

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



GENERAL DIVISION
JUVENILE DIVISION
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION
PROBATE DIVISION
CLERK OF COURTS

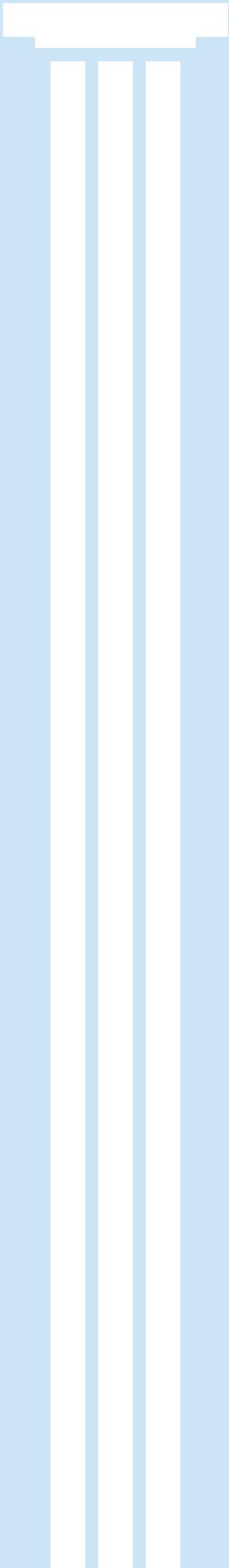


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Structure of the Ohio Judicial System

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

There are six Justices and a Chief Justice. Court of last resort on state constitutional questions and questions of public or general interest; appeals from Board of Tax Appeals, Public Utilities Commission, and death penalty cases.



SECOND DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

There are five Appellate Judges. Original jurisdiction in select cases. Appellate review of judgments of Common Pleas, Municipal, and County Courts, and appeals from Board of Tax Appeals.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

There are two Domestic Relations Division Judges. Divorces, dissolutions, legal separations and annulments, allocations of parental rights and responsibilities, parenting time, child support, and spousal support, civil protection orders for domestic and dating violence.

GENERAL

There are 11 General Division Judges. Civil and criminal cases, appeals from most administrative agencies. Unlimited civil and felony criminal jurisdiction. Civil stalking orders and temporary protection orders on non-Domestic Relations matters.

JUVENILE

There are two Juvenile Division Judges. Offenses involving minors, most paternity actions, abuse, neglect, dependency and child support. Juvenile civil protection orders where the respondent is under 18.

PROBATE

There is one Probate Division Judge. Decedents' estates, mental illness commitments, guardianships, adoptions and marriage licenses.



MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURTS

Civil cases up to \$15,000, traffic cases, and misdemeanor offenses. Preliminary jurisdiction in felony matters.



MAYORS COURTS

Not courts of record. Violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws.

What is the Common Pleas Court?

The Common Pleas Court possesses constitutional and statutory power. The Montgomery County Common Pleas Court consists of four divisions that provide timely and equitable service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Each of the divisions has a unique role in the judicial process. Collectively, the Court is dedicated to delivering superior service to promote public safety, corrections, rehabilitation, family law, probate, and civil justice. The Courts work on joint programs and projects designed to provide cost effective solutions for our citizens. We provide the best Court system in the State of Ohio.

There are 16 Judges on the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court. The Judges are elected to, and conduct their work in, one of the four divisions. In some instances, the Presiding Judge will assign a Judge from one division to another for specific cases.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

GENERAL DIVISION ■ 11 JUDGES

JUVENILE DIVISION ■ 2 JUDGES

DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION ■ 2 JUDGES

PROBATE DIVISION ■ 1 JUDGE

General Division

About the General Division

The General Division of the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction that provides prompt, fair, and just resolution of litigation in civil and criminal cases. The General Division Judges preside over bench and jury trials involving civil litigation as well as felony criminal cases. Our eleven judges have a combined experience of over 100 years of judicial service to the citizens of Montgomery County.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission: Together we provide fair and efficient justice under the law for all.

Our Vision: We will provide innovative and high quality court services to the people of Montgomery County.

Our Goal: To assure the administration of justice, we will draw on the experience and knowledge of our court employees and community partners.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMON PLEAS COURT - GENERAL DIVISION

11 judges

2 magistrates

200 court staff



HONORABLE MARY WISEMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Wiseman was appointed to the General Division bench in 2007, and was elected to a new, six-year term in November 2022.

Judge Wiseman received her B.S. from Ball State University in 1984 and her J.D. with honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1988.

Prior to her judicial service, Judge Wiseman practiced complex civil litigation in state and federal courts nationwide. She has taught at the University of Dayton School of Law and Sinclair Community College. She served on the Dayton City Commission from 1998-2002.

Judge Wiseman is a past President of the Dayton Bar Association and the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court. She serves as the Administrative Judge of the General Division.

Judge Wiseman is a member of the American, Ohio, and Dayton Bar Associations, and a trustee of the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. She is admitted to the United States Supreme Court and numerous other federal courts at the trial and appellate level.

She is a past trustee and member of a diverse array of community groups, and has received numerous awards and recognitions for civic and professional accomplishments.



The Montgomery County Courts Building, located at 41 N. Perry St.

	Beginning Jan. 1, 2023	Open Cases	Terminated Cases	Ending Dec. 31, 2023
Civil	2,088	7,407	7,061	2,434
Criminal	882	4,358	4,443	797
Total Cases	2,970	11,765	11,504	3,231



HONORABLE TIMOTHY N. O'CONNELL, JUDGE
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge O'Connell was elected a General Division Judge in 2006. He serves on the General Division's Probation, Pretrial and Investigative Services Committee. Judge O'Connell received his B.A. from the University of Dayton in 1977 and his J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1980.

*From 1980-1990, Judge O'Connell was in the private practice of law. He maintained a general practice with *Baver, Messham & Bookwalter Co., L.P.A.*, initially, and then with *Ensley & Eilerman Co., L.P.A.* In 1990, Judge O'Connell was appointed as a Referee in the General Division. He served in that position for 16 years with the last three years as Chief Magistrate.*

Judge O'Connell serves on the Board of Trustees of Nova Behavioral Health. He also serves on the Executive Committee for the Ohio Judicial Conference. He is a member of the American, Ohio and Dayton Bar Associations, and the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court. He serves on the Judicial Advisory Board of the

MonDay Community Based Correctional Institution.

Judge O'Connell has taught continuing legal education seminars for the Dayton Bar Association, Ohio Association of Magistrates, and the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of Magistrates.

General Division | 2023 IN REVIEW

COURT WELCOMES JUDGE ELLIS

Judge Elizabeth A. Ellis was welcomed to the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division, as she took her oath of office on June 13, 2023. She was appointed to the court by Governor Mike DeWine to fill the vacant seat left by Judge Mary Katherine Huffman after her election to the Second District Court of Appeals. Judge Ellis began her service on the court on June 20th.

Judge Ellis took the oath of office at the University of Dayton School of Law's Mathias H. Heck Courtroom in a ceremony presided over by Judge Mary Wiseman, the administrative judge of Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division.



Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mathias H. Heck delivered Judge Ellis' oath of office

Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mathias H. Heck delivered the oath of office, while Judge Adolfo Tornichio of the Greene County Common Pleas Court, Judge Ronald Lewis of the Second District Court of Appeals, and Montgomery County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ward Barrentine gave remarks. Maj. William Harden of the Greene County Coroner's Office, Glory Ministries Church, and the Greene County Sheriff's Office delivered the invocation.



HONORABLE STEVEN K. DANKOF, JUDGE
Montgomery County
Common Pleas Court,
General Division

Judge Dankof was appointed as a General Division Judge by then Governor Ted Strickland on December 30, 2010. Judge Dankof was elected to the Bench in 2012, and thereafter re-elected in 2014 and again in 2020. Judge Dankof is the Men's Achievement Recovery

Court (MARC) Judge and a member of the General Division's Executive Committee. He received his BBA summa cum laude from Ohio University in 1973 and his JD with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin's School of Law in 1976 where he also received The Order of the Coif. Judge Dankof has frequently lectured for the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, the Dayton and Ohio State Bar Associations, and the University of Cincinnati's Honors College and School of Law. Judge Dankof is the author of Extreme Cruelty – the Complicity of Judges in the Shame of Wrongful Convictions, and a moving force behind An Evening for Justice – an annual event in Dayton, Ohio to benefit the work of the Ohio Innocence Project.

At the time of her appointment, Judge Ellis had been an assistant prosecutor for Montgomery County since 2021. Previously, she worked for the Greene County Prosecutor's Office for 19 years.

GENERAL DIVISION WELCOMES FIRST MAJORITY FEMALE BENCH

With the election of Judge Angelina Jackson in November of 2022, Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division has a majority of female judges for the first time in the court's history. Of the eleven judges serving on the General Division bench, six are women.

Statistics collected annually by the National Institute of Women Judges show that Ohio's Courts of Common Pleas overall were comprised of 36% women in 2023. This means that as a state, Ohio is similar to the national average of 33% women judges elected to general jurisdiction courts. Montgomery County's Common Pleas Court, General Division is now leading the way for diversity in the judiciary with 55% women judges.

Judge Mary Wiseman, who was recently elected the Administrative Judge of the General Division, took note of the change. "This is a great development for our court," she said.



“Judges are not only leaders in the criminal justice system, but leaders in the community.”

Judge Jackson also observed the importance of female representation not just to the legal community, but to the larger Montgomery County community that the judges serve. “Our court is made up of judges with a diverse range of personal and professional backgrounds,” she said. “It strengthens the public’s trust and confidence in our legal system when our bench reflects the community that we serve.”

Montgomery County has made great strides in making a more

From left to right: Judges Melnick, Montgomery, Huffman (now on the bench of the Second District Court of Appeals), Wiseman, Solle, and Jackson

diverse judiciary a reality. The first female judge elected to Montgomery County Common Pleas Court was Lillian Kern of the Domestic Relations division in 1977, and the first female judge elected to the General Division was Barbara Gorman in 1987. Both were widely regarded as trailblazers whose service paved the way for women to enter the judiciary.

Presently, the General Division is proud that the citizens of Montgomery County have made their voices heard by electing more women to the bench than ever before. Judge Wiseman stated, “It shows that systemic change is possible.”



HONORABLE DENNIS J. ADKINS, JUDGE

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Adkins was appointed to the General Division bench on June 6, 2011. He received his B.S. from the University of Dayton in 1982, and his J.D. from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 1986.

From 1986 to 2011, Judge Adkins practiced law in the Dayton area, engaging in both criminal and civil litigation. Since 1993, he has served as an Acting Judge in Kettering Municipal Court, and has over 15 years of experience as a special prosecutor in several cities.

Judge Adkins is a member of the American, Ohio, and Dayton Bar Associations, the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, and has taught continuing legal education seminars for the Dayton Bar Association. He has also been a frequent lecturer at local colleges, including the University of Dayton School of Law, various legal organizations, and other community civic and service groups.

He currently serves on the Judicial Advisory Board of the MonDay Community Correctional Institution. Judge Adkins is also a member of the Dayton Lawyers Club and the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court.

In 2013, Judge Adkins created the first Veteran’s Treatment Court in this area. He presides over the court, which is designed to provide treatment and rehabilitation for veterans who have found themselves involved in the Criminal Justice System due to combat related problems.

Judge Adkins is also Honorary Chair of the Final Salute Society, which assures that no veteran is buried in Montgomery County without a representative at the grave site to receive the American flag for the veteran’s service to this country.



Left: Court Administrator Steven Hollon addresses staff at the Employee Appreciation Luncheon; right: Donny Anderson and Karla Arnold

FIRST EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

In February, the court held its first Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the Sinclair Conference Center. After a several-year hiatus of formal employee appreciation events, court staff came together and celebrated their hard work in service to the public.



HONORABLE RICHARD S. SKELTON, JUDGE
 Montgomery County
 Common Pleas Court,
 General Division

Local Attorney Richard S. "Dick" Skelton was elected to the General Division bench in November of 2014, taking office in early January 2015. Judge Skelton serves on the Case Management Committee and the Probation, Pretrial and Investigative Services Committee.

Judge Skelton received his Bachelor's degree from Wright State University in 1984 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1988. From 1988 until his election to the Common Pleas Court, he worked as a trial attorney gaining extensive experience in both criminal and civil litigation while representing parties in a variety of cases – personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, criminal defense (federal, state, and county). Judge Skelton has also appeared on local television shows devoted to legal issues, and is a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Dayton School of Law.

He is a member of the Dayton Bar Association where he served on the Ethics Committee, as well as the Ohio State Bar Association. As a private-practicing attorney, Judge Skelton received the highest peer review attorney ranking by Martindale-Hubble.

2023 Professional Excellence Award Winners

As part of the Employee Appreciation Luncheon, two staff members were honored with Professional Excellence Awards: Karla Arnold, Specialized Dockets Supervisor, and Donny Anderson, Community Service Coordinator. The awards were given based on numerous nominations from staff at the court who commended the two winners' exceptional work ethic, positive attitude, and dedication to service.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

In order to increase efficiency, the court implemented changes to its administrative structure.

First, the court created a new department known as the Pretrial and Investigative Services Department. This department consists of the pretrial screening section, the pretrial supervision section, the electronic monitoring section, and the investigative services sections, all headed by the Director of Pretrial and Investigative Services. These sections were formerly grouped under the Case Management Department.



HONORABLE E. GERALD PARKER JR., JUDGE

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Gerald Parker was elected to the Common Pleas Court Bench, General Division, in November of 2018, taking office in early January of 2019. He serves as the chair of the Probation, Pretrial and Investigative Services Committee and is a member of the Case Management Committee. Judge Parker received his B.A. from Georgetown College (KY) in 2004 and his J.D. from Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 2007.

From 2007 to 2011, Judge Parker was an Assistant Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney spending a majority of his time on felony dockets. In 2012, Judge Parker joined the civil litigation team with the Dayton firm of Dyer, Garofalo Mann and Schultz. He was then appointed as juvenile magistrate for Montgomery County Juvenile Court in 2016.

Judge Parker is a member of the Dayton and Ohio State Bar Associations, the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association and the Ohio Black Judges Association. He serves as Board President for Building Bridges, Inc., and on the board for the Salvation Army.

He is a member of numerous community organizations and received both Dayton's Top 10 African-American Male Award and WHIO Channel 7's Making a Difference Award. Judge Parker became Montgomery County's first African-American male elected to serve on the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Bench. Judge Parker often volunteers at various churches, schools and community organizations.

Second, the court has created the position of deputy court administrator. The deputy court administrator reports to the court administrator and is the first-line of supervision for human resources, public information, court security, and facilities support. Prior to the creation of this position, the court was the only General Division in the six most populous counties in the state that did not have a deputy court administrator.

KUSHINDA COURT'S FIRST GRADUATION

Kushinda Court, the General Division's newest specialized docket serving African-American males aged 18-29, hosted its very first graduation ceremony on June 29, 2023.

During the ceremony, Willie Childs, a local man who successfully completed his probation, gave remarks, and rapper Jay Martinez gave a short but powerful performance. Judge Gerald Parker reflected on the progress made since Kushinda Court's inception in the fall of 2021. The graduating group consisted of six individuals, all of whom committed to intensive treatment plans and behavior modification programming in order to successfully complete probation.

The Kushinda Court team has done significant work to identify and partner with community resources to meet client needs, and Judge Parker has made many of these resources available in the courtroom itself when clients meet each Thursday. Clients are connected with housing, employment, education, and transportation resources, with the goal of reducing recidivism.



Judge Parker addresses the first graduating class of Kushinda Court, along with their families and community stakeholders

COURT AWARDED TECHNOLOGY GRANT TO IMPROVE SECURITY

The General Division has been awarded a technology grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The Court used the \$47,585 it received in 2023 to invest in upgraded court security. The grant will fund the replacement of the X-ray machine serving the Probation Services Department at the Reibold Building located at 14 W. 4th Street. Approximately 700 people are screened through Probation Services' X-ray machine each day, and the upgraded machine will protect probationers, court staff, and visitors by safeguarding against dangerous contraband entering the building.

The new machine will replace an existing machine that is more than a decade old, and the newer technology will lead to greater efficiency and thus shorter wait times for the public.

"We're very pleased the Supreme Court of Ohio has selected Montgomery County Common Pleas Court as a recipient of this technology grant to enhance our security systems," said Judge Mary E. Montgomery, who serves as chair of the court's Information Technology Committee. "Improvements to our security technology allow court professionals to safely serve the people of Montgomery County more effectively, supporting the prompt and fair administration of justice."

PROBATION SERVICES NOMINATED FOR CLIFFORD SKEEN AWARD

The court is proud to announce that the Probation Services department was nominated for the 2023 Clifford Skeen Award - Prison Diversion Program. Other nominated programs included Lorain County Adult Probation Department and Cuyahoga County Adult Probation



Probation Services and Pretrial and Investigative Services celebrated National Pretrial Probation and Parole Supervision Week in July



HONORABLE MARY E. MONTGOMERY, JUDGE
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Mary E. Montgomery was elected to the Common Pleas Court Bench, General Division, in November 2018 after serving nearly 21 years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office. During her tenure with the Prosecutor's Office, she served, among other positions, as a Supervising Attorney at Care House, prosecuting felony crimes involving physical and sexual abuse of children, as well as a Trial Supervisor, training and managing trial attorneys on multiple judges' criminal dockets. Judge Montgomery then served as Chief of the Civil Division, where she and her staff represented the County and all its departments and agencies, as well as the elected officials, in various administrative and civil matters, including civil defense litigation.

Judge Montgomery graduated summa cum laude from Ohio University in 1994, receiving her B.A. in Political Science. She received her Juris Doctor in 1998 from the University of Dayton School of Law.

Judge Montgomery is a member of the Dayton Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Dayton Lawyer's Club, the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court, and the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. She is currently a member of the Common Pleas Court Case Management Committee, Information Technology Committee, and Court Security Committee, as well as the Criminal Law and Procedure and Court Technology Committees for the Ohio Judicial Conference.

Judge Montgomery is admitted to practice law in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

She is also a volunteer for various community organizations.

Department, with the winning department being Shelby County Court Probation.

The nomination shows that court professionals in the state of Ohio recognize the court's commitment to community corrections. Thank you to the Probation Services staff for showing incredible dedication to serving the citizens of Montgomery County every day.

JUDGE WISEMAN ELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Judge Mary Wiseman is the Administrative Judge for Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division. She assumed the role effective January 1, 2023.

Elected annually by the judges of the General Division bench, the Administrative Judge has various duties under the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio in addition to their established judicial duties. Notably, the Administrative Judge ensures that justice is carried out in a timely manner by monitoring case flow throughout the division, and is responsible for administrative decisions affecting division personnel.

General Division | COURT OVERVIEW

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

The Judicial Department consists of eleven judges, each of whom is elected to a six-year term on the General Division bench. Each judge employs a bailiff, judicial assistant, and staff attorney. Criminal and civil cases are randomly assigned to each judge. Once assigned, a case remains the responsibility of the assigned judge until its termination. All matters such as motions, hearings, settlement conferences, and the trial, are the responsibility of the assigned Judge.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

The Court Administration Department implements the administrative policies of the Court, develops policies and procedures, provides research and advisory services, public information services, and other special projects. Its functions are the responsibility of the Court Administrator and the Administrative Judge. The Administrative Judge is elected annually by the Judges and is responsible for setting in motion the rules and policies established by the Court. The Court Administrator is appointed by the Court and supervises the various departments and operations of the Court. These operations include purchasing, safety and security, finance, technology, case management, and human resources.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Information Technology (IT) Department manages the court's technology portfolio, programs and special



HONORABLE SUSAN D. SOLLE, JUDGE
Montgomery County
Common Pleas Court,
General Division

Judge Susan D. Solle joined the General Division on January 1, 2021. She was elected to the position in November 2020.

Before joining the court, Judge Solle was a trial lawyer for 18 years and practiced law with the firm of Dinsmore &

Shohl from 2004 until she took the bench. She received her undergraduate degree, with honors, from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, and her law degree, also with honors, from the University of Dayton School of Law.

Judge Solle's professional experience includes working as an acting judge in the Montgomery County Municipal Court, as a judicial staff attorney for Judge James A. Brogan in the Ohio Second District Court of Appeals, and as a law clerk for Judge David G. Sunderland in the General Division.

Judge Solle has served as a board member and president of the Dayton Bar Association, and as board member and president of Legal Aid of Western Ohio and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality. She currently serves as board member of the Dayton Bar Foundation and Nova Behavioral Health. She was also an adjunct professor at the University of Dayton School of Law from 2004-2022.

Married for 30 years, Judge Solle and her husband, Jeff, have two grown sons.



HONORABLE KIMBERLY A. MELNICK, JUDGE
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Kimberly A. Melnick was elected to the Common Pleas Court Bench, General Division, in November 2022 after serving the majority of her 28 year career prosecuting criminal cases.

Judge Melnick began her legal career with the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office in January 1994. In 1998, she went into private practice before returning to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office from 2000 to 2002. From 2002 to 2006, Judge Melnick spent time as a Deputy District Attorney in Jefferson County, Colorado. She returned to Dayton and the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office in November 2006.

During her tenure with the Prosecutor's Office, she served, among other positions, as a Supervising Attorney of the Grand Jury/Intake Division, the Supervising Attorney for the Adult Protection Unit, as a Trial Supervisor, training and managing trial attorneys and most recently as a member of the

Violent Crimes Bureau, prosecuting only homicide cases.

Judge Melnick graduated from Wright State University in 1990, receiving her B.S. in Marketing. She received her Juris Doctor in 1993 from the University of Dayton School of Law.

Judge Melnick is a member of the Dayton Bar Association and the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court. She is currently a member of the General Division's Information Technology and Probation Services Committees.

projects, prepares and maintains the court's IT budget, manages IT procurement and vendor relationships, manages the court's five-year ever-greening cycle and initiates and participates in any audits, investigations, public record requests, sealed and expunged record court orders, as well as strategic direction of the court from a technological perspective. In addition, the Court's IT Department is responsible for identifying and maintaining the operational needs of the Court from a technology perspective. It is organized and managed in three sections: Application Development, Network Services, and Technical Support.

2023 Accomplishments

- In 2022 and 2023 the court provided security awareness training designed to educate employees on cyber security. The course, KnowBe4, provided the knowledge and tools employees need to deal with cyber risks. This course covers various scams, cyber risks, suspicious email and attachments. The court also took steps to ensure the network is effective in blocking ransomware and social engineering attacks.
- The court implemented DUO Two Factor Authentication when employees sign on to their computers. This program requires two forms of identification to access resources and data, helping to prevent cybercriminals from stealing, destroying, or accessing internal data records for their own use.
- In December 2023 the IT department contracted with vendor Ohio Valley AV to install new monitors in two of the court conference rooms. These new monitors were installed in the Room 122 Conference Room and the Judge's Conference Room on the fourth floor. The new monitors will help to alleviate the need for the SmartBoard to be moved between floors for meetings and conference calls. There will be PC's installed in each of the rooms to provide computer functionality as well.

CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Case Management Department provides administrative and case management services to the court. The administrative functions of the Case Management Department include the collection and reporting of caseload statistics in compliance with the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio, the storage and maintenance

of evidence, and the coordination of jury services. Through its Docket Support Section, the Case Management Department monitors judicial criminal dockets and prepares related court entries. The Case Management Department also supports and manages the court's Magistrate and Civil Stalking Protection offices, as well as the court's Mediation and Appointed Counsel programs.

2023 Jury Services Accomplishments

- 3,015 prospective petit jurors reported for jury selection to hear 58 trials
- 79 grand jurors served from two weeks to four months during 2023
- Kiosks paid out approximately \$35,290 in 2023. Courtfunds Debit Cards were implemented in April 2023 and paid out approximately \$53,778 through December 2023.

2023 Stalking and Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order (SSOPO) Program

The Stalking and Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order Office began in 2001 after an influx of violent crimes in Montgomery County. Since that time, over 20,000 petitions for protection orders have been filed. Many parties seeking protection orders have been, and currently are, the victims of crime and abuse, and, consequently, they present to the office with challenging and demanding circumstances. The Stalking Office Staff interview petitioners to determine if they are in the appropriate jurisdiction, assist in completing the necessary paperwork to file with the Court, and, if needed, refer parties to outside agencies for additional help. The goal of the Stalking Office is to ensure that each party, regardless of whether he or she is the petitioner or respondent, feels heard and respected.

- 1,297 petitioners assisted in seeking a protection order
- 1,213 petitions for protection orders filed
- 509 ex parte orders were granted



HONORABLE ANGELINA N. JACKSON, JUDGE
Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, General Division

Judge Angelina N. Jackson was elected to the General Division in 2022 after practicing law for 18 years.

A Dayton native, Judge Jackson graduated from Colonel White High School. She received her B.A. from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee and her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

From 2015 until her election to the bench, Judge Jackson worked as an Assistant Montgomery County Public Defender representing indigent criminal defendants at the trial and appellate levels. Prior to her employment as a public defender, she practiced in the civil litigation division of the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl. She has served as Director of the Race & Justice Project at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, where she litigated civil rights cases and engaged in criminal justice policy advocacy. Judge Jackson also served as Director of Public Service & Externships/Adjunct Professor at the

University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Judge Jackson has volunteered with a number of community service initiatives, including community-based legal clinics, the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the City of Dayton's (Police) Use of Force Committee. She is a member of the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court, the Ohio Black Judges Association, the National Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the Dayton Bar Association, where she previously served as a board member and as co-chair of the Diversity Committee.

PRETRIAL AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Pretrial and Investigative Services Department provides the court with investigative screening and supervision of criminal defendants, as well as the preparation of various reports necessary to the judicial process. Pretrial and Investigative Services Department staff interview those arrested on new felony and certain misdemeanor charges and recommend bond, conditions of supervision, and other services. Department staff supervises those defendants who are on electronic monitoring and other supervised release arrangements. The Pretrial and Investigative Services Department also prepares reports for the judges including those relating to pre-sentence investigations, intervention in lieu of conviction, judicial release, sealing of records, and jail time credit.

9,439

investigations
(bond, PSI, and
other) completed
in 2023



HONORABLE ELIZABETH ELLIS, JUDGE

Montgomery County
Common Pleas Court,
General Division

Judge Elizabeth Ellis was appointed to the General Division bench in June 2023.

Judge Ellis graduated from Denison University in 1997, receiving her B.A. in Communications and English Literature with a concentration in Renaissance Studies. Judge Ellis also studied with the

Advanced Studies in England through University College of Oxford, UK, and with the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Summer Program at St. Anne's College of Oxford, UK. She received her J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2001.

Judge Ellis first practiced with Legal Aid of Western Ohio before becoming an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Greene County, Ohio. Judge Ellis worked for Greene County for 18 years in the Juvenile, Appellate, Criminal, and Civil Divisions, serving as Chief Assistant of the Civil Division for 10 years. In 2021, Judge Ellis was appointed to the Appellate Division in the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Judge Ellis is a member of the Dayton Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court, and the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association.

Judge Ellis is admitted to practice law in the State of Ohio; the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio; the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Ellis has volunteered for various community organizations, including the Girl Scouts of Southwestern Ohio, Oakwood Ballet, and the Dayton Ballet School.

2023 Pretrial Services Accomplishments

- 3,654 felony defendants were screened; of those, 2,173 were supervised by Pretrial Services prior to trial
- 3,305 misdemeanor defendants were screened; of those, 608 were supervised by Pretrial Services prior to trial
- \$3,212,055 saved by taxpayers in 2023 because those supervised were not housed in the Montgomery County Jail prior to trial
- With changes in Sealing of Record requirements introduced in April 2023, Pretrial Services saw a 30% increase in filings compared to 2022, and completed 1,002 Sealing of Records reports.

2023 Presentence Investigation/ Intervention In Lieu Of Conviction Accomplishments

- 1,201 Presentence Investigation reports were completed
- 1,115 Intervention In Lieu of Conviction reports were completed
- 164 Judicial Release reports were completed

PROBATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Probation Services Department provides varying levels of supervision for persons who are convicted of felonies and misdemeanors and sentenced to probation or granted intervention in lieu of conviction. The Department is comprised of the following sections and teams: supervision teams, transport team, Specialized Docket team, and program coordinators. Services provided by Probation Services include intensive supervision, including specialized supervision for domestic violence cases and sex offender cases, chemical abuse/mental health supervision, evidence-based programming, on-site cognitive based programming, a community service work program, drug intervention services, adult treatment and mental health courts, literacy and education programs and employment opportunities.

2,882
offenders supervised by probation services in 2023

2023 Drug And Alcohol Accomplishments

- 28,386 urinalysis tests were administered to offenders
- The Probation Officer receives immediate notification every time their client is tested

2023 Community Service Work Accomplishments

- 584 probationers participated in community service work
- 25,242 hours of service work were completed
- \$254,944 value to the community



The General Division's community service partnership with the Dayton Foodbank also facilitates its Annual Holiday Food Drive. Court staff donated more than 1,300 meals during the 2023 holiday season.

Specialized Dockets

General Division Senior Probation Officers monitor offenders who participate in one of five specialized dockets. Specialized Dockets are specifically designed to address particular offenders, typically those with severe drug and/or alcohol addictions. In addition, the probation officers who monitor the offenders in our specialty courts have established relationships with several local treatment facilities and organizations that provide therapy and programs to serve the particular needs of these offenders.

Specialized Docket	Year Established	Presiding Judge in 2023
Men's Achievement Recovery Court (MARC)	1996	Hon. Steven K. Dankof
Recovery is Empowering Court (RisE)	2014	Hon. Mary Wiseman
Veteran's Treatment Court	2016	Hon. Dennis A. Adkins
Mental Health Court	2019	Hon. Timothy N. O'Connell
Kushinda Court	2021 (pending certification)	Hon. E. Gerald Parker, Jr.

Juvenile Division

About the Juvenile Division

As a division of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court extends countywide to children who are alleged to be traffic offenders, delinquent, unruly, neglected, dependent, abused, and/or born to unmarried parents. The Court also has jurisdiction to rule on Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, and to hear and determine criminal cases that charge adults with violating Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2151. In addition to the two judges and twelve magistrates who preside over official court hearings, there are additional court facilities and departments that serve the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a court of law dedicated to:

- preserving families by supporting parents and intervening only when it is in the best interest of the child and/or community;



2 judges

12 magistrates

450 court staff



HONORABLE HELEN WALLACE, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Judge Wallace is the administrative judge of Montgomery County Juvenile Court, leading the organization of approximately 450 employees who strive to provide individualized justice for children and to protect the community, while carefully balancing the interests of both.

Judge Wallace presides over specialized dockets including Juvenile Wellness Court and Juvenile Treatment Court. Wellness Court offers mental health support and rehabilitation to youth. Judge Wallace encourages family involvement and collaboration between treatment providers, probation and the youth in an effort to reduce recidivism and promote positive, healthy futures. Treatment Court assists in rehabilitation of juveniles who have been adversely affected by drugs and alcohol.

In 2023, Judge Wallace was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. She was subsequently appointed by the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission to reconvene and chair the Juvenile Justice subcommittee.

Judge Wallace earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School after obtaining a bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the University of Cincinnati.

- ensuring fairness, equity, and access to justice for all children and families regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation; ensuring a balance between consequences and rehabilitation while holding offenders accountable for their actions;
- protecting the children of the community while at the same time ensuring the safety of the community.



The Juvenile Justice Center, located at 380 W. Second St.

GOALS

Juvenile Court is a catalyst in the community, rallying community partners to be a part of cost effective programming that eliminates implicit bias and racial inequities, while also benefiting children and families by organizing and maintaining community resources. Juvenile Court exercises sensitivity toward, and protection of, victims and their families, while at the same time providing appropriate rehabilitation for juvenile offenders.



HONORABLE JULIE BRUNS, JUDGE *Montgomery County Juvenile Court*

Judge Julie A. Bruns began serving as a Montgomery County Juvenile Court judge in January 2023. She had previously worked as a Juvenile Court magistrate since 2019, presiding over juvenile traffic cases and private custody cases, and serving as chief magistrate.

Judge Bruns currently co-chairs the Dayton Bar Association's Juvenile Law Committee, and the Ohio Attorney General's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force.

Before becoming a magistrate, Judge Bruns was an assistant prosecuting attorney for 23 years where she prosecuted cases in the Juvenile Division, Adult Trial Division, CARE House (Montgomery County's Child Advocacy Center), and ultimately served as the Juvenile Division Chief from 2005-2019. During her employment in the Montgomery County Prosecutor's

Office, Judge Bruns was instrumental in developing one of the first Juvenile Sexting Diversion programs in the nation, which became a model for similar programs in multiple states throughout the US. She also served on several committees through the Ohio Supreme Court and the Governor's Office, including work on Senate Bill 10, also known as the Adam Walsh Act, and Ohio's Juvenile Competency statute.

Judge Bruns received her undergraduate degree from Miami University in 1993, and her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1996.

Juvenile Division | 2023 IN REVIEW

SEVERAL ADMINISTRATION CHANGES OCCURRED IN 2023

In 2023, Judge Helen Wallace took over as administrative judge and Judge Julie Bruns took her seat at the bench.

Long-time assistant administrator James Cole retired in April. Magistrate Gina Feller took on the role of chief magistrate. Three new magistrates also joined the Court. They include Kelsie Carson, Matt Kimmel and Autumn White.

Three new directors, Vanessa Bradfield in Court Services, Shawn Rock in Information Technology, and Brian Sanders in Finance joined the Court under the direction of Administrator Eric Shafer.

The administrator supervises all operations of the Court, including approximately 450 full and part-time staff – 122 employees were new in 2023. The directors of the ten Court departments, as well as Volunteer Services, Psychological Services, Public Information, and the coordinators of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative & Positive Behavior Intervention & Support report to the administrator.

JUDGE WALLACE SELECTED TO CHAIR STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

In early 2023, Montgomery County Juvenile Court Judge Helen Wallace was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. The Commission brings together, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, behavioral health professionals, corrections and law enforcement officials, victim advocates, and others to seek bipartisan informed solutions to ensure fair sentencing in the State of Ohio.

Judge Wallace was subsequently appointed by the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission to reconvene and chair the Juvenile Justice subcommittee. The subcommittee is tasked with comprehensively exploring, studying and addressing issues related to juvenile justice.

The Juvenile Justice Committee is comprised of Chief Justice Kennedy, victims' rights and child advocates, Department of Youth Services employees, representatives from the Ohio House and Senate, behavioral health professionals, law enforcement, as well as judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys from across the state.

"I'm honored to have a role in gathering the knowledge and data that will eventually help to improve the juvenile justice system," Wallace said.

COURT FACILITIES EARN PREVENTION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Three Montgomery County Juvenile Court facilities were recognized on Oct. 30, 2023 with Schools of Excellence in Prevention (SEP) Awards from the Montgomery County Educational Service Center.

The center grants awards in four categories – bronze, silver, gold and platinum - based on how schools implement strategies and programming across nine different categories including: peer-to-peer engagement, parent education, student education, school policy, staff development, community partnerships, building-level surveys, individual student risk assessments, and



Schools of Excellence in Prevention Awards ceremony

prevention programming strategic planning.

The Court's Nicholas Residential Treatment Center earned the platinum level award, the Center for Adolescent Services received the gold, and the Detention Center earned the silver award.

The mission of SEP is to assist schools with implementing best-practices to create healthy, drug-free environments that promote optimal mental health for students, parents, teachers, and staff in the school community. The Court was also featured in a video that was shown during the ceremony.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY

In 2023, Volunteer Services welcomed 24 new volunteers to the team of approximately 100 total volunteers who are committed to serving as trained advocates for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, or positive mentors for the Natural Helper Program.

More than 300 youth and their families were served by both the CASA and Natural Helpers program. Volunteers received training on crucial topics including abuse and trauma issues, mental health awareness, and homelessness.

The Natural Helpers Program received funding from the Montgomery County Human Services Levy, which is essential support for the program to succeed. Other local donations came from community organizations, including Stitches of Love, Rylee Sellars Foundation, and American Legion Post 776. The Juvenile Court Foundation also provided financial support for monthly activities such as bowling, painting class, corn maze, and meals for youth.



American Legion donation

YOUTH SUCCEED WITH YEAR-ROUND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Juvenile Court's Education Department is chartered by the Ohio Department of Education and offers comprehensive and individualized year-round programming for students placed in each of three facilities within the County: Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC), Center for Adolescent Services (CAS), and the Detention Center.

Some educational highlights from each facility include:

Detention Center standardized tests, or STAR results, showed average student growth in Reading to be 1.4 grade levels, and .7 grade levels in Math during their stay. More than 500 credits were awarded over the course of the year with an average of 70% of students making the A or A-B honor roll. Students also hosted a science fair with the prize-winning



Nicholas Residential Treatment Center's Black History Month display

first place entry being a research project into supertasters.

NRTC students averaged almost a full grade level growth in Reading and 1.5 grade level growth in Math during 2023, with several gaining more than 2 grade levels, and one student advancing over 5 grade levels. High school students at NRTC earned almost 300 credits during 2023. During June and July summer programming, NRTC students partnered with Five Rivers Metro Parks to conduct a Forest Health Survey at Possum Creek Metro Park.

CAS high school students earned 296.7 credits during 2023; five students also graduated while in placement. Forty students earned Honor Roll awards (several multiple times). Honor Roll is awarded at the end of each quarter and students' grades must be a B or higher in all classes. CAS continues to partner with Faith Worship Center in New Lebanon to collect books for our student library. In addition, CAS worked with Sinclair Community College to provide learning experiences for students in the areas of Small Business Management, Nursing (remote/online classes), and an on-site STEM program.

DETENTION CENTER OFFERS SAFETY, TREATMENT

Detention Services provides a comprehensive program for pre and post dispositional youth, in a safe and secure environment, while protecting the public safety. Youth range in age from 10- to 20-years old. Detention Services houses five distinct populations within its 144-bed facility - offering evidence based programming, educational, mental health, medical, physical, and life-skills programming.

In 2023, Detention Services continued to transition from restrictive programming practices created by Covid-19. This was the first year (post-Covid) that full, in-person programming returned. A few examples include a Black History Program, Science Fair, Skill Streaming Harvest Fest, assemblies with professional and local motivational speakers, and weekend incentivized activities for detained youth.

Detention Services continued to meet its staffing goals to ensure proper supervision of an increased youth population. The facility continued to incorporate Positive Behavior Intervention & Support standards and practices to incentivize youth for positive behaviors. In 2023 Detention Services earned a Silver level rating with the Schools of Excellence Program.



The Juvenile Detention Center's Skill Streaming Harvest Fest was part of their comprehensive programming for youth

The five distinct populations and the numbers of youth served in 2023 include:

Detention Services - those awaiting the legal process or transfer to approved placements (1,012 youth in 2023)

The Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Specialized Treatment Program (JCARE-STP) is designated for male sex offenders ages 14 to 18 of all felony levels. (6 served)

Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Aggression Replacement Training (JCARE-ART) is a

treatment program in the Ohio Youth Assessment System for those who are identified as moderate- to high-risk male youth, ages 12 to 19; who would otherwise be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. (30 served)

The **Corrections Program** is an alternative for adjudicated youth who have demonstrated the need for an immediate short-term commitment, either for 5 or 10 days. The program is designated for youth between the ages of 10-17. (41 served)

The **Detention Certified program** is for youth under age 21, whose cases are transferred to adult court for prosecution, but who can be behaviorally maintained in a juvenile setting. (3 served)

COURT SERVICES KEEPS COURT RUNNING

In 2023, the Clerk’s Office processed 4,118 new cases, and 10,874 motions for a total of 14,992 filings. To assist clients with their Juvenile Court filings, the Citizens Services office added a paralegal position. The department also began the e-filing process in 2023, in conjunction with the Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Montgomery County Prosecutors office.

PROBATION ADDS NEW EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

The Probation Department added another Evidence Based Practice (EBP) to provide interventions to youth and families served with Roca Rewire. Roca Rewire Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) was systematically integrated into the training curriculum for probation officers and leadership, equipping them with a comprehensive framework focused on teaching youth seven essential social skills such as: being present, acting on your values, and sticking with it.

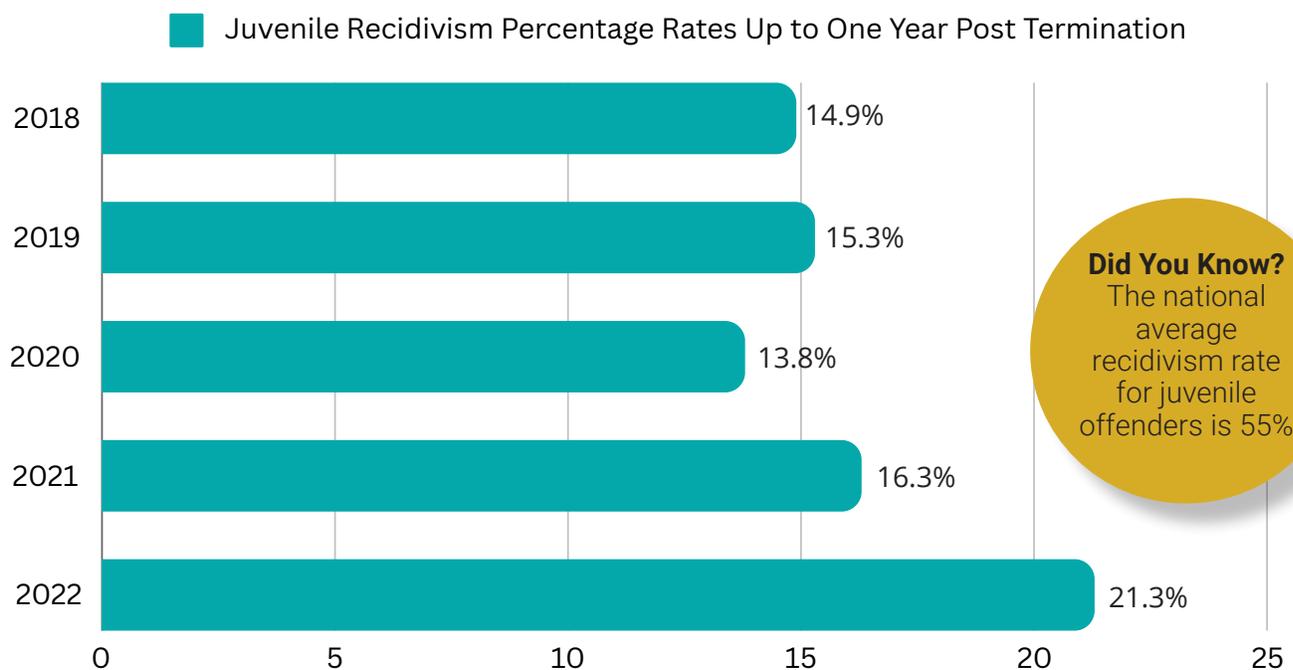
This program aims to enhance the skills of probation staff to navigate through potentially risky situations involving the youth, their peers, and their families, and other factors that could pose challenges within their probation responsibilities. By instilling these skills, Roca Rewire CBT empowers probation officers and leadership to proactively address and manage the complexities associated with their roles, fostering a more effective and informed approach to probation supervision. This EBP goes along with Transformational Probation by continuing our efforts to make long term impacting changes for youth.



The Juvenile Probation Department hosted a Back to School Extravaganza on August 3

Probation has worked to evaluate every service/program to better understand what is working and what may need to be adjusted.

2023 JUVENILE PROBATION DATA	
Total Youth Served	910
Total New Youth Admitted	560
Total Terminated	517 (with 88% success rate)
Average Length of Stay	8.3 months



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES LEADERSHIP COMBINES

In an effort to streamline operations, leadership of both the Center for Adolescent Services (CAS) and the Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) was combined under one director - William Shafer.

CAS is a Community Correctional Facility located in New Lebanon which provides evidence-based therapeutic and treatment services for felony adjudicated youth. In 2023, CAS admitted 62 residents into placement, and provided services to 92 residents.



Residential Services leadership team

The Center was awarded the Gold Award in the Schools of Excellence Prevention Program for continued services for residents and staff. CAS engages the residents in cognitive behavioral interventions with oversight and support provided by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. Additional services provided to residents are educational services, mental health and psychiatric services, occupational therapy, medical services, pet therapy and religious services. In 2023 the residents at the Center for Adolescent Services completed 2,286.5 hours of community service/restitution.

The Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) is a 24-hour, non-secure residential facility that offers behavioral intervention, substance abuse, and mental health treatment for males and females, age 11-17, who reside in Montgomery County. NRTC accepts referrals from the Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Montgomery County Job and Family Services, Children Services Division, and has the capacity to serve 25 youth.

NRTC is licensed as a Qualified Residential Treatment

Program, as outlined by the Family First Prevention Services Act, by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services and accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

In 2023 NRTC served 52 youth, including 25 with a felony offense, 16 with a misdemeanor offense, and 11 with no offense.



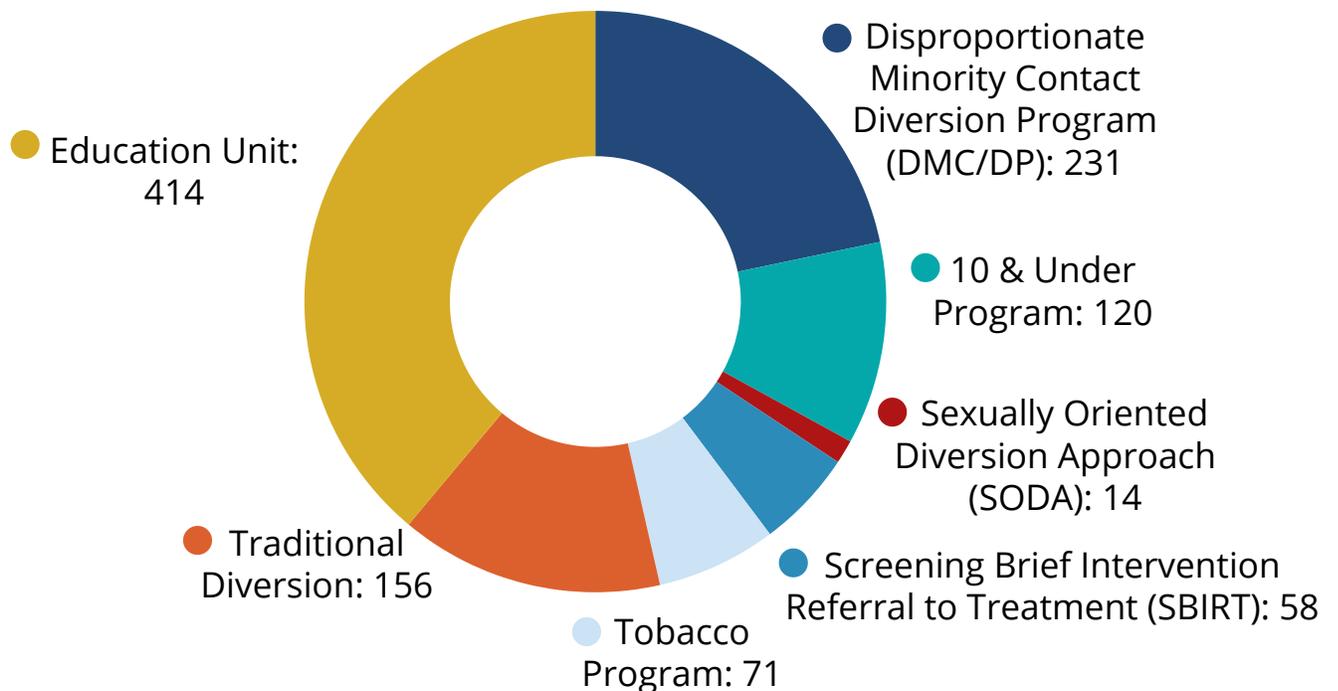
Intervention Center Educational team

INTERVENTION CENTER CONNECTS FAMILIES TO RESOURCES

The Intervention Center, located at the Juvenile Justice Center, is a 24-hour, 7-day a week single point of entry for court services for unruly and delinquent youth. With the onsite support of outside agencies, the IC can provide a triage for youth and their families when more in-depth intervention is needed. Youth are connected to resources such as individual counseling services, certified peer recovery services, and opportunities for restorative justice through community service activities. In 2023, the Center conducted 1,766 administrative hearings, monitored 689 youth in the Electronic Home Monitoring program, and facilitated the placement of 110 youth into Emergency Foster Care.

Programming opportunities for diversion of low-risk youth included 231 referrals to the Disproportionate Minority Contact Diversion Program (DMC/DP), 120 referrals to the 10 & Under Program, 14 referrals to the Sexually Oriented Diversion Approach (SODA), 58 referrals to the Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), 71 referrals to the Tobacco Program, 156 referrals to Traditional Diversion, and 414 referrals to the Education Unit.

2023 Juvenile Programming Referrals





Specialized Docket team

SPECIALIZED DOCKETS RECEIVE OFFICIAL RE-CERTIFICATION

The Juvenile Treatment Court and Wellness Courts were officially re-certified by the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets in 2023.

The youth-focused dockets, overseen by Judge Helen Wallace, provide intensive services to approximately 50 youth and their families at any time, who have been adversely affected by substance use issues or mental health concerns. The programs are individually paced and successful completion typically takes 15 months.

"I'm proud of the dedication and focus that our court brings to the youth who face addiction and mental health challenges in our county," Judge Wallace said.

The Family Treatment Court is a collaboration between Juvenile Court and Montgomery County's Job & Family Services Children Services division. The focus is to reduce the amount of days that children spend out of home, and to provide oversight that helps remove barriers to providing a safe and stable home for children. The Family Treatment Court will complete the re-certification process in 2024.

PILOT CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM OFFERED JOBS, OPPORTUNITY

When six Juvenile Court-affiliated youth graduated in May 2023 from a new skilled trades construction training program, they were handed a tool bag filled with all the tools they would need to make a living on their own. They were also offered a promise – that they had a job if they wanted it.

The 12-week pilot, a partnership between Sunlight Village's Connections for Success Youth Leadership program, Gem City Contracting, and CI Remodeling of Columbus, offered the youth five-hours a week, hands-on training on skills ranging from painting, carpentry, HV/AC, plumbing and electricity.

As a result of the training, the youth now have education, training and contacts to assist them in making a living. CI Remodeling has current projects in Dayton, Columbus, Detroit and Indianapolis.

One of the youths said the program was a perfect opportunity to learn how to do things that a lot of people need. "It gives us the opportunity to do good stuff. And it's a lot that our families won't have to pay for anymore."

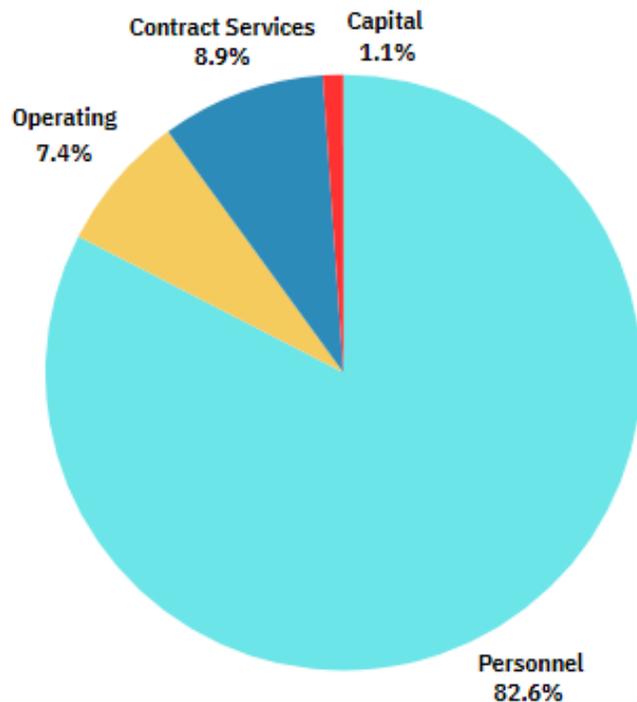


Six youths graduated from the Juvenile Court's new skilled trades construction training program

Juvenile Division | 2023 STATISTICS

ADULT MISDEMEANOR COMPLAINTS	
Total	242
CIVIL COMPLAINTS ON ADULTS	
Parentage	624
Support	6,823
UIFSA (Uniform Inter-State Family Support Act)	106
Total	7,553
JUVENILE REFERRALS	
Abuse, Dependency and Neglect	1,892
Unruly	3,151
Tobacco	99
Traffic	1,304
Delinquency	4,856
Custody Related	3,739
Miscellaneous	389
Total	15,430

COURT BUDGET: \$39,769,424



Domestic Relations Division

About the Domestic Relations Division

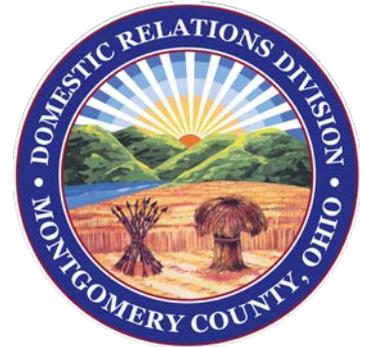
The Domestic Relations Court is the division of Common Pleas responsible for hearing all divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment and civil domestic violence cases for residents of Montgomery County. Parties may also return to the Court for post-decree resolution of matters including child or spousal support, allocation of parental rights and responsibilities ("custody"), parenting time or visitation among other matters. In 2023, two Judges along with 45 staff served Montgomery County in this capacity.

OUR MISSION

The Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court is dedicated to resolving family conflict by:

- Offering easy access to the Court for prompt problem resolution.
- Providing quality services to the public.
- Ensuring efficient case management by a professional and courteous staff.
- Providing insightful education to divorcing parents.

The Court will anticipate and meet the challenges presented by continuing to embrace social, legal, and technological advancements.



2 judges

9 magistrates

45 court staff

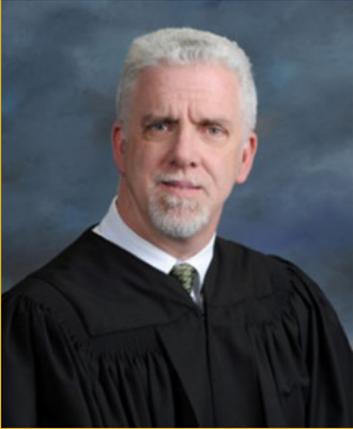


HONORABLE DENISE L. CROSS

PRESIDING JUDGE, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court

Judge Denise L. Cross is currently serving her twenty-third (23rd) year as Administrative Judge of the Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court, and serving her fourth (4th) year as Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas Court. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University in 1975 and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron in 1978. Judge Cross practiced in a law firm as a private attorney for nine (9) years. In addition to being an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Assistant Public Defender, she has led in the Court system as both Chief Magistrate and Legal Director. She was elected Domestic Relations Judge in 2000. She was elected as the Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, overseeing all Divisions and the Miami Valley Water Conservancy Court in 2020. She actively participates in many legal forums and community organizations.



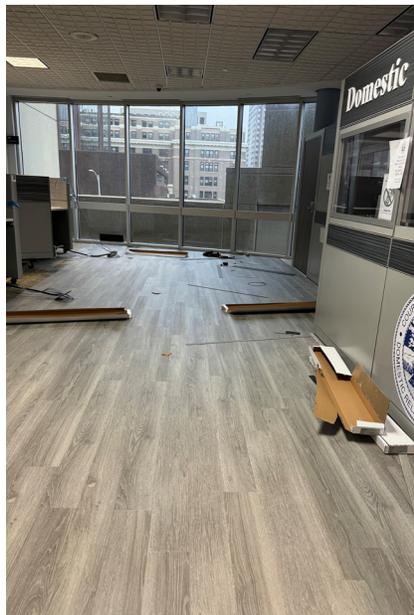
HONORABLE TIMOTHY D. WOOD, JUDGE
Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court

After serving as a magistrate in the Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court for eighteen (18) years, Judge Timothy D. Wood has been serving our community as a Judge since 2011. He was elected to the bench in 2012. Judge Wood received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Dayton in 1980 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton in 1984. Judge Wood first served as a Staff Attorney in Darke County, Ohio, and then went into private practice for a number of years. Judge Wood became a Domestic Relations Magistrate in 1992. He is very involved in several legal and community organizations.

Domestic Relations Division | 2023 IN REVIEW

ENHANCING THE COURTHOUSE AND OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY

Having Court throughout the Covid pandemic, Court staff was excited to come from behind the plastic barriers and six-foot distancing. Computers were added to some of the conference rooms to provide additional space for individuals to complete Petitions for Civil Protection Orders. This also provides quiet areas with enhanced technology for those requiring interpreter services to meet and discuss case questions when preparing for their hearings. Additionally, the Court undertook several projects including giving the lobby a facelift. Fresh paint and a protective striping at the chair backs was added mid-year. Flooring was completely overhauled shortly after. Staff hallways were also updated with fresh paint, and new chairs provided in many offices.



New flooring was part of enhancements made to the Domestic Relations Court in 2023

Additionally, through an ARPA grant award, the Court was able to upgrade its digital recording system in each of its courtrooms, and also obtain a 'mobile unit' without expense to the county. Electrical boring was completed overnight for several weeks, but the remaining construction was completed during normal business hours. The entire project was completed as scheduled without interruption to the Court's docket. The Court began using the new system in December, 2023.

While the Court was renewing its workspace, many outreach initiatives were also occurring. The Court organized monthly meetings with local attorneys, paralegals and law students interested in Family Law and local practice. Organized by Chief Magistrate Elaine Stoermer and Magistrate Barbara Reno, the Family Law Forum offered monthly CLE's in-person and virtually to members, and even partnered with the American Bankruptcy Law Forum in Dayton for a combined presentation. The Court also hosted the Dayton Bar Association's Family Law Committee monthly lunchtime presentations. Magistrate Jacqueline Gaines assisted in this role at the beginning of 2023, while Magistrate Kathryn Shields assumed the role for the second half of the year.



An ARPA grant funded digital recording system upgrades



Domestic Relations Court hosted Law Day and honored Sarah Fields, Director of Montgomery County Job and Family Services, and Ryan Jackson, Manager of Parent Education

As Presiding Judge, Judge Denise Cross resurrected the Court's "Law Day" Celebration. This is a nationally-celebrated day that looks at the important role of law and courts in our communities. Judge invited all Court divisions, as well as the Clerk of Courts, and the honorees for a special luncheon in Dayton's Old Courthouse. The Court honored Sarah Fields, Director of Montgomery County Job and Family Services, Child Support Division for her work on behalf of children and a decades-long partnership with the Court. Ryan Jackson, Manager of Parent Education at Montgomery County

Domestic Relations Court was honored for his role in providing education to divorcing parents and maintaining near-perfect feedback from parties. To round out Law Day education, Domestic Relations Court coordinated with multiple agencies and held an Information Fair on Courthouse Square.



Court staff participated in several events during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In addition to the above, Domestic Relations Court held numerous community forums. Court Administrator / Magistrate Jennifer Petrella and Navigator Isha Glass held a Domestic Relations Court 101 at Westown Job Center in December 2022, kicking off their tour of the county. They also provided an information table at the Dayton Metro Libraries, including Kettering, Trotwood, Huber Heights and Main Library, in downtown Dayton. Additionally, the Court was involved in Domestic Violence Awareness throughout the month of October, and participated in several events highlighting Court services and community resources. Jennifer Petrella provided information to community members at the Twin

Towers "Rock the Bridge" event. She also presented on the Dayton Metro Library "Survivor's Safety Panel" and the YWCA's YouTube event "Not on our Screens, Not in our Streets."

Domestic Relations Division | COURT OVERVIEW

JUDGES

Denise L. Cross has been serving as the Administrative Judge of Domestic Relations Court since January 2, 2001. In addition to hearing cases, Judge Cross is charged with assigning work throughout the division, hiring staff to carry out the specific functions and overseeing supervision of all personnel, as well as maintaining the Court's budget. She is also an advocate for safety of all participants while enhancing access to justice. Timothy D. Wood serves as Judge for the division. Judge Wood actively participates in Court operations in addition to hearing the cases assigned to his docket. Judge Wood presents information on the Court and its' services to various community members. Each Judge appoints a personal staff consisting of a bailiff and a court reporter or judicial assistant. Dannese Jackson serves as Bailiff and Linda Zell is the Court Reporter for Judge Cross. Amy Brandl serves as Bailiff and Kathy Everson as Judicial Assistant for Judge Wood.



Judge Cross and her staff: Dannese Jackson and Linda Zell



Judge Wood and his staff: Amy Brandl and Kathy Everson

ADMINISTRATORS

Appointed by Judge Cross, two Administrators have the primary responsibility of overseeing Court departments and day-to-day functions. Duties are divided between court operations and legal matters.

COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Court Administrator's primary duties are to attend to public and staff relations, as well as the safety and welfare of all participants, and to hear court cases in the Domestic Relations Court. This administrator assists in program development, payroll, budget, inventory control, and contract oversight. The Court Administrator also manages staff directly related to the support of the courtrooms and daily operations, as well as assists in case management and special projects in conjunction with the Legal Administrator. Court Administration includes the Court

Operations Specialists focused on Purchasing and Interpreter Services, Customer Service Specialist, Navigators, Facilities Service Worker, as well as Information Systems, Assignment, Compliance, Family Relations, and Parent Education Departments. In addition to the above, the Court Administrator is the point of contact for public record requests, as well as any concerns over interpreter or Guardian ad Litem performance.

Jennifer Petrella serves as Court Administrator with direct supervision of five (5) Managers and six (6) staff.



Jennifer Petrella, Court Administrator



Elaine Stoermer, Legal Administrator and Magistrate

LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Legal Administrator's primary duties are to provide oversight of the magistrates and legal support staff, to hear court cases, and to maintain relations among the attorneys and legal community practicing in Domestic Relations Court. This administrator assists in maintaining the Court's Local Rules, providing legal training and assuring magistrates provide timely decisions. The Legal Administrator also

assists on special projects and daily operations in conjunction with the Court Administrator. Legal Administration includes the Administrative Assistant, Magistrates, Legal Secretaries and Mediation Departments.

Elaine Stoermer serves as Legal Administrator with direct supervision of two Managers, the Magistrates, and an Administrative Assistant.

MAGISTRATES

Magistrates are attorneys appointed by the Judges, and they have the primary duty of hearing cases referred to them. Magistrates may answer procedural and other questions; however, they may not give legal advice nor discuss a case with either party (or their attorney) if the other party / attorney is not present. Magistrates write articles for legal publications, make presentations at legal seminars and participate on special projects of the Court. While magistrates often encourage and facilitate party settlements via mediation or agreed orders, they issue decisions on contested matters. Parties may object to decisions (per the civil rules), but even if there is no objection filed, the assigned Judge will review them before the decision becomes a permanent order of the Court. The Court has full-time and part-time Magistrates among its staff.

The Magistrates and their years of serving the Domestic Relations Division are:

Elaine Stoermer (1995)

Nicholas Sylvain (2002)

Barbara Reno (2002)
 Jacqueline Gaines (2011)
 Jennifer Petrella (2015)
 J. Andrew Root (2018)
 Erin Otis (2019)
 Kathryn Shields (2022)
 Kenneth Krochmal (2022)



Domestic Relations Court Magistrates



Court Reporter

COURT REPORTERS

The Official Court Reporter for the Court is responsible for providing a verbatim record, or 'transcript' of legal proceedings. Transcripts are available in written or electronic format. Parties should note that they must request a written transcript be prepared whenever objections and/or appeals are filed. The cost for this service is dependent upon the number of pages in the transcript. The Court Reporter is also responsible for retaining custody of all exhibits admitted in proceedings, in accordance with applicable statutes.

LEGAL SECRETARIES

The Legal Secretary Department performs tasks in support of a Judge or Magistrate. Staff require considerable knowledge of office, secretarial and administrative practices and procedures. The legal secretaries prepare court orders, Domestic Violence Wallet Cards, reports, forms, memos, and correspondence, in addition to decisions for the Judges and Magistrates. They receive, screen and refer telephone calls from the public and attorneys, as well as manage many documents that are e-Filed. Additional duties include tracking cases for appropriate sealing, searching and maintaining files for a variety of complex and confidential matters, as well as scanning documentation for the Court's internal system. They also serve as mediators. There is one Manager and four (4) Legal Secretaries for the Court.



Legal Secretary team

COURT OPERATIONS

The Court Operations' focus is on the daily needs of the Court. There are six (6) team members, several of whom serve as Mediators for the Court, in addition to their primary duties.



Court Operations team

The main responsibilities provided by this department include assuring parties and attorneys check-in at the Court's electronic kiosks for Court hearings, filing for Civil Protection Orders, and answer phone inquiries. They oversee safety concerns before and after hearings, such as assisting the public in evacuation drills and provide separation between opposing parties in domestic violence cases. They are the point of contact for self-represented parties prior to working with the Compliance Office, as well as before / after hearings. Their main responsibility is to assist parties in navigating the court system. This assistance is especially critical for self-represented parties who are unfamiliar with technology and/or need interpreter services.

Additionally, they assist with inventory oversight, initiate budget functions, and assist on other special projects. The critical Language Access responsibilities are centralized here. They obtain interpreters for court hearings and other court events, maintain activity and track billing. They are responsible for securing new interpreters as vendors.



Compliance Office team

COMPLIANCE OFFICE

The Compliance Office consists of a Manager and five (5) staff. Compliance Officers have the primary responsibilities of reviewing paperwork and preparing post-decree administrative orders. Paperwork being reviewed can be prepared by either attorneys or self-represented litigants. Compliance Officers review packets of information for self-represented litigants to assure they have the required paperwork and addenda to file a new case or post-decree matter before the Court. The Compliance Officers also review the Final Decree, post decree orders regarding child and / or spousal support, and agreed orders. In addition to the above, the Compliance Officers prepare modifications, terminations and establishment of arrearage

payments for the Judges. They are a point of contact with the Court and answer procedural questions, prepare correspondence and initiate the paperwork for the annual emancipation project.

ASSIGNMENT OFFICE

The Assignment Office consists of a Manager and three (3) staff. Assignment Officers have the primary duties of scheduling hearings and assigning Magistrates to cases. To perform these duties, Assignment Officers facilitate calendar coordination between the Court, attorneys and self-represented parties, collect and maintain files for matters pending before the Court, and complete case inventory. They also track cases monthly and complete mandated reporting to the Supreme Court of Ohio.

In addition to the above, they have the responsibility to review records of individuals with Seek Work Orders, and payment history of overdue support obligations to determine if a party is in compliance with the order and prepares reports for the Judges and Magistrates prior to contempt or imposition of sentence hearings. They may assist Parent Education by checking in parents for their parenting classes.



Assignment Office team

Assignment Officers are also responsible for overseeing parties who come to the Court to eFile a Petition for Civil Protection Order as a sworn Deputy Clerk. They process the submission and file the case. These duties result in an expedited hearing before a Magistrate, the same day the party comes in to complete the Petition. If granted, they print copies for the party, as well as the copy to be served by the Sheriff. Additionally, they prepare LEADS information to law enforcement. They are a point of contact for other Courts, out-of-county police, victim-witness advocates and the public.

MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The M.I.S. Department consists of a Manager and a systems technician. The department is primarily responsible for providing hardware options and software solutions to assure staff has the proper tools to complete their tasks effectively. The department administers and maintains data collection in the Court's case management system, assures regular back-up of stored information and provides protection for internal files and confidential communication. The department is responsible for all technological resources: computers, printers, check-in kiosks, telephones, audio recording equipment and software, lap tops, storage and the Court website. M.I.S. is the point of contact for vendors, the Clerk's Office, other county agencies and technology entities doing regular business with the Court. The department works with other information technology personnel under contract with the Court and with Montgomery County Data Processing. They also work to maintain the integrity of court communication and security systems.



MIS team



Family Relations team

FAMILY RELATIONS

The Family Relations Department provides investigative services and prepares reports on families. While parties may request involvement of the Family Relations Department, all referrals are made by the assigned Judge or Magistrate. The department provides family investigations and home studies, including home studies at the request of out-of-state courts or agencies. Family Investigators also meet with parents needing assistance in creating a workable parenting time schedule and provide recommendations. Licensed Family Investigators also offer counseling services to parties interested in preserving their marriage through conciliation. Several staff also serve as mediators on cases they are not investigating. The Family Relations Department includes a Manager and three (3) staff.

PARENT EDUCATION

The Parent Education Department consists of one Manager and a Parent Education Specialist. They are responsible for conducting parent seminars. The seminar, entitled "Helping Children Succeed After Divorce," is a mandatory three-hour presentation for parents who are in the process of a divorce, dissolution or legal separation and have minor children (under the age of eighteen (18)). The presentation provides information regarding the effects of divorce and parental conflict on children, giving parents the insights and tools to move toward a co-parenting model in safe and separate homes. They highlight how children may attempt to manipulate the parents as communication may not be as strong following the family break. The presentation also includes topics such as the importance of regular and consistent child support payments, as well as regular and consistent parenting time. Additionally, Parent Education staff regularly support the Court as mediators, and provide coverage for customer service.



Parent Education Manager

MEDIATION DEPARTMENT

The Court provides intense Mediation where parties can resolve disputes outside the formal legal process. Mediation services are available for most cases, and all pre-decree cases are screened for mediation. If the parties agree to mediate, they will meet in a private setting with two Ohio Supreme Court certified staff mediators. Mediators assist the couple in identifying issues and developing options and solutions, but they will not decide the issues for the couple. Mediation is a confidential process and the mediators may not be subpoenaed into court. If the parties are able to reach an agreement, a "written agreement" is prepared, and signed by the parties. This agreement is then given to the parties, the Court, and attorneys of record. There is one Manager and one dedicated staff to the Mediation Department, along with 15 certified staff throughout the Court.



Mediation team



Domestic Relations Division | 2023 STATISTICS

DOMESTIC RELATIONS STATISTICS	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Filings for Divorce	960	975	915	862
New Filings for Dissolutions	600	605	521	561
New Filings for Legal Separations	7	16	18	13
New Filings for Annulments	9	12	9	14
Custody Motions	197	219	167	166
Parenting Time Motions	108	109	142	129
Property/Other Motions	284	314	362	357
Support Motions	811	784	780	885
CS (New - Custody and Support Cases)	53	48	43	35
Motions Dismissed by Parties	500	574	709	712
Motions Dismissed by the Court	715	731	822	856
Final Orders - Divorce Decrees	808	877	848	799
Final Orders - Dissolution Decrees	545	564	553	516
Final Orders - Annulment Decrees	2	9	6	7
Final Orders - Legal Separation Decrees	10	7	4	8
Family Relations Investigations	75	57	62	81
Mediations	83	100	98	114
New Case/Motion reviews (Attorney/ Self-Represented)	3,121	3,661	4,189	5,832
Domestic Violence Petitions Filed	1,872	2,094	2,038	1,938
Notice of Withholding Orders Prepared	920	856	710	994
Child Support Emancipation Entries	3,067	2,137	2,528	2,538
Parent Education Seminar Attendance	832	919	821	934
Conciliation Counseling	38	16	29	47
Transcripts / CD's Prepared	231	315	148	443
Interpreters Scheduled* (NEW CATEGORY IN 2023)				321

Probate Division

About the Probate Division

Probate Court, a division of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, is a trial court with exclusive jurisdiction as granted by the Ohio Revised Code. Probate Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the administration of estates and trusts, guardianships for those deemed incompetent and estates of minors, adoptions, issuance of marriage licenses, name changes, commitment of mentally ill subject to court order and various other actions. The court also approves settlements in wrongful death actions and minor injury actions. Probate Court is empowered with more than 600 responsibilities pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

One Probate Judge is elected for a six-year term. Five Magistrates, appointed by the Judge, assist in handling the caseload. The Probate Judge is



1 judge

5 magistrates

29 court staff



HONORABLE DAVID D. BRANNON, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
Montgomery County Probate Court

Judge David Brannon and his family are lifelong residents of Montgomery County, Ohio. He feels privileged to serve our citizens and strives to improve government service every day. He feels blessed to hold a job he loves and to work with his fantastic team and the County's most vulnerable people.

Since being elected Judge in 2020, he has presided over thousands of probate matters, giving him extensive probate experience in adoption, guardianship, estate, and mental illness matters. Prior to being elected, Judge Brannon practiced law for fifteen years with his father and brother in the Dayton region. He focused his area of practice on probate law and eventually was certified as an Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law Specialist in 2015 by the Ohio State Bar Association, until he took the bench.

Since taking the bench, Judge Brannon, as Administrative Judge, coordinates and collaborates with other County agencies and leaders to address today's most serious issues facing our Community, including mental health, access to courts, and stewardship. He believes government works best when there is authentic accountability and transparency.

Judge Brannon's Court has adopted a five-year Strategic Plan which evidences a commitment to trustworthy government with tangible goals.

also the Clerk of the Probate Court. Therefore, to assist the Judge in managing the court records, the deputy clerks maintain and make available to the public all of the Probate Court records. These employees accept filings, issue service of summonses and are responsible for docketing and maintaining the records of the cases.

The Probate Judge appoints board members to Greater Dayton Premier Management, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services, The Dayton Foundation, Montgomery County Environmental Services Appeals Board and all members of the Five Rivers Metro Parks Board. The Probate Judge has authority to make other appointments pursuant to statute.

MISSION

The Court strengthens our community by protecting and supporting individuals and families through the achievement of impartial justice under the law.

VISION

The Court is a

- trusted champion of fair and accessible justice;
- highly effective, dynamic, and cohesive team that leads with innovation and vigilance;
- pillar of transparency resulting in genuine accountability;
- guardian of public resources;
- partner and leader with local, state, and federal stakeholders; and
- model probate court.

CORE VALUES

We Value:

- Integrity/Trustworthiness
- Excellence of Work Product
- Accountability
- Leadership:
- Effective Communication
- Respect

CUSTOMER SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

We deliver prompt, consistent, courteous, and precise service under the law. We vigorously pursue the administration of justice by addressing the needs of the community through transparency, dedication, innovation, and accountability.

Probate Division | 2023 IN REVIEW

PROBATE RESOURCE CENTER

The Probate Resource Center is a collaborative project between the Public Defender and the Probate Court.

The Probate Resource Center is a place where a pro se filer, or a person without an attorney, can come with simple case filings and consult, free, with an attorney. The Montgomery County Public Defender's office will accept walk-ins as well as scheduled times to meet. Often estate forms and filings are difficult to fill out especially while dealing with the loss of a loved one. Montgomery County Probate Court and the Public Defender came together to better serve the people of the county.



In recognition of judicial excellence and innovation, Ohio State Bar Association presented the 2023 Innovative Court Programs and Practices Award to the Probate Resource Center.

Every person, pro se or represented by counsel, should have access to justice. Family courts, like the Probate Court, seem to have a high volume of pro se filers. The attorney(s) in the Resource Center are Public Defenders and not court staff, giving them the ability to help those without counsel and ultimately giving them that access to justice.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Probate Court celebrated the finalization of 14 adoptions for National Adoption Day on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, matching 2022's record-breaking event.

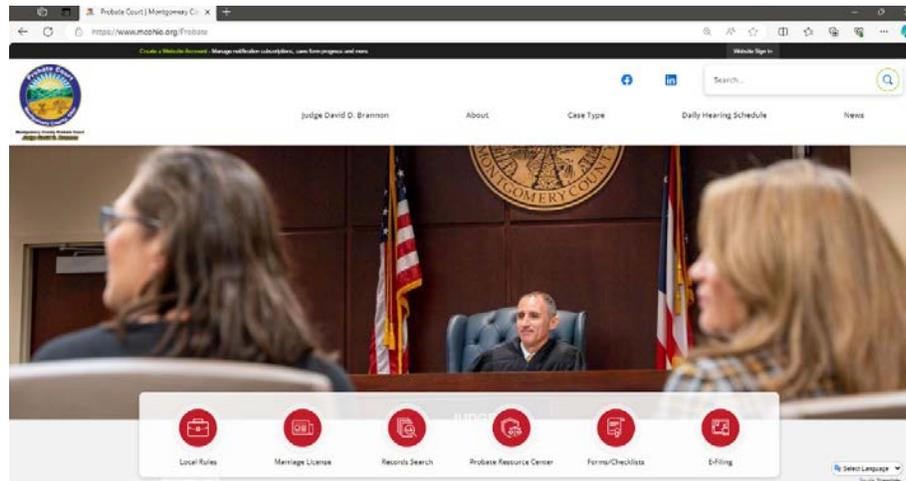
National Adoption Day is an effort to raise awareness of the need to find loving families for the more than 115,000 children in the United States foster care system waiting to be adopted. More than 3,000 children in Ohio are waiting for permanent families, including 100 children in Montgomery County.

"This year, we have several sibling groups who are being adopted together, young children, teenagers, new parents and adoptive parents who already have grown children," said Craig Rickett, Associate Director of Children Services. "We know families can look differently, but every family is special in its own way and that's what this whole day celebrates."

The annual celebration was made possible thanks to the continued partnership between Montgomery County Children Services and Montgomery County Probate Court.



Judge Brannon and large group after an adoption proceeding on National Adoption Day



In 2023 Probate Court joined the county to completely redesign the website, www.mcoho.org/probate

Probate Division | COURT OVERVIEW

JUDGE BRANNON

The Judge of the Probate Court is assigned all cases coming before the Court. The judge is charged with the work of supervision of all personnel of the Probate Court.

MAGISTRATES

Five (5) Magistrates assist the Judge in handling the case load. A magistrate is an attorney appointed by the Court who hears cases referred by the Judge. Magistrates hear and consider cases in the same manner as a judge. All magistrate decisions are reviewed and approved by the Judge. Magistrates are available to answer procedural and other questions but may not discuss a case with either a litigant or attorney in the absence of the other party, or that party's attorney to the case.



Judge Brannon and Magistrates

COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The Judge appoints the Court Administrator. The Administrator manages and coordinates the operations and assigned staff of the Court. The Administrator is responsible for the general administration and supervision of all support services for the Court. In addition, the Court Administrator supervises the implementation of all special projects the court may undertake. The Court Administrator utilizes leadership and management skills to create a high-performance work environment for court staff. The Administrator reviews data and information for planning purposes, evaluates organizational effectiveness, reviews cost and impact analysis, and establishes time lines and benchmarks of standards. The Administrator handles attorney, agency and public concerns and complaints regarding court proceedings. The Court Administrator also acts as a liaison between the Judge and the staff.

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of budgets, financial reporting and analysis, support for financial and analytical needs of other court departments, control over all the payments and purchasing, and continual monitoring of all aspects of finance for the Court.

MENTAL HEALTH

It is the responsibility of the probate court to oversee the involuntary commitment process of individuals who are alleged to be mentally ill or mentally subject to court order, while protecting their rights and ensuring they receive treatment in the least restrictive environment.

The Probate Court has made mental health a primary focus as the mental health crisis has devastated many communities, including Montgomery County. This Court has been directly involved in the following initiatives, including:

- Facilitating bi-monthly meetings with the Mental Health Collaboration and Innovation Team;
- Actively participating in the GDAHA Behavioral Health Taskforce;
- Drafting Ohio Supreme Court standard forms for recommendation to the Ohio Supreme Court;
- Co-chairing the Competency Restoration and Probate Issues Committee on the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness;
- Data sharing on the County's JusticeWeb and other databases with justice partners;
- Starting an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program administered by the Court; and
- Drafting new Rules, Forms, and Flowcharts to assist mental health stakeholders.



Probate Court Staff dress in green in May 2023 for Mental Health Awareness Month

CLERK'S OFFICE

The Clerk's office maintains and makes available to the public records of all non-confidential case files for the Probate Court. The Clerk's office assists customers at the Court and over the telephone. The Clerk's Office collects any costs or fees required, issues receipts, and posts the collected monies. Appropriate information for case files is docketed in a timely manner, including entering information in the computer system and issuing appropriate notices. Documents are scanned for the case file data base which is available online. Further duties of the office include providing basic case management information and completing statistical reporting.

MARRIAGE DEPARTMENT

The Marriage Department’s principal function is to issue marriage licenses and complete marriage certificates. Further duties include providing statistical reporting concerning case management and providing marriage records.

ADOPTION DEPARTMENT

One of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Probate Court is to make sure a child is placed in a safe, loving and permanent home. The primary function is to provide case management of the adoption cases. Adoption filings are accepted by the department, reviewed and set for hearings as appropriate. All adoptions proceedings and records are confidential

COURT INVESTIGATORS

The Probate Court has four Court Investigators. They serve notice of proceedings and hearings in guardianship, adoption, and mental health cases. They provide guardianship, adoption, and mental health case management support for the Magistrates and Judge. Conducts investigatory/wellness visits with wards and completes and testifies home studies in adoption cases.



Judge Brannon, Magistrates, and Administration team with Bill Miller, Law Day award recipient

Probate Division | 2023 STATISTICS

CASES FILED STATISTICS	2021	2022	2023
Adoptions	170	157	153
Estates/Trusts	2,875	2,777	3,000
Guardianships	459	458	519
Mental Health	630	559	672
Miscellaneous	512	519	566
Total	4,646	4,470	4,910
MARRIAGE STATISTICS	2021	2022	2023
Licenses Issued Total	2,928	2,975	2,840

Clerk of Courts

About the Clerk of Courts

The Montgomery County Clerk of Courts is a complex organization that serves the Common Pleas Court; General Division; Domestic Relations Court; County Municipal Courts; and the Second District Court of Appeals. The Auto Title Division offers a wide variety of services including titling of motor vehicles, titling and registration of watercraft, processing passport applications, TSA Enrollment Services, and BMV Driver Exams.



The Clerk's Office has a variety of functions, including:

- Receive, docket, index, certify, and preserve the pleadings, court orders, and other legal documents that are filed with the courts
- Serve court papers as required by law and as directed by the parties
- Furnish preliminary case schedules and notices of hearings

1 clerk

96 clerk staff



MIKE FOLEY, CLERK OF COURTS
Montgomery County Clerk of Courts

Mike Foley serves as the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts, having been elected to the position in 2018. In his role as Clerk, Mike oversees an office of 100 employees, with an annual budget of more than \$15 million dollars.

Prior to his election as Clerk of Courts, Mike Foley served as an Ohio Deputy Registrar for 12 years. In that role, he was charged with operating the regional Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Huber Heights, Ohio.

A native of Cincinnati, Mike Foley moved to the Dayton Area in 1996 to embark upon an entrepreneurial path where he became proficient in restaurant franchise management, including the launch and operation of the initial First Watch restaurants in Montgomery County.

Prior to serving as Clerk of Courts, Deputy Registrar, and the owner of multiple local businesses, Mike Foley served his Country as a Medic in the United States Army and the Ohio National Guard.

Mike Foley is a graduate of The Ohio State University and resides in Oakwood with his wife Lisa and has four adult children.

Clerk Foley enjoys golfing, traveling and has a newfound love for playing pickleball year-round! He loves his Ohio State Buckeyes, and always roots for his hometown Cincinnati Reds and Bengals.

- Issue such writs as summonses, subpoenas, warrants, and executions
- Receive, account for, and disburse deposits of money to cover court costs, fines, fees, and restitution according to statute and court order
- Issue Certificates of Title for automobiles, motorcycles, mobile homes, travel trailers, campers, motor homes, and watercraft
- Process U.S. passport applications as an authorized Passport Acceptance Agency

Mission Statement

The mission of the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts is to provide progressive and efficient records management and financial services for the justice system, the legal community, and the public through our core values of respect, fairness, and honesty.

Clerk of Courts | OFFICE OVERVIEW

HUMAN RESOURCES

Management Team Retreat

In June of 2023, Clerk of Courts management from all divisions attended a team building retreat at the Employment Opportunity Center. The day began with “ice breaker” activities that were followed by motivational speaker Lavar Glover of Goodwill Easter Seals. This was followed by team challenges and the day concluded with members of the management team volunteering for Hannah’s Treasure Chest, a non-profit serving the needs of under privileged children and families in the area.



Clerk of Courts management staff attended a team building retreat



Summer 2023 Employee Appreciation Picnics

During the summer, the Clerk of Courts Administrative team went to each location to grill hamburgers and hot dogs for Clerk of Courts team members to show appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that is exhibited in our offices on a daily basis.



The Clerk of Courts Administrative team hosted Employee Appreciation picnics



2023 Personnel Additions

2023 saw many new additions to the Clerk's Office. Several new team members were onboarded in 2023, including our Deputy Administrator (Shannon Crabtree), Compliance Officer (James Calhoun II), Help Center Coordinator (Raven Clark), Assistant Chief Deputy – Legal Division (Corey Hill), Executive Administrative Assistant (Jordan Hooghe), and Program Manager (Cory Zimmerman).

LEGAL

Law Day 2023

2023 marked the 65th anniversary of Law Day since its inception by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958. Civics, Civility, and Collaboration are the Cornerstones of Democracy! That was the theme for this year's Law Day. A premise that could not more accurately describe the true functions of the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts and its relationship with the community, the courts, and its desire to provide access to justice. Clerk Foley was honored to select Elizabeth Foster, a paralegal at the Montgomery County Public Defender's office, as the recipient of this year's award for her personification of the mission of the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts.



Elizabeth Foster and Clerk Foley

Connecting with the Community



A community event highlighting the services offered by the Clerk of Courts' Help Center

Since 2022, Clerk Foley and his Help Center Team have hosted community events on a monthly basis through the Connecting with the Community program. These events, held at the Employment Opportunity Center in the Westtown Shopping Center, have featured speakers from various Montgomery County offices, as well as other leaders within the community. These speaking events cover a variety of topics such as information related to legal filings, mental health, and veteran services among many others. Clerk Foley understands the importance of involvement in the community and is grateful to all those that have been involved or participated in these events. As we grow, our Connecting with the Community events will continue to be informative, successful, and empowering to everyone in Montgomery County.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Corey Hill, Assistant Chief Deputy – Legal Division

On November 27, 2023, Corey Hill started as the Assistant Chief Deputy of the Legal Division. Corey comes from the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, where he worked as a Supervisor and Probation Officer since 2010. Corey comes from Middletown and has a degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University. Corey is also a veteran having served in the Navy from 1989-1999. Corey comes with a wealth of legal knowledge, and we are glad to have him on our Clerk of Courts team!

MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal Court Western Division Grand Opening

- Montgomery County Municipal Court, Western Division moved into a new courthouse located in Trotwood, Ohio. We were closed to the public April 24, 2023 – April 28, 2023, due to the transition, and reopened to the public on May 1, 2023.
- Mike Foley, Montgomery County Clerk of Courts had a Community Open House at the new courthouse located in Trotwood, Ohio on May 11, 2023. Refreshments and tours were provided to attendees.



The new Western Division courthouse

Mike Foley
Montgomery County
Clerk of Courts



Montgomery County
Municipal Court
Eastern Division
6111 Taylorsville Rd
Huber Heights, OH 45424
937.496.7231

Western Division
875 E Main St
Trotwood, OH 45426
937.687.9099

Alyse Rettich
Miamisburg Municipal
Judge



Miamisburg Municipal Court
10 North Main St.
Miamisburg, OH 45342
937.847.6685

Let's get a
**FRESH
NEW
START**
May 1-12, 2023

To Celebrate the New Court in Trotwood
we are offering amnesty!
Pay Half your Fines & Costs
and the Other Half will be Waived!

MIKE FOLEY
Montgomery County
Clerk of Courts
Moving Justice Forward

- Montgomery County Municipal Court had an Amnesty event, from May 1, 2023 – May 12, 2023. During the amnesty event, all persons were eligible to request suspension of one half of all fines and court costs. If they paid one half the remainder was waived.
- The eCitations process went live on June 1, 2023. We receive eCitations from Ohio State Patrol (OSP) & Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Blankenship, Assignment Clerk III – Municipal Division

Melissa has worked for the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts Office for almost eleven years. Melissa started out with the Auto Title Division and transferred to the Municipal Court Division in 2018, where she is currently an Assignment Clerk III. Melissa enjoys working with her colleagues and helping customers, especially those who are Spanish speaking as she studied Spanish in college and lived in Costa Rica for a summer. Melissa and her husband have three children and two grandchildren, who have stolen their hearts. Outside of work, she loves to garden, knit, crochet, learn new things, watch the grandbabies and travel.

Awards & Achievements

Billy Richardson, Operations Manager, was selected Deputy Clerk of the Year on May 24, 2023, due to his involvement with organizing the Help Center to provide a presentation at the Ohio Association of Municipal & County Court Clerks (OAMCCC) Fall conference.

Fun Fact:

We serve as a “one-stop shop” for customers during our arraignment dockets!

- Customers appear in court for arraignment hearings,
- Receive notification from Clerk team members for the next hearing,
- Meet onsite with the Montgomery County Public Defender Intake personnel to qualify for an attorney,
- Complete fingerprints for applicable offenses (Fingerprints service is provided by the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts staff), and
- Unless otherwise directed, customers do not need to appear again until their next court hearing.

Municipal, Other Highlights

Completed CPR Training – Aondrea Brown, Brandie Finkley, Summer Leonhardt

Completed Notary Training – Elizabeth Barrett, Jamie Grill, Summer Leonhardt



Billy Richardson



Municipal Division team

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

eCourts Conference

This September, the Municipal Courts Management Team, IT Director, Fred Tatum, and Clerk Foley attended the Court Technology Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. At this conference, attendees were able to see the newest technology available to the courts. One of the top priorities of the Clerk's Office is to be a leader in technology. There was also a speaker series that touched on relevant topics that courts are dealing with around the country. Everyone enjoyed the content and came back with good information and new ideas!



Court Technology Conference attendees

E-Filing Automation

The IT division, in collaboration with the Legal Division, has been busy integrating an automation process to assist the e-filing approval process. The automated system takes select filings, applies optical character recognition (OCR) to the electronic documents, does an extensive validation process to ensure that the documents match the filing, then extracts information from those documents to make informed decisions on whether the filing is acceptable or needs to be returned to the filer for corrections. We currently have this working for documents in our Civil and Criminal divisions and have plans to extend this to the Domestic Relations division soon!

Case Management System

The Clerk of Courts took the lead on a major initiative for the Judicial division with the implementation of a new Court Case Management System. In collaboration with the General Division, Domestic Relations Division, Probate Court, the Prosecutor's Office, and the area Municipal Courts, we posted a request for proposals for a new system. After an extensive, month-long review process, we have selected the eSeries products (eCourts and eProsecutor) developed by Journal Technologies to be our new system. This system is a fully integrated system allowing us to combine multiple systems (case management, e-Filing, and document management) into one system. It is highly configurable and allows us to make changes quickly. Implementation will begin in 2024, with a goal to go live in February 2026!



Fun Fact

The IT division, which consists of only 5 staff members, has 100+ years of experience supporting users, developing applications, and building and maintaining servers.

AUTO TITLE

New Services Provided to the Citizens of Montgomery County:

TSA Enrollment Services: TSA PreCheck, TWIC, HAZMAT, and FTSP

- When Clerk Foley needed to get his TSA PreCheck, he discovered that there were no local TSA facilities. He recognized this as an opportunity and worked diligently to bring this service to the citizens of Montgomery County. This service enables pre-screened U.S. citizens and permanent residents to bypass the lines at U.S. airport security. Since launch, the suite of TSA enrollment services offered through the Clerk of Courts



has been extremely popular, processing nearly 3,000 applications since launch, and is a testament to Clerk Foley's dedication to bringing innovative solutions to his constituents.

BMV Driver Examination Station – Moraine

- In partnership with the Ohio BMV, the Auto Title Office in Moraine is now offering BMV Driver Examinations. Previously, citizens of Montgomery County only had one option locally in Huber Heights. This service has been extremely well received and has resulted in greater convenience for those living in southern Montgomery County.



Watercraft Registration

- Our downtown Dayton Auto Title office now offers watercraft registration. Customers can now apply for, and receive, watercraft registrations within the same day.

Notary Services

In addition to our free Online Notary Service, the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts' Auto Title Division has eight clerks who have completed the necessary classes to become notaries for the State of Ohio. Now, all title offices have a Notary available during business hours to assist customers with their notarization needs.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Asia Robbins, Team Lead – Auto Title

Asia Robbins serves as a Team Lead with the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts. She began her career on March 26, 2012, as Deputy Clerk I. In the past year, she has played a crucial role in restructuring the Downtown office's daily workflow and assigned weekly duties to the title clerks. Asia has led the TSA Precheck services and the Watercraft Registration for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the State of Ohio. She also works in the Dealer Section of the Auto Title Division. Asia is a great team player and has a knack for rallying her co-workers to collaborate with other internal departments to achieve the daily goals of the organization.

Fun Fact:

A fun fact about our Auto Title department is that Deputy Clerks Jerrica Atkinson and Kelli Kite share the same birthday and are left-handed.



Kelli Kite



Jerrica Atkinson

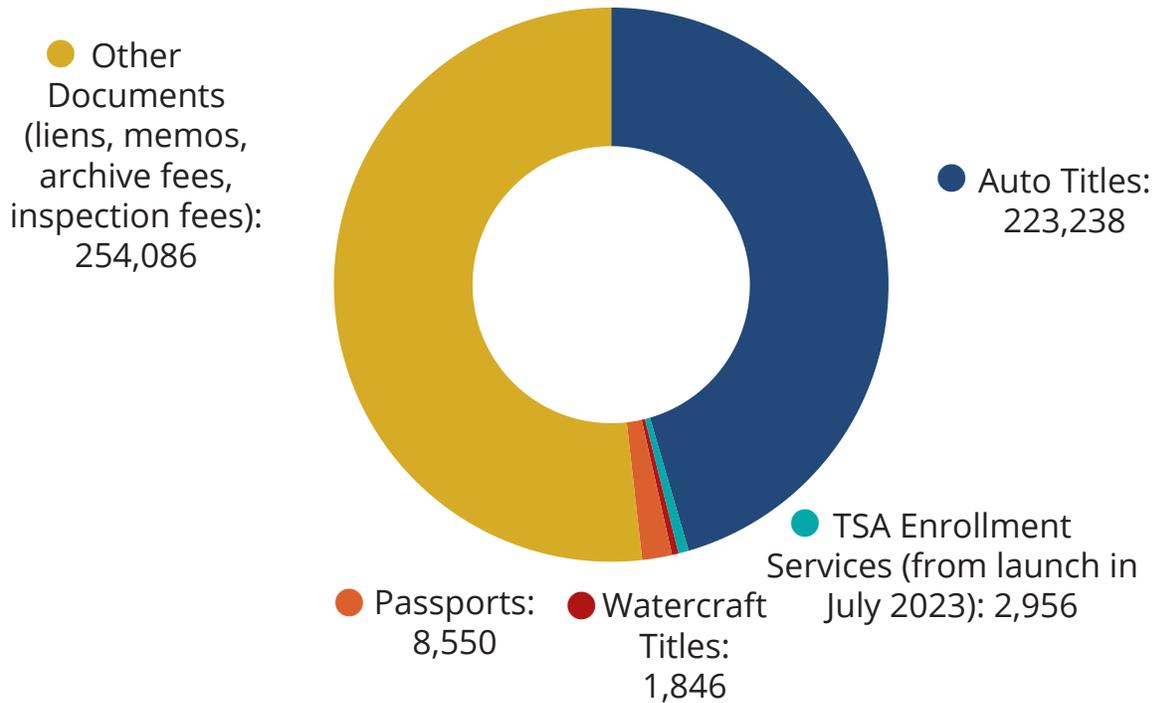


Auto Title Employee of the Year

Lilly Ingles, Deputy Clerk I – Auto Title

The Montgomery County Clerk of Courts' Auto Title Divisions' mission is to efficiently manage and maintain records for all auto titles, watercraft, and passport related documents while providing the highest customer service. On February 21, 2023, Lilly Ingles joined the office as a Deputy Clerk I and has been an excellent addition to the team. She has taken the lead on the TSA Precheck service provided by the Downtown Title Office and has done a commendable job. In her free time, she assists other clerks in processing auto titles and passport applications. We appreciate her hard work and dedication to the team. Thank you, Lilly.

2023 Auto Title Statistics



Location and Phone Directory

CLERK OF COURTS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTS BUILDING

41 N. Perry Street
First Floor
Dayton, Ohio 45422-2150
937.496.7623
www.mcclerkofcourts.org

CPC DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

DAYTON-MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTS BUILDING

301 W. Third Street
Dayton, Ohio 45422-2156
937.225.4063 937.496.7443 Fax (Administration) 937.496.7835 Fax (Case Specific)
www.mcoho.org/dr

CPC GENERAL DIVISION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTS BUILDING

41 N. Perry Street
First, Third or Fourth Floors
Dayton, Ohio 45422-2150
937.225.6000
www.montcourt.oh.gov

CPC JUVENILE DIVISION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

380 W. Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45422-4131
937.496.7913
www.mcjcoho.org

CPC PROBATE DIVISION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTS BUILDING

41 N. Perry Street
Second Floor
Dayton, Ohio 45422-2155
937.225.4640 937.496.3181 Fax (Administration)
www.mcoho.org/probate

