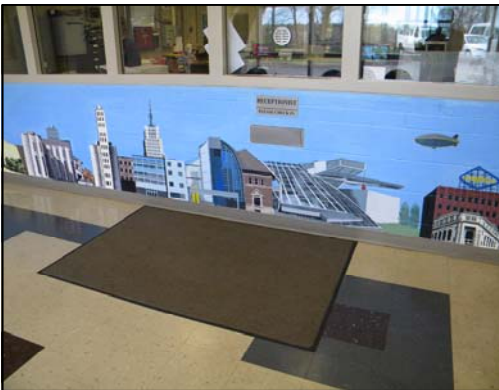
They started out as pencil sketchings. The canvas was cinder block covered by bland beige paint. But, with a combination of commitment, creativity and a lot of color, the lobby of the Court's Detention Center was transformed into a lively homage to the City of Akron and, most importantly, contained a message of harmony, respect and non-violence. The murals in the Detention Center lobby are an off-shoot of the art project that was introduced to Detention two years ago at the suggestion of Judge Teodosio. Enlisting the help of two art teachers, Dillon Sedar and Dan Humphrey, youth in the Detention Center were introduced to weekly art lessons. It allowed them to develop skills in creative problem-solving, critical inquiry and the opportunity for positive self-expression.



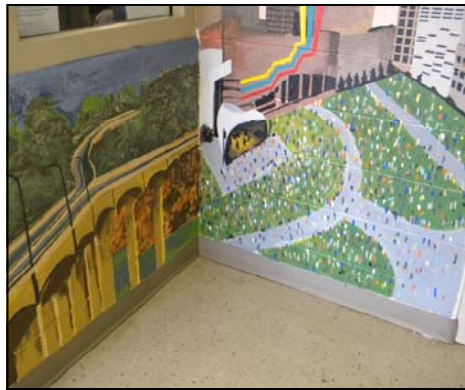
Art teacher Dillon Sedar, right, begins work on a mural with the help of a volunteer.

The response from the youth was so encouraging, Judge Teodosio recommended that their talents should be applied to the lobby walls in the form of murals. With Sedar taking the lead, work began in February 2014. The first sketching was placed on the façade below the reception window and depicted different Akron landmarks. Sedar welcomed the assistance from his students in Detention. Their ideas, energy and enthusiasm were infused into the project. They took pride in their contributions and understood that their work would have a lasting impact on the Detention Center.

The finished product of their good work is displayed below:



The first mural completed depicts a series of Akron landmarks.



The All-American Bridge, left, can take you to Lock 3, right, in downtown Akron.



The artists recognized the community's Peace, Justice & Equality movement.



This mural embraces two of the six Character Counts Pillars, Trustworthiness and Respect.



The diversity of Summit County is noted in this creation.



The Detention Center has had a gardening program for several years and it is acknowledged by the artists.

Traditional and Intensive Probation Department

Curtis Howard, Chief Probation Officer

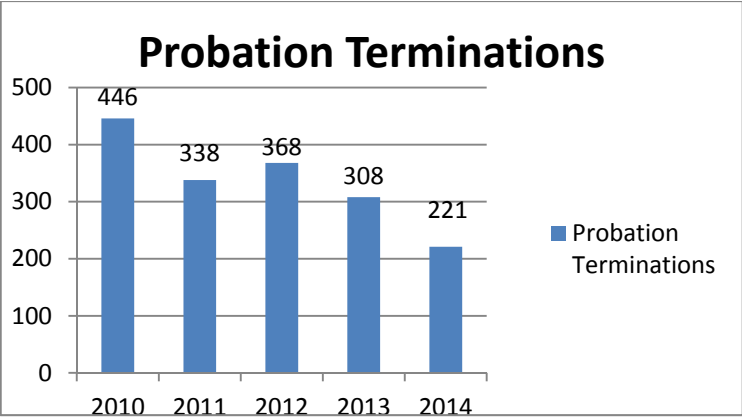
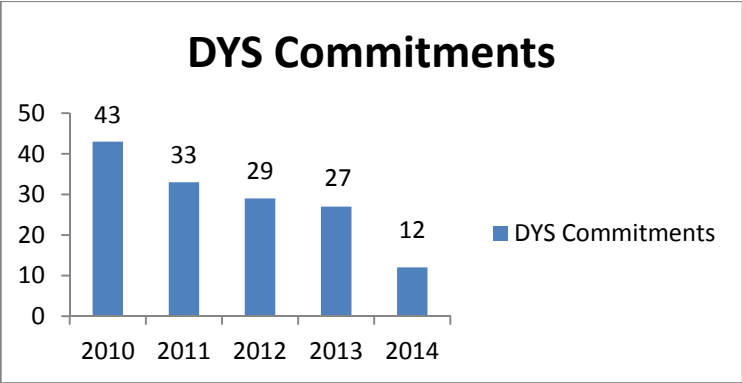
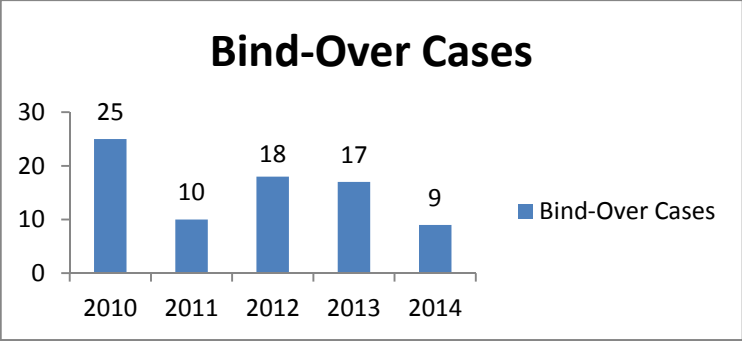
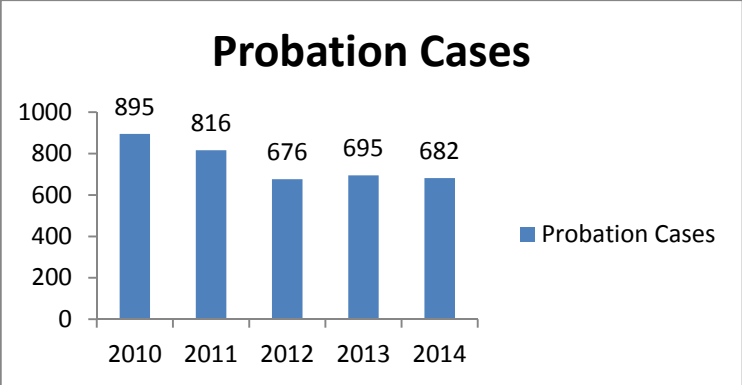
The Court's Probation Department strives to meet three primary objectives: community safety, offender accountability and practical rehabilitation. The staff members of the Probation Department are diligent in the case management they apply to the youth that have been placed on their particular caseloads, which averages 27 active cases for each of the department's 10 Probation Officers. The department also has four Case Managers, two Probation Community Workers, a Probation Supervisor and an Administrative Assistant who report to the Chief Probation Officer.

In 2014, the staff was responsible for the supervision and investigation of 682 cases. There were 398 new cases and 284 cases that were carried over from 2013. In 2014, cases that were successfully terminated from probation supervision totaled 212. By assigning the Probation Officers to specific geographic districts, they are better able to cultivate and maintain a rapport with the youth on their caseloads, as well as their families, and establish a strong working relationship with schools and agencies within their respective districts.

In recent years, with the vital assistance of two grants, the Probation Department has expanded its scope of services to the youth with whom they work. The Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Grant allows the Probation Department to offer two community based programs that provide intensive in-home therapy for youth and their families. In 2014, 58 families took part in those programs.

The Targeted RECLAIM Ohio Grant supported the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) model, "Thinking for a Change." The participants are comprised of youth who receive intensive case management and compels them to recognize the thinking errors that caused them to become Court-involved. The program is designed to assist them to re-direct the course of their behavior to more positive outcomes. There are two Thinking for a Change groups: one in the Detention Center and another that is based in the community. In 2014, the CBT program served 62 youth in Detention and 46 youth in the community.

The Probation Officers and Probation Community Workers were also very active in the EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Settings) and F-EPICS (Family Effective Practices in Community Settings) programs. When youth on their active caseloads are identified as straying from the terms of their probation or exhibit other behavioral problems, the Probation staff member schedules an intervention with the youth and/or his or her family in order to correct the problem. In 2014, there were 376 EPICS or F-EPICS interventions.



Intake Department
Lynda Mullins, Supervisor

The Intake Department is often the first contact youthful offenders have when becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Upon referral, the staff of the Intake Department is charged with gathering pertinent information about the youth's background, family dynamic and demographics, and other information that can be assessed to determine the recommendations the staff members render to the Court for disposition.

With the frontline responsibilities of the Intake Department, the staff is always seeking newer methods to make their determinations about a youth about to enter the Court process. Case Western Reserve University offered training in Motivational Interviewing for Intake and other Court staff last year. The sessions introduced concepts that could be used during interviews to reach resistant clients.

These concepts proved helpful when Intake staff were confronted with a youth who could be eligible for referral to the Court's Crossroads Program, which offers intensive probation for youth who are identified with the co-occurring disorders of substance misuse and mental health issues. If youth complete the strict requirements placed on them throughout the year-long program, the charge against them will be dismissed. Careful consideration is given by Intake staff before such a referral is made. In 2014, Intake referred 30 youth to the Crossroads Program and 26 of them were accepted into the program after their suitability was determined. Teens on Task, a domestic violence diversion program, received 54 referrals in 2014 and 43 of them were deemed compliant or successful. The Intake Department also handled 258 unofficial hearings. Additionally, 119 cases were processed back to community police diversion programs and 14 were referred to the Peace, Justice and Equality's Peace Circle program.

Several members of the Intake staff took an active role in the implementation of Court policies regarding human trafficking. Monthly meetings were held to continue to move forward to determine best practices for identification of victims, community outreach to provide services specific to this population and to jointly address new situations that arise.

Listed below are the types and number of hearings Intake staff handled in 2014:

Preliminary Hearing:	2,739
Pre-Trial:	1,759
Arraignment:	741
File Review:	649
Dispositional:	379
Trial:	305
Status Hearing:	188
Court-Ordered Review:	176
Crossroads Referral:	29
Plea:	28
Review Hearing:	26
Detention:	22
Teen Court Referral:	21
Sealing:	8
Emergency Temp. Custody:	2
Motion Hearing:	2

Family Resource Center
Lisa Karas, Program Coordinator

The Family Resource Center (FRC) is unique to any Juvenile Court in the state of Ohio. The concept was devised by Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio in 2006. The philosophy of the FRC is that short-term assistance could result in preventing a youth from becoming Court-involved, or if a youth is Court-involved, lessening the possibility of recidivism.

The FRC offers services for youth and families faced with the challenges of community re-entry, domestic violence, teen parenting, truancy and other school-related issues and unruly behavior. Clients must be referred to the Family Resource Center and there are some income requirements that must be considered, although there are exceptions made in some instances. FRC staff members offer case management, and if the FRC cannot directly provide services for the issues facing the family, referrals will be made to the wealth of community service providers that have partnered with the FRC.

Additionally, the FRC offers tutorial and educational enrichment programs. The Court's Women's Board, the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation and the county's Department of Job and Family Services made key funding and equipment donations to facilitate the start-up of the educational component of the FRC. University of Akron students and community volunteers provide the tutoring that has proven helpful to get at-risk youth back on track academically. A computer lab offers youth remedial help with school-based curriculum as well as web-based learning tools and educational software aimed at developing self-improvement and coping skills.

In fiscal year 2014, 588 youth and adults received case management through the FRC, and nearly 75% of those participants successfully completed the goals of their service plan. Tutoring services assist youth who are struggling with their studies and in FY 2014, 13 youth participated in the program.

The FRC expanded its reach into the community with the advent of the Responder Program, a school-based intervention and diversionary program. An FRC staff member serves as the Responder when a youth is identified as at-risk for chronic truancy, has displayed signs of mental health issues, is engaged in disruptive behavior or is lagging academically. The Responder works to bring school administrators, the youth and their parents to the table to address specific concerns and devise a work plan to correct them and, in the process, avoid a referral to Juvenile Court. In 2014, 21 Summit County elementary and high schools utilized the Responder Program and 50 youth and their families took part in the program. Of that group, 34 successfully reached their program goals, which is on par with the 70% - 75% success rate realized by the Responder Program.

The FRC also facilitates the Truancy Mediation Program, another diversionary program which addresses chronic truancy and/or failure-to-send cases. An FRC staff member mediates a meeting between school administrators and the family to resolve the truancy issue. In 2014, 48 cases were mediated, of which 65% of those mediated cases were successfully completed.

FRC Program Coordinator Lisa Karas and other FRC staff members have taken an active role on the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking which was empaneled in 2014. The Family Resource Center provided a vital service by offering case management to youth who were identified as victims of human trafficking.

Crossroads Program and New Paths Probation Unit

Katy VanHorn, Program Supervisor

It is the first program Judge Teodosio sought to implement when she became Juvenile Court Judge in 2003. The program, called Crossroads, was grounded in community collaboration and aimed to offer youth facing the challenges of substance misuse and mental health issues a chance to be held accountable for their actions while working to unveil the core impulses that led to those actions and find a way to correct them.

By viewing substance misuse and mental health issues as co-occurring disorders, the Crossroads Program developed an intensive probation program for youth who were referred to and accepted into the program.

Judge Teodosio's visionary program has resulted in national acceptance and recognition. It has become a model for other Juvenile Courts statewide and beyond. The Crossroads Program received further validation in 2014 when the Ohio Supreme Court granted the program final certification as a specialized docket. Crossroads will seek recertification in 2015.

The Crossroads Program consists of three Probation Officers and a part-time Probation Community Worker who report to the Program Supervisor. An attorney Guardian ad Litem is contracted to provide legal representation for each youth throughout their duration in the program. Crossroads is incentive-based which places a premium on accountability. The Crossroads Magistrate Kristin Maxwell conducts weekly review hearings to determine whether youth have earned the ability to move forward in the program or receive sanctions for failing to adhere to the strict guidelines contained in their case plan. Family members play an essential role in the progress a youth makes in the program, which usually takes one year to achieve graduation.

In 2014, 70 families were served by the program, including the admission of 38 new families. The program saw 15 of its participants graduate after successfully completing program requirements. Their graduation means that their admitted offenses and any subsequent violations will be dismissed and sealed. But, more importantly, they leave the program with the tools to live a clean, happy and sober lifestyle.

The Crossroads concept has been applied to another Court program, the New Paths Probation Unit. New Paths is a specialized intervention service designed to address the needs of youth with a developmental disability or cognitive delay who have become Court-involved with a delinquency issue. New Paths Probation Officers act as intake worker, probation officer and case manager for the youth and their families. They will help them navigate through the Court process while seeking suitable care for the youth through appropriate referrals to community providers.

The hallmark of New Paths is creating continuity of care and consistency. Magistrate Thomas Freeman has been assigned the New Paths docket and he will hear nearly every New Paths case. In the event a youth is adjudicated delinquent and placed on probation, the same New Paths Probation Officer will follow the youth throughout the duration of the probationary period. Progress is monitored through regular school visits, contact with service providers and regular review hearings.

Crossover Youth Practice Model
Rashara Walker, Program Coordinator

Continuity, communication, collaboration. These are the hallmarks of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) that was implemented at the Court in 2012 in partnership with Summit County Children Services (SCCS). The Court and SCCS remain the two lead agencies of the program.

“Crossover youth” are identified as youth who are simultaneously involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Crossover Youth Practice Model is designed to assure that specific practices are put in place to help the youth navigate between active cases at the Court. CYPM participants will have their delinquency and dependency, neglect and abuse hearings before the same Judge or Magistrate for the duration of their Court involvement.

This approach offers the best method for everyone involved to be well-versed in all the issues confronting youth and their families, whether it concerns the delinquency case or the family situation.

A youth can be referred to the CYPM under specific circumstances:

- Must be a permanent resident of Summit County or be placed in a residential facility by SCCS
- Must have an open delinquency or unruly case at Juvenile Court
- Must have an open dependency, neglect or abuse case at Juvenile Court

There are restrictions to referrals to the CYPM:

- The youth’s delinquency or dependency, neglect and abuse case is resolved or dismissed
- The youth’s case is referred to the Court’s Crossroads Program
- The youth’s case is referred to the Court’s New Paths Docket
- The youth is referred to the Court Offender Specific Unit
- The youth is placed on parole
- The youth is committed to an Ohio Department of Youth Services or community correctional facility.

In 2014, the CYPM successfully closed 35 cases and 20 cases remain open.

The Family Reunification through Recovery Court

Becky Ryba, Program Coordinator

There is nothing more important than family. However, there are times when circumstances arise that test even the strongest bonds of the family unit. It is one of the heart-wrenching realities of the Court system that families will be separated by the actions of a family member.

It is the mission of the newly-created Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FIRC) to ultimately bring the family back together in a safe, stable and healthy environment.

The FIRC is a seminal example of community collaboration and cooperation. With the Juvenile Court and Summit County Children Services providing the lead in training, area agencies are now better able identify families that could qualify for the services provided by the FIRC. In the case of the FIRC, a parent is identified with substance use issues and is referred to the program. The family is already receiving services from Children Services, which has sought some level of custody or protective supervision.

Once referred to the FIRC, the parents will have their progress tracked through their work toward recovery by a multidisciplinary treatment team. In the interim, the participants will receive a wide array of services designed to meet the individual needs of each family member. The Juvenile Court's Program Coordinator oversees the entire process and the participants will make frequent appearances before the same FIRC Magistrate to assure continuity and accountability.

A key element in the implementation of this first year program is the training of Court and Children Services staff members, as well as other agency professionals connected to the program. The training and program operations are facilitated by a three-year grant from U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Training topics included motivational interviewing, trauma, self-care, substance misuse and the parameters of the drug court model.

The FIRC had its first referral in early 2014 and on April 1, 2014, the family began receiving services. By the end of the year, 14 families received services through their participation in the FIRC and many of the parents took significant steps toward recovery and reunification with their children.

Psychology Services

Dr. Thomas Webb, Staff Psychologist

The Psychology Department provides forensic evaluations to the Court along with clinical assessments to aid appropriate placement of youth in community programs. Over 200 evaluations were performed in 2014. Of those evaluated, eight youth were determined amenable for transfer to the adult system.

Dr. Webb provides advisory support for Court programming as well as emergency consultation as need arises. He also offers his services to the community, supervising a two-month forensic training rotation for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows from Akron Children's Hospital and the planning of "The Interdisciplinary Family Conference" sponsored jointly by the University of Akron and the Akron Bar Association which is designed to address contemporary social issues faced by the community.

Offender Specific Unit

Kevin Floyd, Felony Disposition Supervisor

The Offender Specific Unit has the challenging task of working with youth who have committed a serious offense against another. That task falls to the three full-time Probation Officers and the Felony Disposition Supervisor which comprise the Offender Specific Unit (OSU). Each specialized probation officer supervises an average caseload of 15 youth who have been charged with or adjudicated for a sexually aggressive offense as described in the Ohio Revised Code. In 2014, 32 youth were referred to this department, reflecting a decrease of eight youth from 2013. The average term of probation for this population is 18 to 20 months.

These specialized Probation Officers serve a multidisciplinary role in that they supervise their youth from intake through termination of probation, including any out-of-home placements that may occur.

The Probation Officers make face-to-face contacts with youth at home, school, office, community counseling appointments and placement facilities. Using Evidence Based Practices, the unit collaborates with Child Guidance and Family Solutions to provide community based treatment to their clients. The OSU also co-facilitates three treatment groups each week, including a group which serves youth with developmental disabilities. This unit served an additional 20 youth by offering "Wise Guys" and "Smart Girls" as an alternative for less serious offenders. Teaching victim empathy is a key element to rehabilitation and treatment and that is addressed by assigning youth projects through the "Amends" program. These projects benefit local victim and advocacy groups and allows for the offender to give back to the community. Additionally, social skill building remains a high priority with these youth which is achieved through ongoing group counseling and community service work.

In 2014, the Offender Specific Unit continued to provide a parent group in collaboration with Child Guidance and Family Solutions. The parent group meets regularly to provide education, support and guidance to parents of offenders.

The members of the Offender Specific Unit are generous with their time and expertise. They provided 13 educational presentations to Police Diversion Units, school districts and various community support organizations. OSU Probation Officers also sit on several important committees within the county and state. They are members of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Roundtable which provides additional training on statewide issues. These collaborations provide the Probation Officers with the opportunity to discuss best practices in order to develop new services to successfully manage juvenile offenders in the community.

CASA/GAL Program
Beth Cardina, Program Director

“In the best interests of the child.”

That is the mantra and the mission of the staff and volunteers of the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program based at the Summit County Juvenile Court. Volunteers complete a thorough 40-hour training program to become advocates for abused, neglected and dependent children who come in contact with the Court system through no fault of their own. Through collaboration with key service agencies and legal counsel and utilizing other community resources, the volunteer makes recommendations on behalf of the child during Court hearings. The CASA/GAL volunteers investigate and monitor many facets of the child's background and make assessments to the Court based on their findings.

The Juvenile Court funds the CASA/GAL Program, but the program also receives grants from the Victims of Crime Act and the State Victims Assistance Act. Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry offers funding from Federal Title XX/TANF funds administered through the county's Department of Job and Family Services. The National CASA Board and several local foundations, businesses and organizations also provide much-needed funding. Additionally, the local CASA Board Volunteer Association partners with the Court to assist in the mission of the program and its volunteers. The CASA Board is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that contributed over \$63,000 to the program's general operating costs.

The CASA/GAL Program also benefits from donations from the Kimberly S. Denholm Charities, community grants and the Juvenile Court's Women's Board to underwrite the program's annual Holiday Toy Shop, which purchases gifts that are selected and delivered to the children by their CASA volunteer. In 2014, over 400 children received an early and happier holiday because of the efforts of the CASA/GAL Program and their advocates.

It is the task of the 16 member staff of the CASA/GAL Program to assure that the volunteers have the materials and support that they need to see each of their cases through to a successful end. **In 2014, 250 volunteer child advocates** provided a voice for over **1,100 dependent, abused or neglected children** in Juvenile Court proceedings. The number of children served by the program ranks as the **highest of any CASA/GAL Program in the state of Ohio and positions the program as one of the largest in the nation.**



Judge Teodosio, seated far left, shown with a 2014 graduating class of CASA/GAL volunteers.

Child Responsibility Project/Community Service

Jeffrie Pope, Program Director

Accountability is the centerpiece of the Court's The Child Responsibility Project (CRP). Often, part of the disposition a youth receives involves restitution to the victim of their offense. Community service is another frequent sanction. The function of the CRP is to locate job sites where youth will work in order to pay restitution to the victim of their offense. The CRP staff members supervise youth working at those sites at all times. The RECLAIM Ohio grant provides the funding for the program and the hourly wages earned by the youth are paid directly to the victim by the Court in an amount that is capped at \$600. As well as providing work site supervision, CRP staff also records the amount of hours worked by the youth in the program. In 2014, there were 136 juveniles that took part in the Child Responsibility Project, completing 4,130 hours worked and earning \$33,039.50 which was paid to victims of crime. The juveniles earned \$8 an hour. In 2014, 122 juveniles were ordered to make restitution of \$38,792.79 through this program.

Working closely with the Intake and Probation Departments, CRP staff assures that youth are meeting the requirements of their community service sanction. In 2014, 553 juveniles completed their community service orders, working 4,266 hours. While not all youth ordered to perform community service are supervised by Court staff, 379 youth received direct supervision in the CRP and community service programs

In 2003, Judge Teodosio devised the Special Projects program. This program allows a juvenile to earn credit for eight hours of ordered community service by spending \$40 to purchase toys, food or school supplies. These items are donated to the needy in Summit County. It is the responsibility of this department to track the paperwork for the projects, take custody of the items and assure the delivery of the items to those in need. A total of 97 juveniles participated in this program in 2014. This enabled the Court to donate over \$3,880 of toys, food and school supplies to needy families.

Citizen's Review Board

Magistrate Rita M. Rochford, Director

The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) consists of community volunteers who determine whether the best interests of the children in Dependency, Neglect and Abuse cases are being met. The Board consists of representatives with social work, criminal justice, education and/or medical backgrounds or other significant community involvement. The CRB consists of four separate boards, each of which meet twice a month to review the status of children in the permanent custody of Summit County Children Services. The CRB ensures that the needs of the children are being met and that Summit County Children Services is using reasonable efforts to facilitate the child's permanency plan, which is typically adoption.

CRB members review each case at least once every six months and more frequently, if necessary. The Board, in concert with the Magistrate, has the authority to issue orders during the review hearings, to maintain the child's welfare or permanency plan.

In 2014, the Citizen's Review Board conducted 183 hearings. The members of the CRB logged 660 volunteer hours.

The Citizen's Review Board operates pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and is supervised by a Magistrate Rita Rochford under the direct authority of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

Dorman, Oliver, Prevo Named Employees of the Year

On May 28, 2014, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio revealed the Court's 2014 Employees of the Year. Carmen Dorman, Jimmy Oliver and Kevin Prevo were introduced in front of gathering that included family members, Court staff and volunteers. Each, in their own way, made significant contributions to the Court. An overview of their achievements and work ethic are noted below:



Carmen Dorman: As a Family Aftercare Specialist, Ms. Dorman combines frankness and fairness as she prepares youth and their families for the youth's re-entry into the community after an extended stay in a detention facility. She was lauded for her networking skills with community providers to assure that youth and their families have what is needed for the youth to succeed.



Jimmy Oliver: A Detention Officer, Oliver goes about his duties with a quiet confidence and surety that engenders respect among the youth in Detention. He is always seeking to expand his knowledge of policies and procedures in Detention. He advances that knowledge by taking a leadership role in training sessions and, when asked, assumes supervisory responsibilities with seamless ease.



Kevin Prevo: Also a Detention Officer, Prevo has taken a lead role in the critical area of transporting youth to other facilities. Though an imposing figure, he commands respect from the youth in Detention with his measured and fair approach. He is also deeply respected by his peers. He demonstrates leadership in training sessions and is always willing to take on different shifts.

Kim Ray Named Volunteer of the Year

Kim Ray was in Court under false pretenses.

She was called to the Summit County Juvenile Court on May 28th because she was given some erroneous information. She was told that someone who works in the Court-based Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Program was getting an award at the Court's Employee & Volunteer Recognition Reception. Armed with a bouquet of flowers, Ms. Ray gathered with some fellow program volunteers to await the big moment. What she didn't know was that the big moment was reserved for her.

Kim Ray was named the Court's Volunteer of the Year for her work with not one but two organizations that serve the Court: CASA/GAL and the Women's Board. It is certainly no surprise that Ms. Ray was multi-tasking. Ms. Ray is very active in several civic and charitable organizations.

With all that on her plate, she was still able to spearhead fund-raising for the CASA/GAL Program. The funding is used primarily to recruit, train and retain CASA volunteers. Her efforts have not been wasted: the Summit County CASA/GAL Program is the largest in Ohio and fourth-largest in the nation.

During Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's introduction of the Court's Volunteer of the Year, it became apparent to Ms. Ray that the Judge was describing her. She became almost overwhelmed. Tears flowed and she hugged a fellow CASA volunteer sitting next to her. Needless to say, she was the most surprised person in the room.



During her introduction, Judge Teodosio said of Ms. Ray, "Her heart and soul are devoted to ensuring that the children CASA serves have the best possible advocate. Through her devotion and commitment, the CASA Program has achieved many of its goals and the children it serves have benefitted greatly from her volunteerism."

When she called Ms. Ray forward to receive her award, there was one more surprise. Family members were ushered into the room during her introduction and when she was handed her plaque, she saw them gathered in the back of the room to only enhance the moment for her.

When she took the podium, Ms. Ray said, "These organizations have been a blessing in my life. It's a privilege to represent them. It has been an honor to work on behalf of the Court. This is a special place."

And Kim Ray is a special person.

The Women's Board to the Juvenile Court

It's been said that no person stands taller than when bending down to help a child. If that statement indeed rings true, then there are giants among us at the Summit County Juvenile Court. Gentle giants.

The members of the Women's Board to the Juvenile Court have devoted their 58 year existence at the Court to providing financial and volunteer support for Court staff and youth in the Detention Center. The Women's Board has been instrumental in advancing several Court programs through their generosity. Among the major programs they have supported recently are a greenhouse where youth in Detention can plant, nurture and grow flowers and vegetables year-round; the purchase of furniture to facilitate the opening of the Court's Cognitive Behavioral Therapy unit. In 2014, the Women's Board once again extended its generosity to the Court by donating \$21,000 to upgrade the lighting in the newly-renovated gymnasium and in the cafeteria.

The Board members also hold reward nights in the Detention Center for youth who have earned it by performing at positive levels and host a luncheon for Court staff every February. The members also offer volunteer services during the evenings Traffic Court is conducted and meet monthly to assist the Clerk's Office with microfilming. Four of its members have been named Volunteer of the Year including current members Ruth Dordridge (2009), Jane Hutmacher (2012) and the 2014 honoree, Kim Ray.

In 2014, members of the Women's Board continued their incredible dedication to the Court, logging 5,931 volunteer hours.



Teen Court

It has been an objective of the Juvenile Court to open its doors to the community. One of the programs designed for that is Teen Court. This diversionary program provides the local high school students an introductory to the juvenile justice system. Teen volunteers hear actual cases in Juvenile Court and they actually participate in the proceedings.

Teen Court accepts referrals from Court staff to have youth receive their dispositional orders in the Teen Court setting. Almost all cases involve first-time offenders who have admitted to committing a low-level misdemeanor. The youth and his or her parents or guardians must agree to have the case referred to Teen Court for a dispositional hearing literally before a jury of their peers. Volunteers receive training on Court procedure and how to apply the principles of restorative justice to their dispositional orders.

Volunteers assume the roles of jurors, defense attorney and prosecutor. Akron Bar Association attorneys and assistant county prosecutors give their time to assist the teen attorneys in shaping their opening and closing statements, as well as the questions they will ask witnesses during the hearing. Once testimony has been delivered the jurors begin their deliberations and return with a disposition. Should the youth abide by the conditions of their disposition to the satisfaction of the Court, the charge against them will be dismissed.

In 2014, 31 active volunteers from 13 high schools participated in 12 Teen Court hearings.

Accomplishments Under the Leadership of Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

ACA Preliminary Accreditation: One of the goals Judge Teodosio has had for the Court was to see the Detention Center receive accreditation status. Now, that goal is within the Court's reach. The American Correctional Association (ACA) completed a thorough examination of Detention Center practices, policies and procedures. In late 2014, the ACA informed the Court that its Detention Center met the requisite standards for accreditation with an overall rating of 98.66. The Court hopes to receive its full accreditation in mid-2015.

Crossroads & FRRC Certification: The first program Judge Teodosio implemented when she began her tenure as Juvenile Court Judge in 2003 was the groundbreaking Crossroads Program, which provides intensive probation for youth identified with the co-occurring disorders of substance misuse and mental health issues. A decade later, Judge Teodosio's innovative administration of the Court saw the creation of the Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC), which collaborates with area agencies to refer families to this specialty Court with the goal to reunite the family after a parent successfully completes treatment for a substance misuse problem. In 2014, the Court was notified by the Ohio Supreme Court that both the Crossroads Program and the FRRC received certification by the Supreme Court's 22-member Commission of Specialized Dockets. The certifications were earned after the programs underwent a site visit and provided specific materials that met new certification standards.

Human Trafficking Initiatives: In 2013, the Court established a human trafficking policy. Human trafficking involves the exploitation of youth who are trafficked for purposes of labor or sexual activity. With the passage of the state of Ohio's Safe Harbor Law, Judge Teodosio moved to develop a diversion program based on parameters outlined in the statute, which exempts youth who are victims of human trafficking from offenses committed while being trafficked. In 2014, funding was established to operate the diversion program through two grants received from the Department of Youth Services' Competitive RECLAIM Ohio initiative. As the number of identified victims continues to grow, the Court is working toward certification of its Restore Court, a docket designated solely for victims of human trafficking and those identified as high risk, as a specialized docket. There is currently no specialized docket for juvenile human trafficking victims in the state. The Court is also actively involved with the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking.

JDAI Deep-End Grant Received: Since 2010, the Court has been an active proponent of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) championed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The core element of JDAI reform is to seek community alternatives aimed at reducing the unnecessary detention of youth. In 2014, the Court sought a grant in order to expand its scope with commitment to the JDAI Deep-End reform movement. Deep-End Reform concentrates on finding community resources to properly rehabilitate and supervise a youth who has been found delinquent of a charge that could result in out-of-home placement. In 2014, the Casey Foundation awarded the Juvenile Court \$50,000 which will be used primarily for program analysis and assessment, technical assistance and specialized training.

RECLAIM Ohio Funding: Marking one decade, the Court was one of the top two counties in Ohio in receiving RECLAIM Ohio funds. The Court received those funds based on the number of felony adjudications and Ohio Department of Youth Services bed-day usage. Those numbers are factored into a formula and compared to the activity of other counties in the state. The funding is a product of responsible management at the Court while providing innovative programming and education at the community level. This has allowed the Court to enhance its rehabilitation for youth who remain under Court supervision. This has resulted in a decrease in bed-days, which is becoming a positive trend. For example, during fiscal year 2014, there were 2,863 less bed-days used than in fiscal year 2013. As a result, in fiscal year 2014, the Court yielded \$3.63 million, or a 11.9% share, of available RECLAIM funds from the State of Ohio.

Employees of the Summit County Juvenile Court *

Bruce Alexander	Brian Fogle	Mary Martin	Raylene Smead
Rebecca Armstrong	Darin Ford	Stacey Mathieu	Triston Smead
Damoniq'e Askew	Christopher Fox	Kristin Maxwell	Christopher Smith
Tia Autrey	Thomas Freeman	Robert McCarty	Kathy Smith
	Alan Futo	Tedlayla McCraney	Thomas Smith
Joseph Baglieri		Robert McCree	Darryl Smoot
Baric Banos	Danny Gabel	Denise McGuckin	Steve Stahl
Kenzie Barclay	Tom Gaffney	Mary Ann Mendlik	Tammy Stiles
Tammy Barnes	Tavia Galonski	Davone Miller	Maureen Sullivan
Terry Bendo	Denzel Gambrell	Derrick Miller	Timothy Sutherland
Linda Bennett	Susan Gatts	Reese Miller	
Pamela Bennett	Melissa Gerney	Duane Mitchell	Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio
Joseph Berlyak	Don Guthrie	David Molis	Luchiana Terrell
Kathy Bertsch		Kandy Monroe	Adam Testa
Bob Bickett	Heidi Day Hall	Joanne Moore	Cathy Richardson Thomas
Jaime Blair	Darrell Hammett	Leslie Morris	Esther Thomas
Jennifer Bond	Adam Harris	Lynda Mullins	Jody Tolley
Jon Booher	Cheryl Hatcher	Lyndsi Munford	DeAndre Tucker
Stephanie Borak	Brandon Hayes	Lora Mycoskie	Regina Valdez Torrez
Max Briggs	Xavier Hayes	Keysha Myers	DeAndre Tucker
Welby Broadus	Tom Henretta		Woody Tyrrell
Christine Brown	Katie Herman	Shanda Nagle	
Bryan Bryce	Nicholas Hetsch	Brittany Neal	Dante Ursetti
Justin Burton	LaTonya Hill	Steven Nettle	Don Ursetti
Alex Byard	Kandy Hixson	Vicky Newell	
	Chennel Holley	Calvin Newman	Katy Van Horn
Beth Cardina	Karen Holmes	Sarah Norman	
Richard Cash	David Horner	Sarah Noviks	Denver Wade
Emily Caudill	Chad Horstman		Rashara Walker
Kielan Cherry	Curtis Howard	Jimmy Oliver	Terry Walton
Luv Chounramany	India Hughes		Michael Ward
Brad Christman	Katherine Hullum	James Palm	Dr. Thomas Webb
Roslyn Clark	Nicole Huntsman	Linda Palmeri	Justin Whitfield
Darice Clayton		Jeanne Papoi	Tim Wilkes
Rollin Clayton	Perry James	Remarr Parnell	Kevin Williams
Sandra Coddington	Michael Johnson	Terrie Pfeil	Tracy Williams
Daniel Cody	Nate Johnson	Lori Phillips	Jane Wilson
Renee Conlon	Tammy Johnson	Tiffany Poole	Eddie Winstead
Getta Cornici	Kenneth Jones	Jonathan Pooler	Quin Wychanko
Laconia Crandall	Adam Jovicic	Jeff Pope	
Kelli Crawford-Smith		Kevin Prevo	Joshua Young
Amber Crowe	Lisa Karas	Darryl Pringle	Michael Young
	Patrick Keenan		
Daniel Dario	Willie Kellie	Rhonda Riddle	Joan Zito
William Davis	Joe Kernan	Angela Robinson	
Sarah DeLeo	Katherine Kneeland	Rita Rochford	
Lisa DiSabato-Moore		Ralph Roebuck	
Carmen Dorman	Elizabeth Lashley	Tysa Ross	
	Jeremiah Latimore	Sally Roupe	
Lisa Eagle	Laimere Latson	Becky Ryba	
Rachel Earich	Shantel Lawler		
Elizabeth Emanuel	Bethany Lee	Julie Sample	
Cheryl Evans	Jennifer Lewis	Sarah Sapper	
Stephan Evans	Andrea Lisowski	Jolynn Schaetzle	
Tatanina Evans	Donald Lomax	Todd Schauffler	
	Phil Lucco	Cory Schweigert	
Matthew Fahey	Keith Luhring	Reginald Scott	
Matthew Fahrney	Laura Lynd-Robinson	Kynasia Sherman	
Ruby Fair		Tiffany Sieg	
Chanin Faith	Lisa Mancini	Cheryl Simpson	
Chris Fergus	Tillman Manuel III	Steven Sims, Jr.	
Tremain Fields	Dawne Marlowe	Robert Singletary	
Hilary Finkel	Jim Martin	Annie Skapin	
Kevin Floyd	Lavar Martin	Eric Small	

* list includes interns, part-time employees and employees who worked a portion of 2014 at the Court.