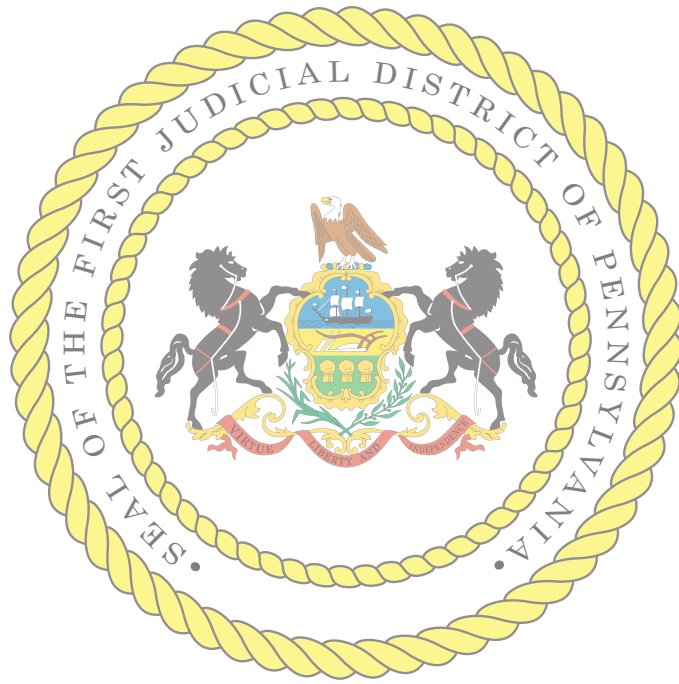


*2017  
Annual  
Report*



**The  
First Judicial District  
of Pennsylvania**  
The Philadelphia Courts







*2017 Annual Report*  
**The First Judicial District  
of Pennsylvania**  
The Philadelphia Courts

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



*The following individuals are recognized for their vital and timely assistance in the successful publication of this report:*

**Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper**

President Judge, Court of Common Pleas – Chair,  
Administrative Governing Board

**Honorable Marsha H. Neifield**

President Judge, Municipal Court

**Honorable Jacqueline F. Allen**

Administrative Judge, Trial Division

**Honorable Margaret T. Murphy**

Administrative Judge, Family Division

**Honorable Matthew D. Carrafiello**

Administrative Judge, Orphans' Court Division

**Honorable Gary S. Glazer**

Administrative Judge, Traffic Division

**Joseph H. Evers**

District Court Administrator,  
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

*We would also like to recognize the First Judicial District's Deputy Court Administrators and their respective staff members, as well as the Judicial Education Committee, for their contributions to this report.*

**Gabriel B. Roberts**

Director of Communications

**Brendan Kenney**

Communications Department  
*Editor*

**Anthony Leonardo**

Leonardo Studio  
*Associate Editor, Art Director,  
Photographer*

**Theresa Cannon**

Director, Court Tech Unit  
*Photographer*

*Cover Art by Anthony Leonardo*





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**The Hon. Sheila Woods-Skipper**  
*President Judge, Court of Common Pleas  
Chair of the Administrative Governing Board*



**The Hon. Marsha H. Neifield**  
*President Judge,  
Municipal Court*



**Joseph H. Evers**  
*First Judicial District Court Adminis-  
trator*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDGES AND FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

**2** 017 provided more opportunities for the judges and employees of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD) to reaffirm our commitment to public service, excellence, and achieving our mission of adjudicating cases according to their jurisdiction, and ensuring fair, timely, and accessible justice to the citizens and litigants of Philadelphia. So it is with great pride, and respect for those we serve, that we present the Philadelphia Courts' 2017 Annual Report.

The Philadelphia Court System enables every litigant to receive their day in court – whether through innovative specialty courts and progressive diversion programs; convenient online court access; multifaceted re-entry programs; or by implementing best practices in family and youth services. These proactive initiatives, coupled with our steadfast judicial commitment and productivity, enable the Court to meet numerous societal needs while positioning ourselves to take on future challenges as we continue our quest for excellence.

In the pages that follow, each division of our Court System has outlined achievements and projects undertaken in furtherance of the Court's collective mission. However, there have been many court-wide initiatives that would not have been possible without the entire District pulling together to effectuate success, and identify new objectives. To that end, we'd also like to take a moment to note some of the interdivisional and cross court successes in the ensuing Highlights of the Year section.

From participating in a criminal justice roundtable with singer/songwriter John Legend, to continued cooperation with justice partners through the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Grant, our court continues to identify solutions that further the mission of ensuring judicious and impartial justice.

Beyond 2017, the FJD will continue to implement proactive measures to ensure a responsible approach to the issues which affect our courts, while fostering an unwavering public trust in our judiciary. We hope this report proves of value to those interested in learning more about our courts, and to the City of Philadelphia writ large.

**Sheila Woods-Skipper,**  
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Chair, Administrative Governing Board

**Marsh H. Neifield,**  
President Judge, Philadelphia Municipal Court

**Joseph H. Evers,**  
First Judicial District Court Administrator



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

■ On a sunny but cold Monday in January, dozens of FJD employees and family members joined together at South Philadelphia High School in an effort to not only upkeep, but revitalize portions of the school as well as community hub.



In addition to repainting the school's 4th floor hallway and the cafeteria area, the Mural Arts Program's Restorative Justice Guild, with the help of students, school faculty and many of the FJD's own, created an original mural displayed near the school's lunchroom, to be enjoyed by the young scholars.

## Paint Day & Mural Unveiling

■ The FJD and Mural Arts Philadelphia hosted students from Spring Garden School for a jury mural "Paint Day". The event offered judges and FJD personnel the opportunity to work side-by-side with the young artists from Spring Garden School while answering questions



about the courts, juries, and the value of civic engagement. The mural's design, created by Nathaniel Lee, staff muralist at Mural Arts Philadelphia, aimed to highlight the concept of justice. The mural is currently adorning the walls of the FJD's Civil Jury Room in City Hall, room 195.





## “Gold E. Locks” Law Day

■ In commemoration of Law Week, FJD judges presided over the “Trials of Gold E. Locks”. Approximately 300 elementary students from Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, Russell Byers



Charter School, and Immaculate Heart of Mary determined the guilt or innocence of fairy tale characters in cases such as; Commonwealth v. B.B. Wolf, Commonwealth v. Jack Farmer, and, Commonwealth v. Gold E. Locks. Gathered in the Justice McDermott Ceremonial Courtroom, located in City Hall, FJD judges provided jury instructions for the students to consider prior to their deliberations after listening to opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing arguments provided by volunteer attorneys from local law firms. The event is a creative educational opportunity aimed to inform kids about how our justice system functions while promoting the importance of civic duty.

## Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) Summer Internship

■ During the late summer months, the FJD partnered with Philadelphia Youth Network (P.Y.N.) to provide an internship opportunity for thirty young aspiring professionals. Through P.Y.N.’s WorkReady Summer program, students gained hands-on experience within departments such as Human Resources, Complex Litigation, and Office of Judicial Records. The interns observed court cases, interacted with judges, and met with various directors. This experience was beneficial for both the students and selected group of mentors. Sharing their work environment granted FJD personnel a refreshing perspective on their own jobs.



## School Supply Drive

■ In an effort to put Dr. Martin Luther King’s vision of service into action, FJD employees successfully organized a back-to-school supply drive to support the education of elementary school students at Gideon Elementary and Richard Wright Elementary. Court employees, delivered over 1,200 individual supply items to both schools ensuring that students received the basic resources needed for a productive academic year.



## Pro Bono Publico Ceremony

■ During the annual Pro Bono Publico Ceremony, held in the James McDermott Ceremonial Courtroom at City Hall, the FJD honored the 2017 award recipients. This event recognizes the importance of pro bono legal services and the role those services play in ensuring access and justice for the citizens of Philadelphia.



## Veterans Day Parade

■ On November 5th, the FJD was one of 150 organizations that took part in the 3rd annual Philadelphia Veterans Parade. It is a great opportunity not only to acknowledge the selfless service of all vets, but to recognize the men and women of the First Judicial District who willingly dedicated their time to this country.

## Art for Justice Grant



■ On November 27th, President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge Marsha H. Neifield, and Administrative Judge Jacqueline F. Allen joined alongside Mural Arts

Philadelphia as they were named one of thirty national recipients of The Ford Foundation's Inaugural Art for Justice Grant.

The grant is a five year initiative that will aid the expansion of Mural Art's Restorative Justice Program to help divert individuals from the county jail system, and offer alternative resources with their rehabilitative process. Through this grant, Mural Arts will also introduce a collaborative art project with the City of Philadelphia's MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge initiative.



## Local Criminal Justice Leaders Talk Reform with John Legend

■ Led by Municipal Court President Judge, Marsha H. Neifield, a contingent of Philadelphia criminal justice leaders traveled to Sesame Street Studios in New York City to participate in a criminal justice roundtable discussion with singer/songwriter John Legend. The forum, broadcasted through Facebook Live, focused on Philadelphia's ongoing work to substantially reduce our local jail population via the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge. The discussion served as an opportunity to educate the general public on challenges of addressing mass incarceration, and the solutions Philadelphia has identified to safely and responsibly reform our local justice system.





## PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNING BOARD

Respective President and Administrative Judges,  
the State Court Administrator and District Court Administrator

### DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

#### COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

#### MUNICIPAL COURT

##### TRIAL DIVISION

##### FAMILY DIVISION

##### ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

##### CIVIL DIVISION

##### CIVIL

##### DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH

##### CRIMINAL DIVISION

##### CRIMINAL

##### JUVENILE BRANCH

##### TRAFFIC DIVISION

##### OFFICE OF JUDICIAL RECORDS



**The Hon. Sheila Woods-Skipper**  
*President Judge, Court of Common Pleas  
 Chair of the Administrative Governing Board*



**The Hon. Marsha H. Neifield**  
*President Judge,  
 Philadelphia Municipal Court*



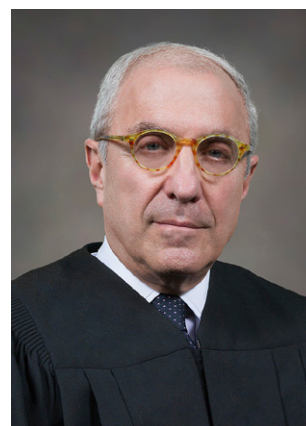
**Jacqueline F. Allen**  
*Administrative Judge  
 Court of Common Pleas - Trial Division*



**Margaret T. Murphy**  
*Administrative Judge  
 Court of Common Pleas - Family Division*



**Matthew D. Carrafiello**  
*Administrative Judge  
 Court of Common Pleas - Orphans' Division*



**Gary S. Glazer\***  
*Administrative Judge,  
 Municipal Court - Traffic Division*



**Thomas B. Darr**  
*Court Administrator of Pennsylvania*



**Joseph H. Evers**  
*First Judicial District Court Administrator*

\* Administrative Judge for Municipal Court – Traffic Division and Sitting Judge on Court of Common Pleas





**Joseph H. Evers**  
*District Court Administrator*



**Charles A. Mapp Sr.**  
*Chief Deputy Court Administrator/Deputy Court  
Administrator Trial Division - Civil*



**Mary Lou Baker**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Family Division - Domestic Relations*



**Clayton Carter**  
*Director  
Administrative Services*



**Kevin A. Cross**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Financial Services*



**Mario D'Adamo, Esq.**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Family Division - Juvenile*



**Robert DeEmilio**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Office of Court Compliance*



**Eric Feder**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Office of Judicial Records*



**Martha Fisher, Esq.**  
*Human Resources Attorney  
Human Resources*



**Marc Flood, Esq.**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Procurement*



**Joseph H. Hassett, Esq.**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Municipal Court – Traffic Division*



**Amy Mader**  
*Executive Director  
Human Resources*



**Richard McSorley, Esq.**  
*Deputy Court Administrator  
Trial Division – Criminal*



**Hai Ngo**  
*Director Information Technology/Management  
Information Services*



**Daniel Rendine, Esq.**  
*Jury Commissioner*

..... *Not Pictured* .....

**Glenn S. Bozzacco, Esq.**  
*Labor, Procurement & Litigation Attorney*

**Janet C. Fasy**  
*Deputy Court Administrator Court Reporter & Interpreter Services*

**Patricia R. McDermott**  
*Deputy Court Administrator Municipal Court – Civil Division*

**Kathleen M. Rapone**  
*Deputy Court Administrator Municipal Court – Criminal Division*

**Dominic J. Rossi, Esq.**  
*Deputy Court Administrator Chief Compliance Officer*

.....





## COURT ADMINISTRATION

**T**he District Court Administrator is the highest non-judicial leadership position in the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD). The position was created in 1996 when the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in reorganizing the FJD, established the Administrative Governing Board (AGB). The Office of the Court Administrator was instituted to complement the Board and carry out their directives, to propose solutions to problems and innovative ideas for improvements, and to oversee the day-to-day management of the District. In May 2013, **Joseph H. Evers** was appointed FJD District Court Administrator. The Office provides centralized management for major service centers that affect the work of the courts throughout the District, and coordinates the ministerial activities of Deputy Court Administrators located in specific courts and divisions of the FJD. The Chief Deputy Court Administrator is **Charles A. Mapp Sr.**

While the DCAs that are spread throughout the courts report to the Court Administrator, they must also work closely with and respond to the direction of their respective President and Administrative Judges. This dual organizational scheme guarantees individual courts and divisions the benefits of the services of a Deputy Court Administrator, while ensuring that their operations are coordinated as key components of the centralized FJD management structure.

The DCAs are complemented by a group of Directors who also lead departments specializing in cross-court services. Those departments include Human Resources, the Jury Commission; the Department of Information Technology Services, and Administrative Services.

Through the development of this Annual Report, Court Administration seeks to provide a resource that supports and catalyzes the mission of our judiciary to provide quality, efficient services throughout our Courts while facilitating the advancement of the forward-thinking approach our District is known for.



Photo by Theresa Cannon





## JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



## JUDGES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT



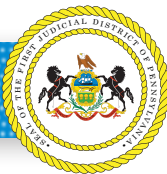
Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo / Facing Page Photo by Theresa Cannon





COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ■





**Sheila Woods-Skipper**  
*President Judge/Chair  
Administrative Governing Board*



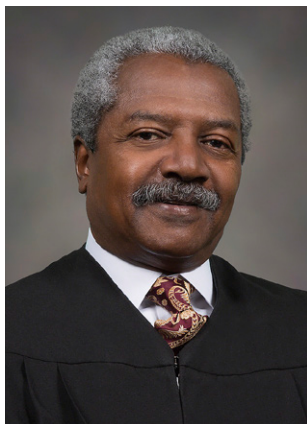
**Jacqueline F. Allen**  
*Administrative Judge  
Trial Division*



**Margaret T. Murphy**  
*Administrative Judge  
Family Division*



**Matthew D. Carrafiello**  
*Administrative Judge  
Orphans' Division*



**Leon W. Tucker**  
*Supervising Judge  
Criminal Trial Division*



**Idee Fox**  
*Supervising Judge  
Civil Trial Division*



**Patricia A. McInerney**  
*Supervising Judge Civil Trial  
Division - Commerce Court*



**Walter J. Olszewski**  
*Supervising Judge  
Family Division*



**Daniel J. Anders**  
*Trial Division*



**Diana Louise Anhalt**  
*Trial Division*



**Gwendolyn N. Bright**  
*Trial Division*

Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo





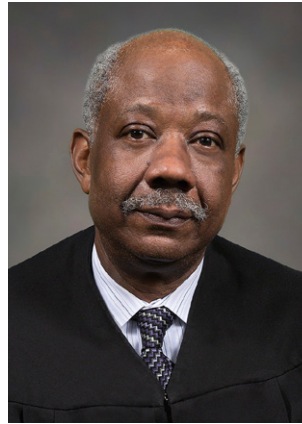
## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ■



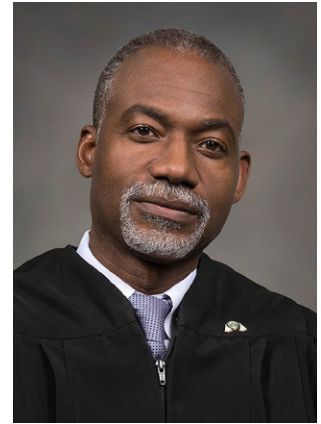
**Glenn B. Bronson**  
*Trial Division*



**Ann Butchart**  
*Trial Division*



**Sandy L. V. Byrd**  
*Trial Division*



**Giovanni Campbell**  
*Trial Division*



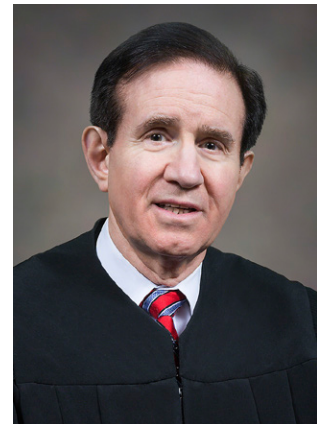
**Ellen Ceisler**  
*Trial Division*



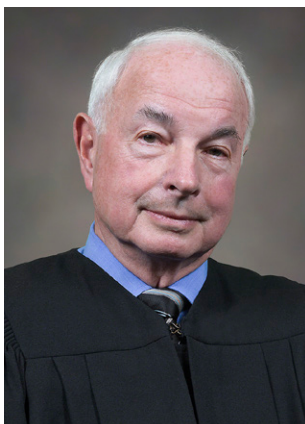
**Ida K. Chen**  
*Family Division*



**Lucretia Clemons**  
*Trial Division*



**Denis P. Cohen**  
*Trial Division*



**Gene D. Cohen\***  
*Trial Division*

\* denotes senior judge



**Mary Colins\***  
*Trial Division*



**Amanda Cooperman**  
*Family Division*



**Anne Marie B. Coyle**  
*Trial Division*





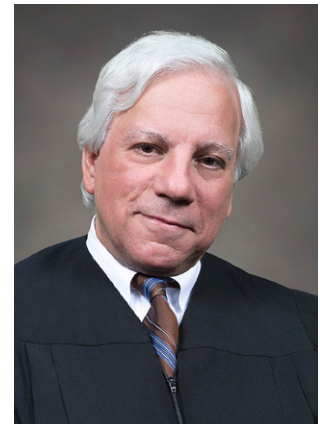
**Charles J. Cunningham III**  
*Trial Division*



**Pamela Pryor Dembe\***  
*Trial Division*



**Scott DiClaudio**  
*Trial Division*



**Ramy I. Djerassi**  
*Trial Division*



**Lori A. Dumas**  
*Family Division*



**Charles A. Ehrlich**  
*Trial Division*



**Michael Erdos**  
*Trial Division*



**Michael Fanning**  
*Family Division*



**Joseph Fernandes**  
*Family Division*

\* denotes senior judge



**Abbe F. Fletman**  
*Trial Division*



**Angelo Foglietta**  
*Trial Division*



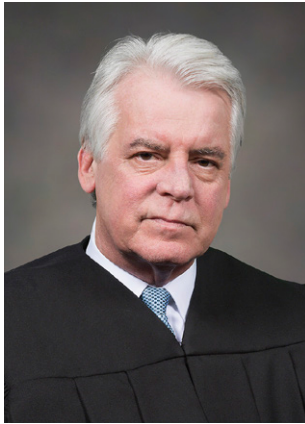
**Holly J. Ford**  
*Family Division*

Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo

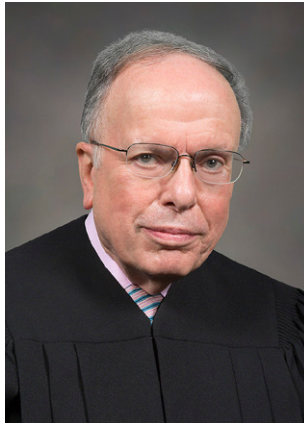




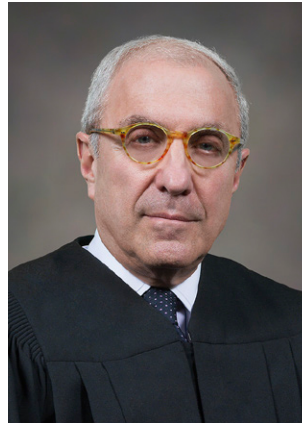
## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ■



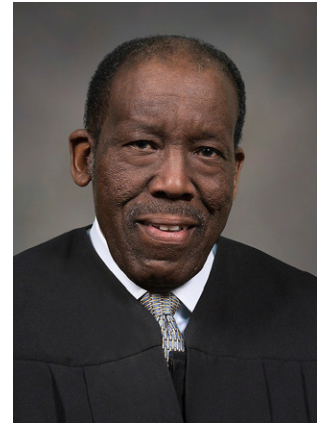
**Vincent Furlong**  
*Family Division*



**Steven R. Geroff\***  
*Trial Division*



**Gary S. Glazer**  
*Trial Division*



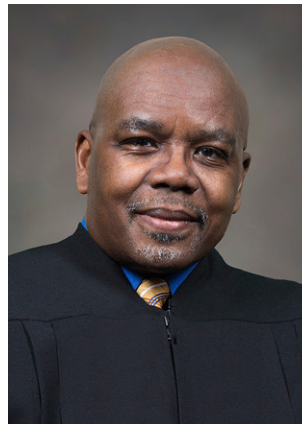
**Roger F. Gordon**  
*Trial Division*



**Richard J. Gordon Jr.**  
*Family Division*



**Daine Grey**  
*Family Division*



**Glynnis Hill**  
*Trial Division*



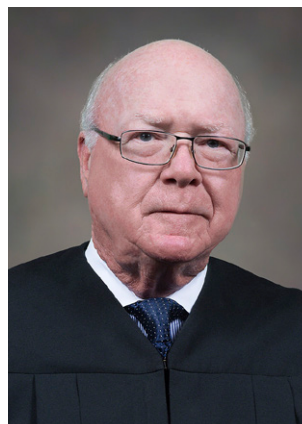
**Jonathan Q. Irvine**  
*Family Division*



**Joel S. Johnson**  
*Family Division*



**Vincent L. Johnson**  
*Trial Division*



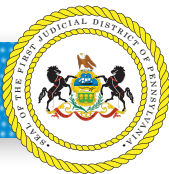
**D. Webster Keogh\***  
*Trial Division*



**Marlene F. Lachman**  
*Trial Division*

\* denotes senior judge

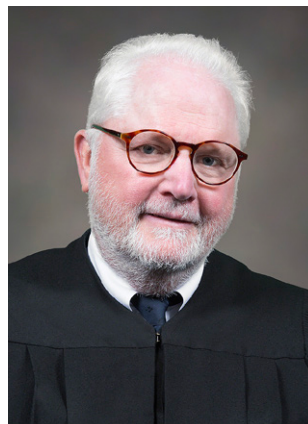




**Timika Lane**  
*Trial Division*



**Kathryn S. Lewis\***  
*Trial Division*



**James Murray Lynn**  
*Family Division*



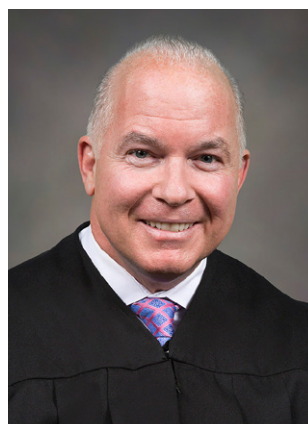
**Christopher Mallios**  
*Family Division*



**Frederica Massiah-Jackson**  
*Trial Division*



**William J. Mazzola\***  
*Trial Division*



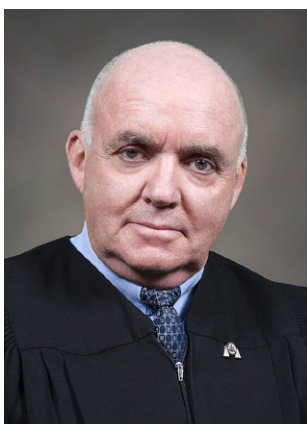
**Daniel McCaffery**  
*Trial Division*



**Barbara A. McDermott**  
*Trial Division*



**Vincent N. Melchiorre**  
*Trial Division*  
\*denotes senior judge



**Jeffrey P. Minehart**  
*Trial Division*



**Arnold L. New**  
*Trial Division*



**Carolyn H. Nichols**  
*Trial Division*

Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo

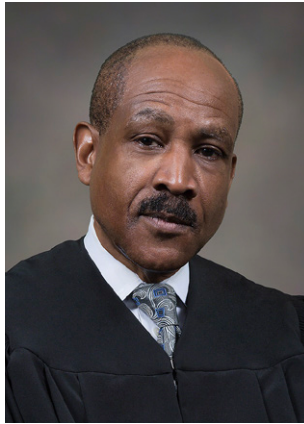




## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ■



**J. Scott O'Keefe**  
*Trial Division*



**George W. Overton**  
*Orphans' Court*



**Frank Palumbo**  
*Trial Division*



**Paul P. Panepinto**  
*Trial Division*



**Ourania Papademetriou**  
*Family Division*



**Paula A. Patrick**  
*Trial Division*



**Doris A. Pechkurow**  
*Family Division*



**Mia R. Perez**  
*Trial Division*



**Kenneth J. Powell Jr.**  
*Trial Division*



**Lisa M. Rau**  
*Trial Division*

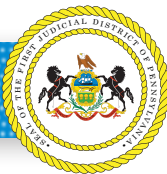


**Robert J. Rebstock**  
*Family Division*



**Shelley Robins New**  
*Trial Division*





**Rosalyn K. Robinson**  
*Trial Division*



**Tracy Brandeis Roman**  
*Trial Division*



**M. Teresa Sarmina**  
*Trial Division*



**Stephanie M. Sawyer**  
*Trial Division*



**Susan I. Schulman**  
*Trial Division*



**Kai Scott**  
*Trial Division*



**Lisette Shirdan-Harris**  
*Trial Division*



**Karen Shreeves-Johns**  
*Trial Division*

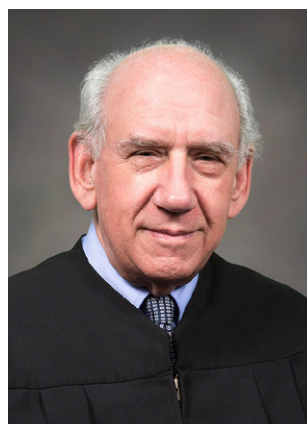


**Sierra Thomas Street**  
*Trial Division*

\* denotes senior judge



**Daniel R. Sulman**  
*Family Division*



**Allan L. Tereshko\***  
*Family Division*



**Diane Thompson**  
*Family Division*

Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo



**Stella Tsai**  
*Trial Division*



**Donna M. Woelpper**  
*Trial Division*



**Edward C. Wright**  
*Trial Division*



**Nina Wright Padilla**  
*Trial Division*



**John Milton Younge**  
*Trial Division*



**Lyris Younge**  
*Family Division*

..... *Not Pictured* .....

**Linda Carpenter**  
*Trial Division*

**Robert P. Coleman**  
*Trial Division*

**Roxanne Covington**  
*Trial Division*

**Rose Marie DeFino-Nastasi**  
*Trial Division*

**Victor J. DiNubile Jr.\***  
*Trial Division*

**John W. Herron,\***  
*Orphans' Division*

**Elizabeth Jackson**  
*Family Division*

**Barbara A. Joseph\***  
*Family Division*

**Sean F. Kennedy**  
*Trial Division*

**Maria McLaughlin**  
*Family Division*

**Rayford A. Means**  
*Trial Division*

**Abram Frank Reynolds\***  
*Family Division*

**Esther R. Sylvester\***  
*Trial Division*

**Earl W. Trent Jr.\***  
*Trial Division*

.....  
*\* denotes senior judge*





## INTRODUCTION

*Administrative Judge Jacqueline F. Allen*



**T**he Trial Division continues to provide Philadelphia citizenry with fair access to court where matters can be resolved in a timely manner. Operational performance

remains notable, thanks to the efforts of an invaluable team of professionals. Nonetheless, efforts toward improvements continue.

In 2017, due to a strong commitment to development, growth and innovation, the Trial Division remained a top court performer. Successful programs continued. All programs in the civil section, with the exception of Mass Torts, resolved 90% of cases within 25 months of commencement. The Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Program marked its 9th year. The Juvenile Lifers program, created in 2016 to expedite resentencing of 300 defendants, ended the year with 40% of the defendants being resentenced.

Programs needing modifications were identified with processes evaluated and changed as necessary. New protocols and operating procedures were developed on both the civil and criminal sections. The civil section adjusted to respond to a significant increase in new case filings. The Taxicab Medallion Loan Program was developed in response to the more than 100 cases being filed in 2017 alone. The criminal section worked to reduce the inventory of aging active criminal cases 1,000 days or older by a 44% reduction. The Criminal Ready Pool Program reduced its inventory from 900 to 230.

The Trial Division also continued its commitment to education of judges, staff, the community and bar. Our judges

**In 2017, due to a strong commitment to development, growth and innovation, the Trial Division remained a top court performer.**

have served by example: Supervising Judge McNerney served as one of three panelists for the “Business Divorce - Get the Clients, Not the Goldfish!” at the 2017 Bench Bar Annual

Conference; the Honorable Daniel Anders was a panelist for “Courts under Fire: Grits and Grips” at the same conference; Supervising Judge Tucker served as a program coordinator for “Nuts & Bolts of Pennsylvania’s Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA): Practice and Procedure in Philadelphia;” and the Honorable Lisette Shirdan-Harris spoke at the Women Judges

and Prosecutors on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime Summit, in November, 2017.

## OFFICE OF JUDICIAL RECORDS

The Office of Judicial Records (OJR) is responsible for the records, books, and dockets for the Court, including civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. All duties and responsibilities inherent with the Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts were previously assigned to the Office of Judicial Records.

### Civil

**The following are some department and statistical highlights of the civil section of OJR:**

- E-Filing Review office: In 2017 more than 560,000 filings were reviewed and accepted for filing in this department. A continued focus on cross-training creating a broader understanding of the Rules of Civil Procedure has allowed the



staff to process most filings almost immediately upon receipt.

- Non-Discovery Motions/Petitions filed electronically in 2017: 58,465
- Discovery Motions Filed in 2017: 27,183
- Civil Filing Center: This department continued to evolve in 2017. Access and support remain the major focus. The department is providing clearer and more accurate forms and information, while servicing any litigant who may not have the means to utilize the Civil Electronic Filing System. The office received a major facelift in 2017 and is better designed to assist the public with face-to-face interview desks. Further, a more secure and well-equipped cashier's station was constructed to assist the public while keeping safety and security at the forefront.

**OJR-Civil aims to create new and better ways to do business. The following are a couple of projects that developed during 2017:**

- Working with representatives from the City of Philadelphia's Department of Water Revenue, liens for unpaid water service bills are being electronically migrated to the Office of Judicial

Records' index to create a lien record with the court.

- Development of a complete overhaul of the financial systems of the office continued in 2017. The project affects Municipal Court and the Civil and Family Divisions of the First Judicial District. A roll-out of the new functionality occurred in the fall of 2017, with the current systems running parallel with the new system. A complete switch over to the new integrated system is targeted for the spring of 2018.

Looking ahead to 2018, OJR-Civil will continue to work on its access to justice goals while creating forms and information tools that will further fine tune its Civil Help Center. Partnering with the legal community, the chief goal is to have a center that provides legal assistance that the court's staff are not permitted legally to provide. Continuing with access initiatives, OJR-Civil has identified data standards, while developing more effective means for storing and presenting the data. This development will provide the community and court personnel with more efficient and accurate ways to retrieve case, judgment, and lien information.

## Criminal

The Office of Judicial Records (OJR) Criminal Division provides court clerks to the Adult Criminal and Juvenile divisions of the court. OJR-Criminal is also responsible for maintaining files and dockets for criminal and juvenile cases.

**For OJR-Criminal, 2017 was a year of accomplishment.**

**For OJR-Criminal, 2017 was a year of accomplishment. Below are several of those accomplishments:**

- In conjunction with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Probation office,

the District Attorney, the Public Defender and many other participants in the juvenile justice system, OJR went live with PACFile, which allows for pleading to be filed electronically

by Juvenile Court system participants. Also, judges began to enter orders of court electronically through AOPC's Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS). This exciting project greatly enhances the efficiency of case processing in Juvenile Court.

- Bail Forfeiture records were cleaned, and new procedures were put into place for the entry of judgments.
- Appeals are now being submitted to Superior Court electronically. Approximately 150 cases/month are appealed.





The electronic procedure eliminates hours of documentation preparation and transmittal of paper files to Superior Court. Additionally, notes of testimony are being directly filed by the Court Reporters to Superior Court. The appeals inventory is constantly monitored and reviewed.

- Early Parole Petitions are now processed electronically.

OJR worked with FJD's IT Department, the Court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney and the Philadelphia Prison System to expedite the release of defendants who are granted early parole.

- The Philadelphia Prison System was granted access to review court files electronically.
- OJR developed an electronic submittal protocol to the Pennsylvania Parole Board on Juvenile Lifers Sentenced without Parole (JLSWOP).

- EPayBail continued to expand. OJR worked with the City of Philadelphia IT Department, the Philadelphia Police and the Public Defender to place a kiosk in the Roundhouse to allow for credit card payments of bail by defendants who have been arraigned.

- Continuance procedures were altered to allow for better statistical accounting. This allows for better tracking of case status and is an important step in the MacArthur Foundation's review of business practices.

- Act 5, which allows for the sealing of certain types of criminal cases, was implemented. OJR worked with FJD's IT Department to ensure that the Document Management

System (DMS) conformed to the new Act.

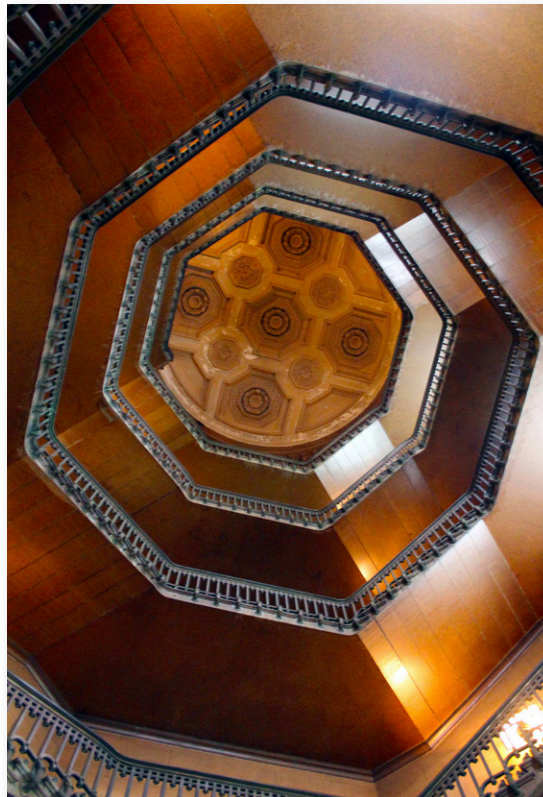
- OJR implemented the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Public Access Policy. The policy requires filers to certify that confidential and private information is securely presented to the courts and to the public.

- Mental Health Evaluations and Presentence Evaluations are now processed electronically.

- OJR helped develop and implement new evidence retention protocols.

Looking ahead to 2018, OJR-Criminal will continue to strive to improve business processes. Particularly exciting projects for 2018 include entry of electronic orders in Criminal Court and enacting new procedures on the storage and maintenance of files and evidence. OJR has reached out to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and is planning

Photo by Theresa Cannon



to electronically send cases which have been removed to Federal Court. Also, 2018 should see the beginning of archival storage of court documents in the PDF-A format. OJR-Criminal continues to reach out to its criminal justice partners to achieve its goals.

### Public Access to Court Information

All information for the Trial Division can be viewed at <https://www.philacourts.us/common-pleas/trial>.



## TRIAL DIVISION — CIVIL

In 2017, the civil section of the Trial Division re-evaluated existing programs and systems. Changes were warranted; changes were made. As a result, the section realized a significant increase, 41%, in its civil inventory<sup>1</sup>. Despite the significant increase of cases, the civil section managed to dispose of 90% of its civil inventory in accordance with the Model Time Standards established by the American Bar Association (ABA).

### Civil Case Management System

One of the factors contributing to the success of the civil section is the implementation of and continued improvement to its case management system. The nationally recognized case management system provides early court intervention, coordination, and continuous control of cases.

With the exception of the Mass Tort and certain Mortgage Foreclosure matters,<sup>2</sup> within 90 days of the filing of a new case, a Case Management Conference is scheduled before a case manager. Based upon the information submitted by the litigants and reviewed by the case manager, a Case Management Order (CMO) is issued.

The CMO places cases in specialized tracks for effective handling and prompt disposition. Major court events are identified and timelines provided for each track. Court events include: (1) Discovery, (2) Motion Deadlines, (3) Settlement conference with a Judge Pro Tempore (JPT), (4) Judicial settlement conference, (5) Pre-Trial Conference and (6) Trial. Court events are tracked to the progress of a case and provide litigants with multiple opportunities for resolution prior to trial.

Through stringent adherence to the deadlines set in the CMO, the Trial Division remains able to dispose of or otherwise

resolve a majority of cases within recognized model time standards. The deadlines established by the CMO take into consideration the various intermediate matters that require judicial review prior to trial. To that end, Discovery and Motions Courts remain very active within the section.

### Maintenance of Existing Programs

#### *Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program*

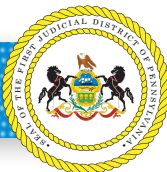
The Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program (Diversion Program) marked its ninth year of existence in 2017. Defendants in foreclosure actions involving owner-occupied, residential property (including reverse mortgages) are placed in the Diversion Program. The Diversion Program creates an opportunity for the parties to negotiate an agreement to avoid judgment and save their home. Eligible cases remain in the Diversion Program until: (1) a resolution is reached and the case is discontinued; (2) it becomes apparent that no home retention option is available to the homeowner; or (3) the homeowner fails to appear at a Conciliation Conference.

When a foreclosure action is filed for an owner-occupied, residential property, a Conciliation Conference is scheduled approximately forty-five (45) days from commencement. Between 150 and 300 conferences are scheduled every week.

<sup>1</sup> Civil inventory, for the purposes of this report, includes cases assigned to specific programs within the civil section.

<sup>2</sup> In every Mass Tort program, regular monthly or bi-monthly meetings are scheduled with counsel, the Coordinating Judge, and the Director. These meetings are mandatory and are designed to encourage participation by the Bar in creating case management procedures tailored to each program. Owner-occupied, residential mortgage foreclosure actions may be placed in the Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program. A Case Management Conference may be scheduled once the matter has been removed from the diversion programs.





At the Conciliation Conference housing counselors, whose presence is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, are assigned to each homeowner present. Representatives from various legal service organizations, including Community Legal Services, Philadelphia Legal Assistance, SeniorLAW Center, and Philadelphia VIP, are present in the courtroom and available to assist homeowners in more complicated cases.

For cases where a resolution cannot be reached without further court intervention, the case is assigned to a specialized track. A Case Management Conference is scheduled. At that conference, proper service is confirmed and an expedited case management order is issued. The case is placed on a thirteen (13) month trial track.

The Diversion Program has a steering committee which consists of representatives from various lender and borrower groups. The committee meets quarterly to discuss important issues relating to residential foreclosures. The 2017 Chairs were Michael McKeever, Esquire, of KML Law Group and Irwin Trauss, Esquire, of Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

### ***Petitions to Appoint Sequestrators***

The Commerce Court, in addition complex business disputes, hears Petitions to Appoint Sequestrators<sup>1</sup> for commercial properties. Once a lien is entered against the property and a writ of execution issued, the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia School District may petition the court to appoint a sequestrator. The sequestrator “shall have power to retain possession

as sequestrator until all the taxes owing at the time of his appointment shall have been collected or paid.” 53 P.S. § 7275. After initial review, a Rule is issued and a case management conference scheduled. The Commerce Court’s Sequestration Program has been in operation for less than 5 years. During that brief time, more than \$68 million dollars has been collected. More than 25%, \$17 million, was collected in 2017 alone.

## **Adjustment To Existing System**

### ***Civil Tax Petition***

In 2017, in response to the dramatic increase<sup>2</sup> in the filing of Real Estate Tax Lien by the City of Philadelphia under the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Act<sup>3</sup>, a new procedure was implemented. The new procedure is designed to ensure that Taxpayers have the opportunity to enter into an agreement with the City to pay their

delinquent real estate taxes and water bills. Upon the filing of a tax petition, cases are scheduled for a Rule Returnable Hearing.

Taxpayers who appear at the hearing are offered the assistance of housing counselors—whose presence is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Community Development—and attorneys from Community Legal Services. A hearing may be continued for ninety (90) days to give the parties time to enter into one of several types of payment agreements, including the Owner-Occupied Payment Agreement (OOPA), or for good reason.

A hearing officer calls the list for matters remaining. In cases where the Taxpayer fails to appear, the hearing officer conducts

**The Commerce Court’s  
Sequestration Program  
has been in operation for  
less than 5 years... more  
than \$68 million dollars  
has been collected.**

<sup>1</sup> To get the owner to pay the taxes it owes, the city asks the Court of Common Pleas to appoint a Sequestrator. A Sequestrator acts like a landlord, tending to the property, collecting rent and paying the taxes owed. When the debt is paid, the property may be returned to the owner. Should the Sequestrator deems it impossible to pay the debt, he or she can report the problem to the city and a tax foreclosure process may commence.

<sup>2</sup> In 2010, the city filed more 813 Real Estate Tax Lien Petitions (RETL Petitions). In 2017, 9,698 RETL Petitions were filed.

<sup>3</sup> 53 P.S. §§ 7101, et seq.



a review of the record as to service. If service was properly effectuated, the case proceeds. If the hearing officer is not satisfied that service was in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure, the case may be continued to allow Petitioner time to make proper service or refer the matter to be heard by a judge.

### ***Taxicab Medallion Loan Program***

In 2017, more than 100 cases involving defaults on taxicab medallion loans were filed with the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. In December 2017, the Court created a new program track, Taxicab Medallion Loan Program, to streamline the filing and disposition of actions involving, *inter alia*, breach of contract, confession of judgment, and foreign judgments in connection with

commercial loans to entities and persons who purchased taxicab medallions or taxi licenses in Pennsylvania. Matters will be processed through the Commerce Court Case Management Program. Deadlines and administrative protocols will be published in 2018.

### ***Non-Landlord Tenant, Possession of Property***

New case management protocols were established for non-landlord tenant, possession of property matters. These matters are now scheduled for case management conferences. Upon verification of proper filing and service of the Complaint, a case management order is entered. Matters are scheduled for trial, in the Trial Ready Pool, approximately three (3) months from the Conference date.

## **Education and Training Commitment To Access**

Access requires an educated judiciary and a prepared staff. Both judges and support staff are encouraged to attend, as well as present, at various education programs. Court personnel are made aware of changes in the law and the impact those changes may have on the court operations prior to implementation. This allows staff to continue to serve the public competently and efficiently. In November 2017, court staff received training on new protocols involving changes related to the retention of digital evidence. Additional training programs will be held in 2018.

The civil section provides an environment for law students and recent graduates to learn about court processes and improve legal writing and analysis skills. Each year, the Commerce Court welcomes the Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Recipient, named in honor of a deceased and most respected member of the judiciary. The Honorable Albert W. Sheppard

**The Arbitration  
Center is often  
visited by delegations  
from other states and  
foreign countries.**

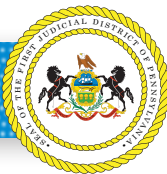
Scholarship supports a law student in a year-long clerkship position with the Commerce Case Management Program in Philadelphia. The civil section participates in Temple's State Judicial Clerkship Program and other programs in conjunction with area law schools and bar associations. The Philadelphia Court Judicial Fellowship Program, in its seventh year, continues to provide law school graduates with professional development opportunities.

The Arbitration Center is often visited by delegations from other states and foreign countries to observe the efficient operation of the Compulsory Arbitration Program. The Center also regularly hosts students from area law schools and City agencies to observe the Arbitration proceedings for educational and training purposes.

### ***Language Interpretation Program Expansion***

The Trial Division has implemented the 2017 AOPC policy of providing interpretation services to litigants requiring such service. The Division works regularly with the Interpreter Administration to facilitate the scheduling of interpreters.





## Commitment From The Bar Judge Pro Tempores (JPTs)

JPTs are important to the timely resolution of matters within the civil division. Settlement conferences held before JPTs help litigants reach a resolution or narrow the issues thereby saving valuable court resources. The Diversion Program also relies on these seasoned members of the bar to assist the parties in reaching resolutions without a trial. Commerce Court uses JPTs to assist in the managing and resolving of commercial cases.

In 2017, the court continued its efforts to recruit experience and diverse members of the bar to serve as JPTs as well as special masters, and receivers. Commerce Court worked closely with the Business Litigation Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association to identify eligible individuals. The court continued to provide training to interested and eligible attorneys. In 2017, the court held its second annual

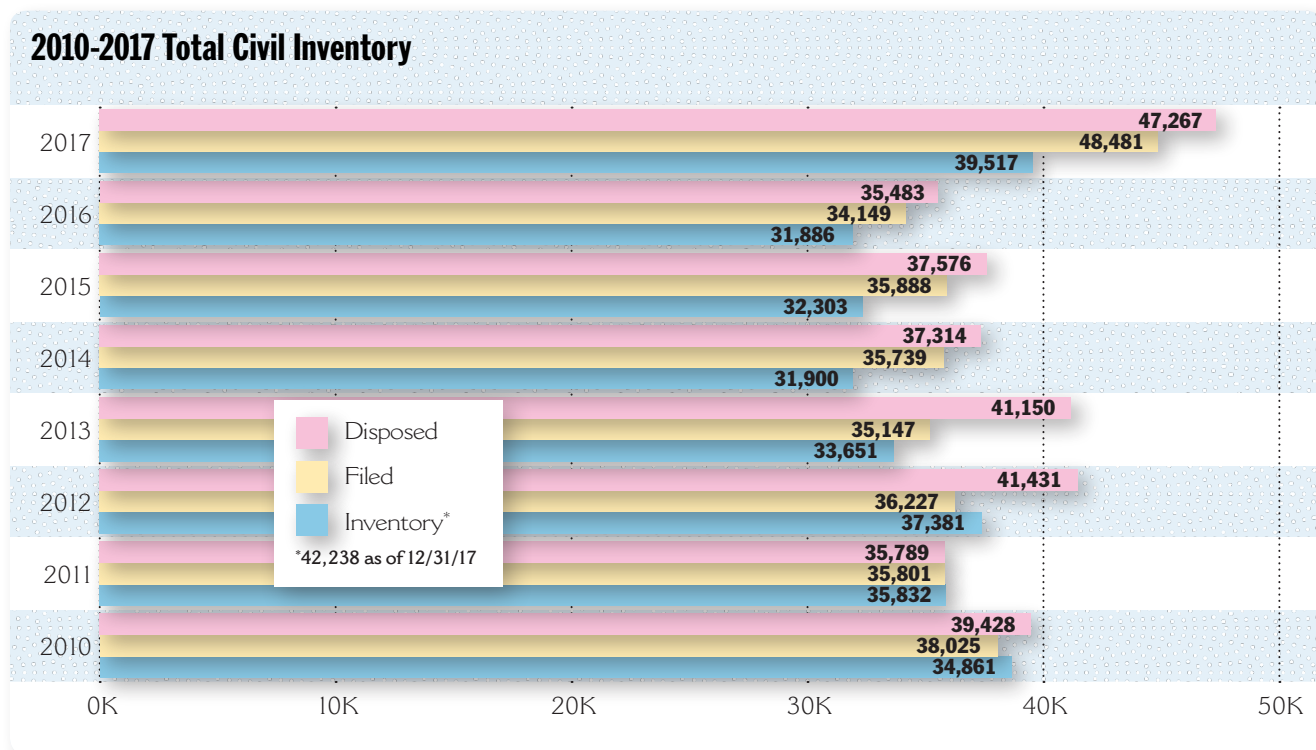
Continuing Legal Education training session for attorneys experienced in mediation and foreclosure issues who are interested in serving the court in this capacity.

### Arbitrators

Arbitration hearings are conducted before a panel of three certified attorneys. In 2017, the Arbitration Program had approximately 2,000 attorneys eligible to serve. The Arbitrators are able to donate their daily compensation to either Community Legal Services or the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. In 2017 nearly \$7,200 was donated to those entities. This amount represents a fifteen percent (15%) increase in donations by the Arbitrators.

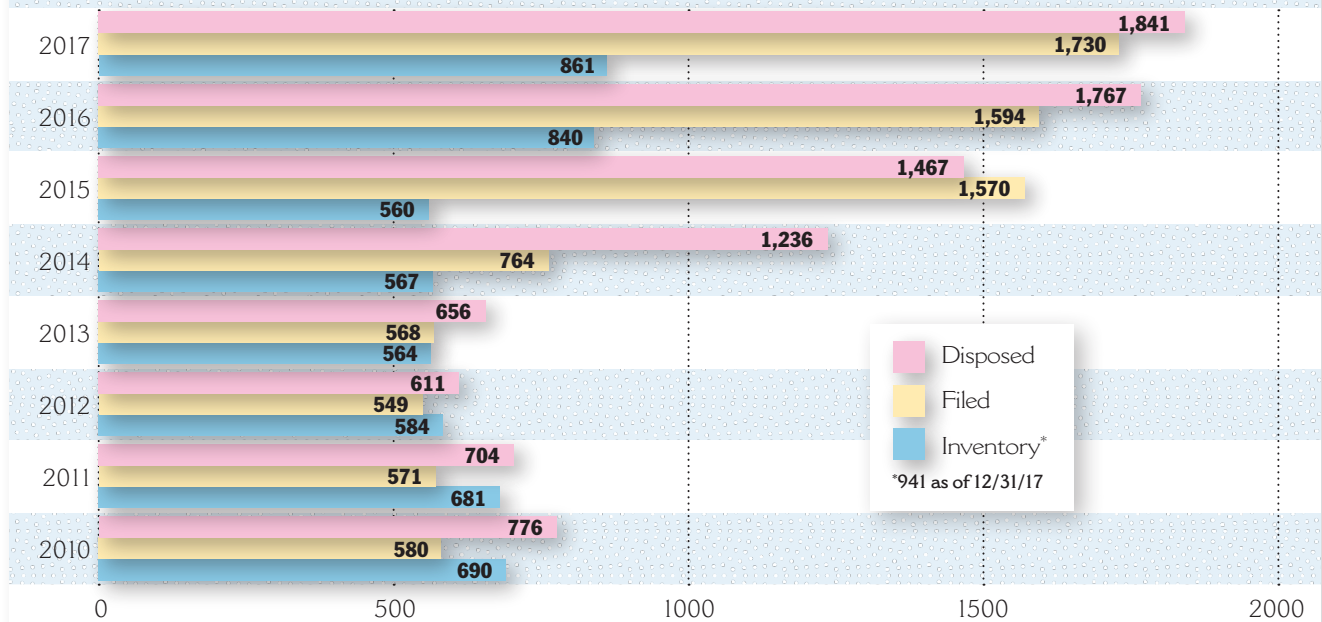
## STATISTICAL SUMMARIES

The civil section remains one of the busiest civil courts in Pennsylvania. Inventory includes cases filed and assigned

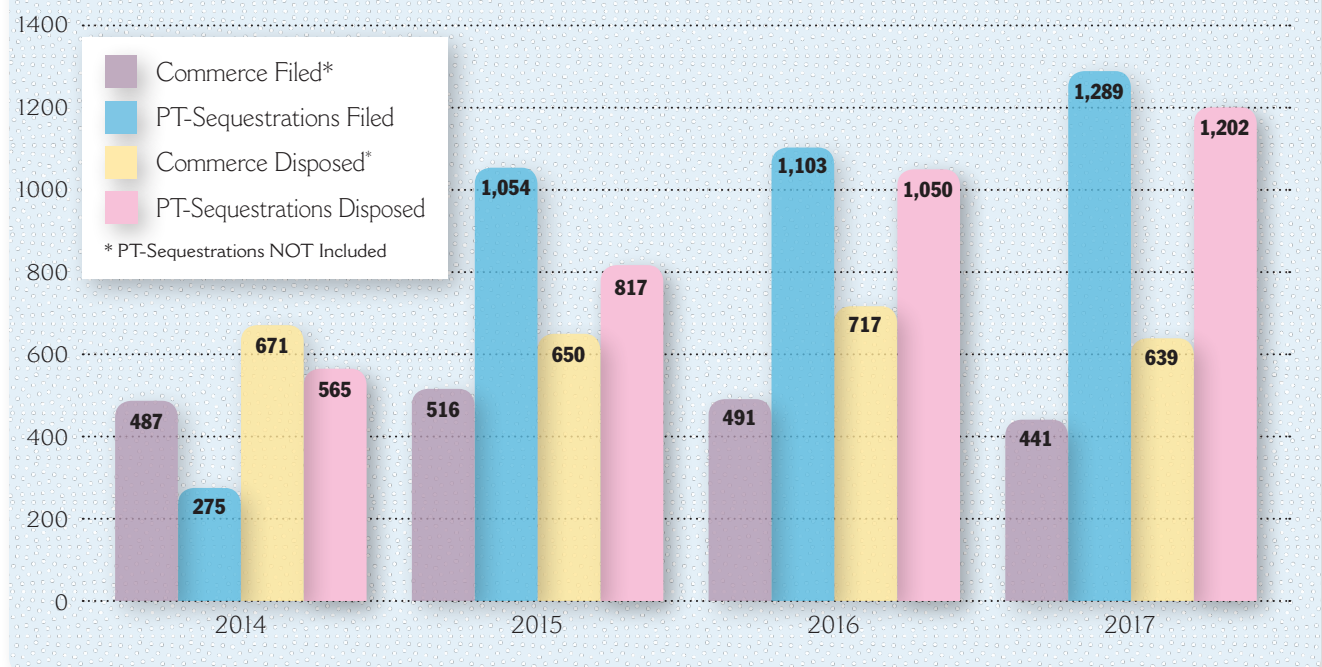




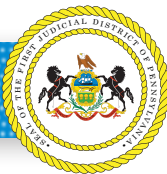
### 2010-2017 Commerce Program (PT-Sequestrations Included)



### 2014-2017 Commerce Program & PT-Sequestrations







to the Commerce Court Case Management Program, the Complex Litigation Center, Major Jury, or Compulsory Arbitration. Other matters handled by the civil section include ministerial matters.

## Commerce Court Case Management Program

In its 17th year, the Commerce Court Case Management Program (Commerce Court) continued to provide an efficient process for the adjudication of complex commercial litigation; to assure judicial expertise in the handling and deciding said litigation; and to develop a body of case law on commercial issues resulting in greater predictability for business transactions.<sup>1</sup>

During 2017, 1,730 matters were assigned to the Commerce Court. Of that number, 1,289 (75%) were Sequestration

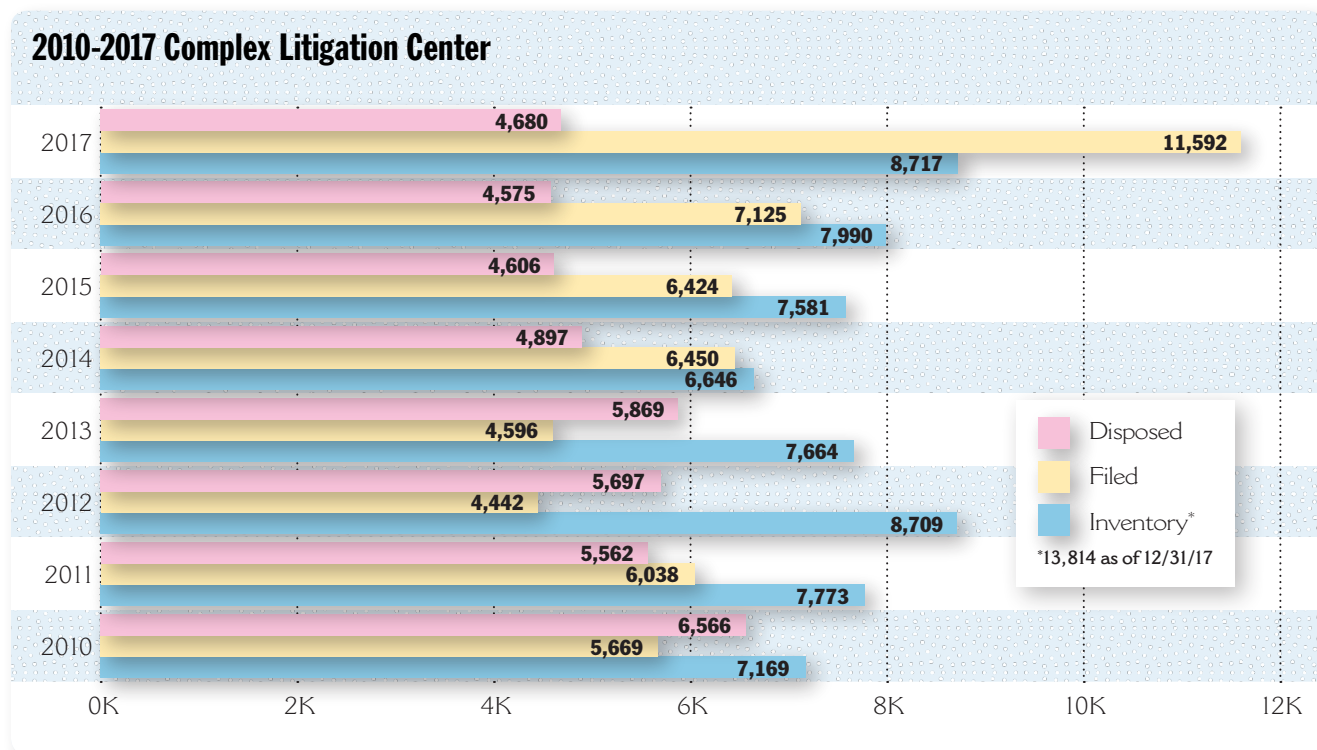
Petitions and 441 (25%) were commercial cases. By December 31, 2017, 639 commercial cases and 1,202 sequestration cases were disposed or otherwise resolved. Overall, ninety-six percent (96%) of cases filed with Commerce Court were disposed of within 25 months of the date filed.

By the close of the calendar year, 371 Sequestration Petitions and 570 commercial cases were listed as “Pending” within Commerce Court.

## Complex Litigation Center

The Complex Litigation Center manages the: (1) Mass Tort (Asbestos, Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices), (2) Major Non-Jury, (3) Arbitration Appeals Programs, and (4) certain Mortgage Foreclosure actions. These programs combined represent thirty-three percent (33%) of the 2017 total civil inventory.

<sup>1</sup>The judges of the Commerce Court have published more than 1300 opinions on the Commerce Court's website, 50 in 2017.





### Mass Tort Programs

In January 2017, the Mass Tort Program (Mass Tort) began with an inventory of 6,196 matters. Of the matters filed, 5,601 were Pharmaceutical and Medical Device (PMD<sup>2</sup>); 595 Asbestos. By the close of the calendar year, the inventory for Mass Tort rose to 10,984 (10,395 PMD and 589 Asbestos). This 77% increase in inventory is, in part, attributed to a surge of new PMD cases filed.

In 2016, 1,615 new mass tort actions were filed. In 2017, 5,405 new mass tort actions were filed (5,118

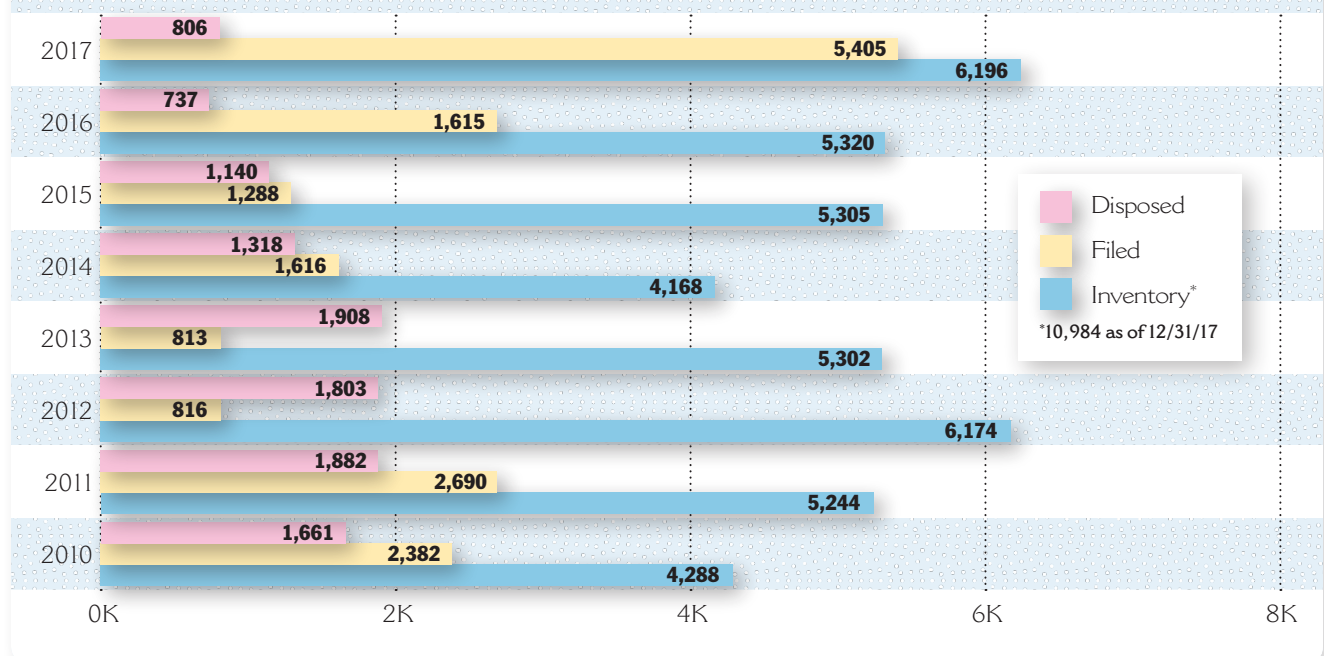
<sup>2</sup> Pharmaceutical and Medical Device includes Fire Fighters' Hearing Loss cases.

### Largest Pharmaceutical Programs

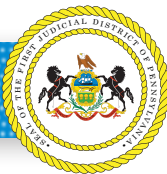
Mass Tort Program	Inventory Pending	% of Inventory Pending
Risperdal	6,200	56.45%
Reglan	2,073	18.87%
Xarelto	1,619	14.74%
Asbestos	589	5.36%
Vena Cava Filter	277	2.52%
Pelvic Mesh	119	1.08%
Firefighter Hearing Loss	85	0.77%
Yaz/Yasmin/Ocella	19	0.17%
Phen-Fen	2	0.02%
Paxil Birth Defect	1	0.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,984</b>	<b>100%</b>

The largest pharmaceutical programs remaining are Risperdal, Reglan, and Xarelto, respectively.

### 2010-2017 Mass Tort Program







PMD and 287 Asbestos). Risperdal accounted for 4,403 of the newly filed PMD cases and 454 for Xarelto.

### ***Dispositions***

Dispositions for 2017 totaled 806 cases, of which 493 were PMD cases and 313 were Asbestos related cases. Of those 493 PMD disposed, 173 were Risperdal cases; 91 were Yaz/Yasmin/Ocella cases; 82 were Pelvic Mesh cases; and 81 were Reglan cases.

### ***Time to Disposition***

■ **43% Total Mass Tort Time to Disposition** - Forty-three percent (43%) of the total Mass Tort dispositions were disposed within 25 months: 346 of the 806 Mass Tort records. This represents a 4% increase when compared with 2016. At the end of calendar year 2016, 39% of records were disposed.

■ **58% Time to Disposition for Asbestos** - Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the Asbestos records were disposed within 25 months of commencement: 181 of the 313 Asbestos records. This represents a 9% increase when compared with calendar year 2016. At the end of calendar year 2016, 49% records were disposed.

■ **34% Time to Disposition for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device** - Thirty-four percent (34%) of the PMD dispositions were disposed within 25 months: 165 of the 493 PMD records. This represents a 1% improvement when compared with calendar year 2016. At the end of calendar year 2016, 33% were disposed.

### ***Percentage of Out of State Plaintiffs***

■ **Asbestos – 12% Increase** - There has been a 12% increase in the number of new Asbestos case filings involving out of state plaintiffs, from 35% (2016) to 47% (2017). Of the 287 new Asbestos cases filed in 2017, 134 involved out of state plaintiffs.

■ **Pharmaceutical – 16% Increase** - The increase in new case filings involving out of state plaintiffs was noted in Pharmaceuticals. There has been a 16% increase in the number of new case filings involving “out of state plaintiffs” in our Pharmaceutical inventory, from 74% (2016) to 90% (2017). Of the 5,118 new pharmaceutical cases filed in 2017, 4,599 (90%) involved out of state plaintiffs.

### ***Major Non-Jury Program***

During 2017, the inventory for the Major Non-Jury Program increased by 142 cases (8%), from 1,745 to 1,887.

### ***Arbitration Appeals***

In 2017, 1,660 arbitration appeals were filed, an increase of 172 from the year prior. In 2016, 1,488 arbitration appeals were filed. Fewer arbitration appeals were disposed in 2017 (1,579) than in 2016 (1,676). Of the total number of arbitration hearings conducted in 2017, only 36% were appealed, a reduction of 1% from the year prior.

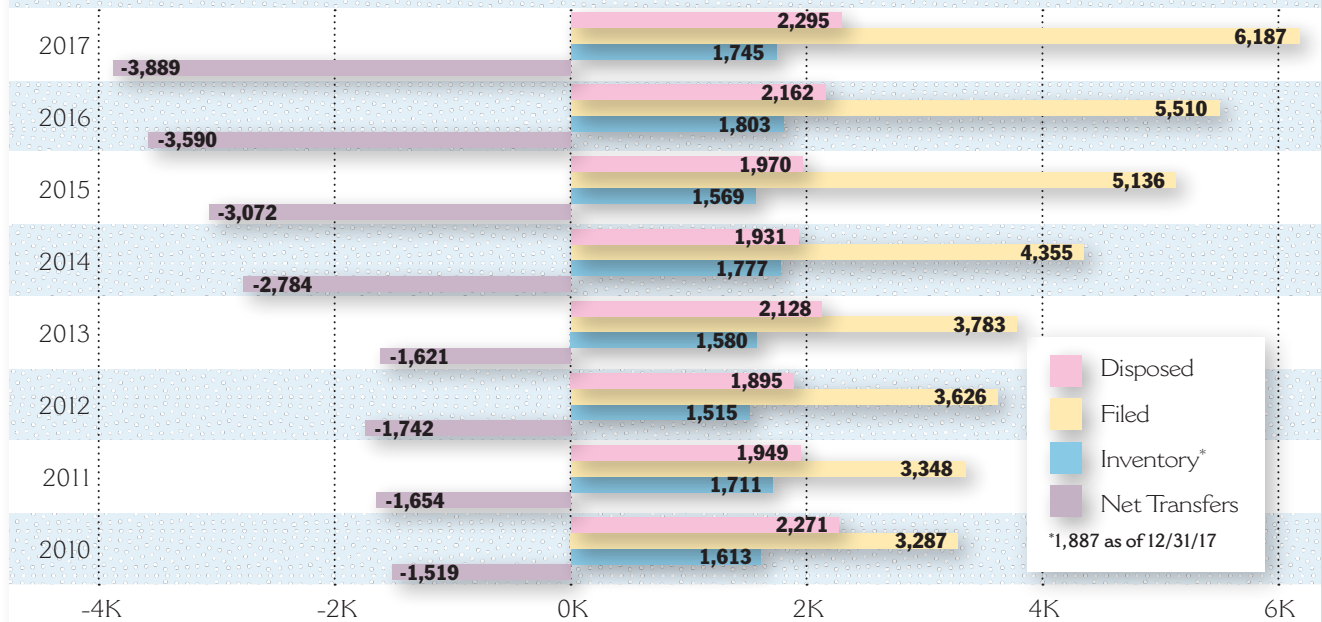
### ***Mortgage Foreclosures***

Residential mortgage foreclosure--owner occupied matters are assigned to the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program (Diversion Program) and are subject to a mandatory Conciliation Conferences. At the conclusion of the Conciliation Conference, provided there is no resolution or other disposition, the matter is placed in a trial track and scheduled for a Case Management Conference.

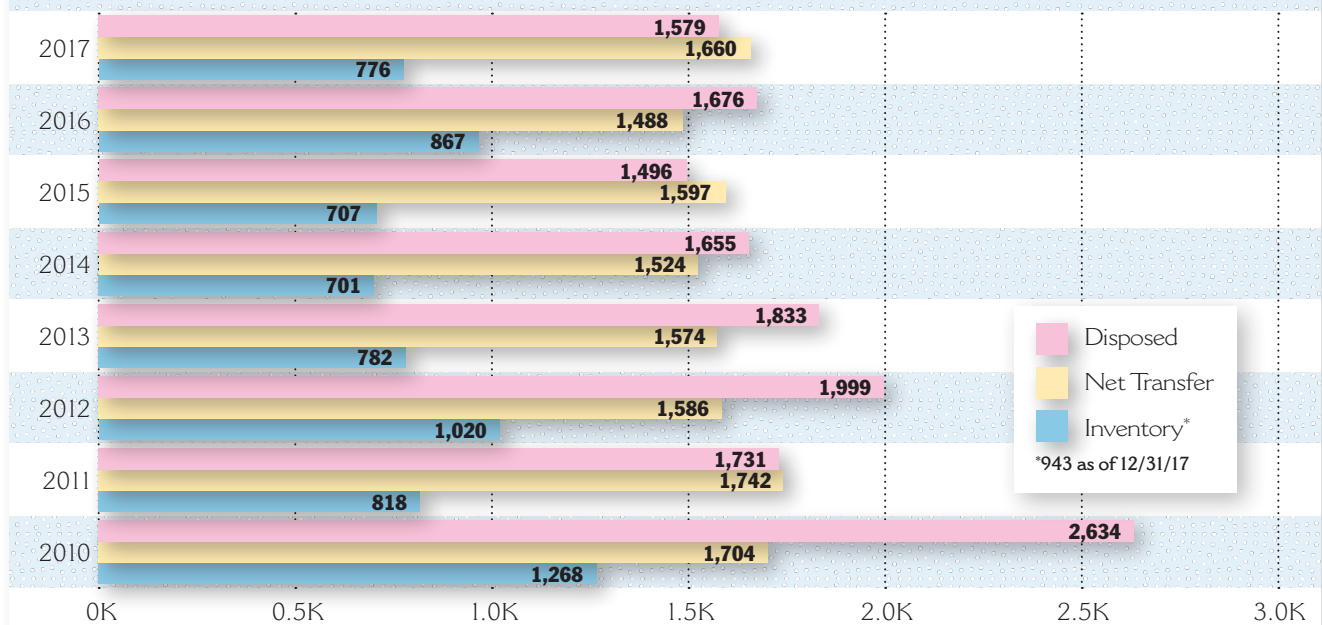
Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure actions are ineligible for the Diversion Program and are immediately scheduled for a Case Management Conference upon commencement. All



### 2010-2017 Major Non-Jury



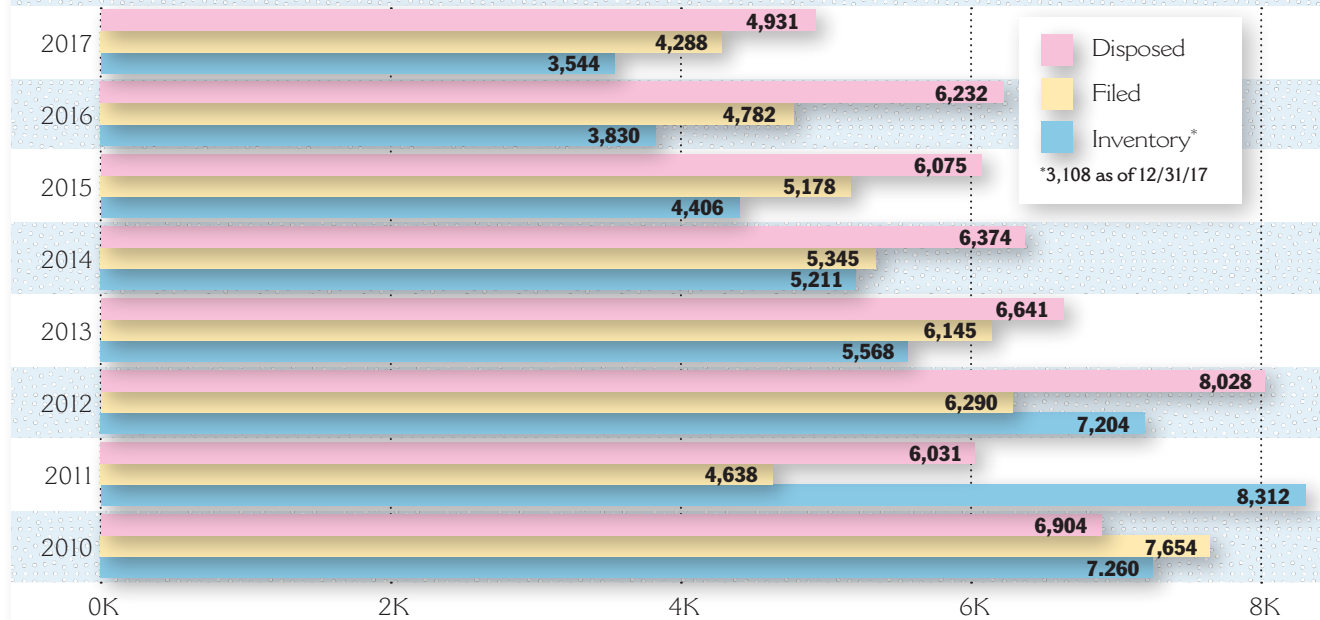
### 2010-2017 Arbitration Appeals



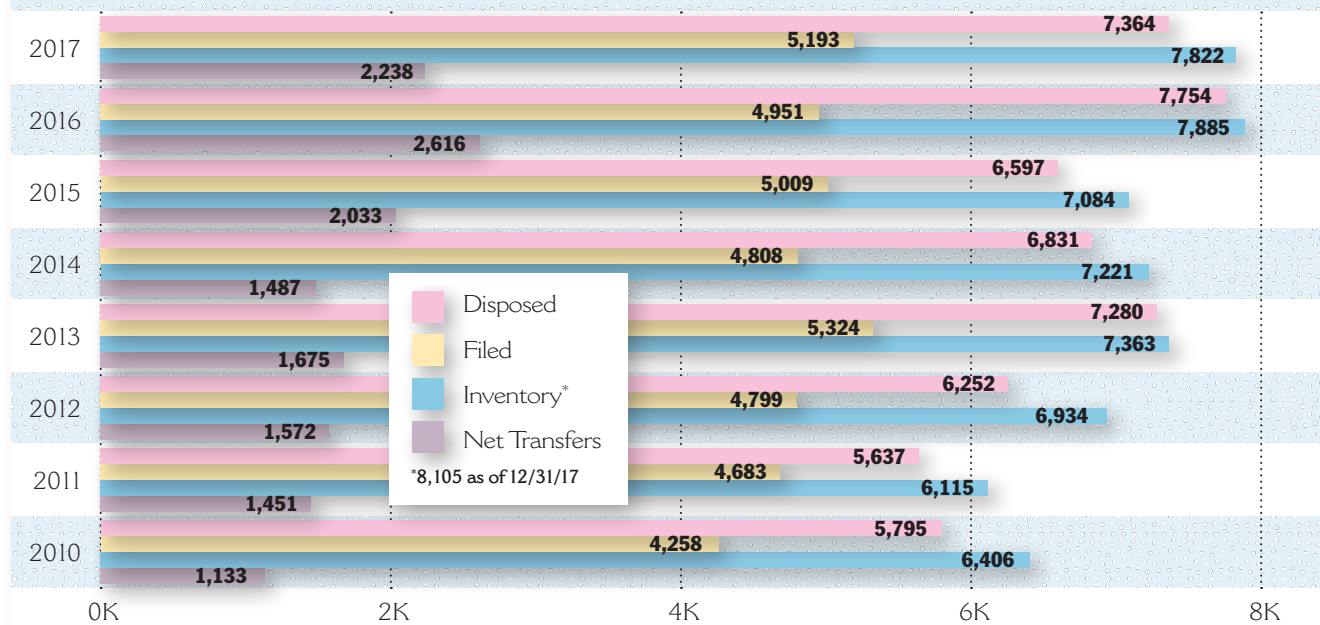




### 2010-2017 Mortgage Foreclosure Program



### 2010-2017 Major Jury Program





foreclosure actions, not assigned to the Diversion Program, are scheduled for pre-trial conferences and managed by the Complex Litigation Center for trial assignment.

During 2017, 4,288 Mortgage Foreclosure actions were filed: 3,617 residential; 671 non-residential. Of the total number of mortgage foreclosure actions filed in 2017, 311 cases were re-opened; 151 cases were transferred out of the program; and 4,931 were disposed. Within 25 months of filing, 91% of these cases were disposed or otherwise resolved. During 2017, the Mortgage Foreclosure inventory was reduced by 12%, from 3,544 to 3,108 (436 cases).

### Major Jury Program

In 2017, the Major Jury inventory increased 4%, from 7,822 to 8,105. During the year, 7,364 major jury cases were disposed. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the major jury cases were disposed or otherwise resolved within the case

processing model time standards established by the American Bar Association (ABA).

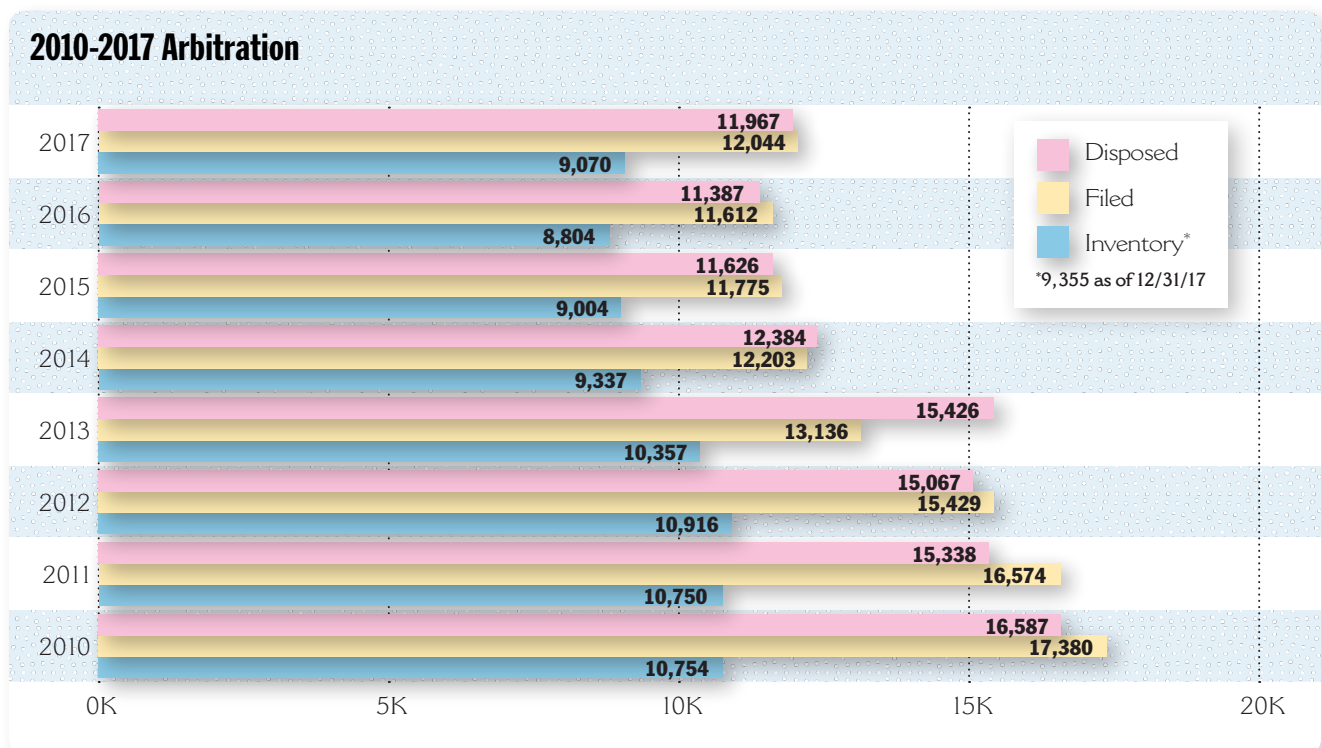
### Compulsory Arbitration Program

Having reduced costs associated with trial, the Compulsory Arbitration Program continues to be an effective forum for parties to resolve civil disputes with over 90% of the Center's cases concluding within one year of filing.

In 2017, the Compulsory Arbitration Program managed 22% of the Civil Trial Division's inventory with approximately 63% of the cases resolving at the Arbitration level.

### Motions and Statutory Appeals Program

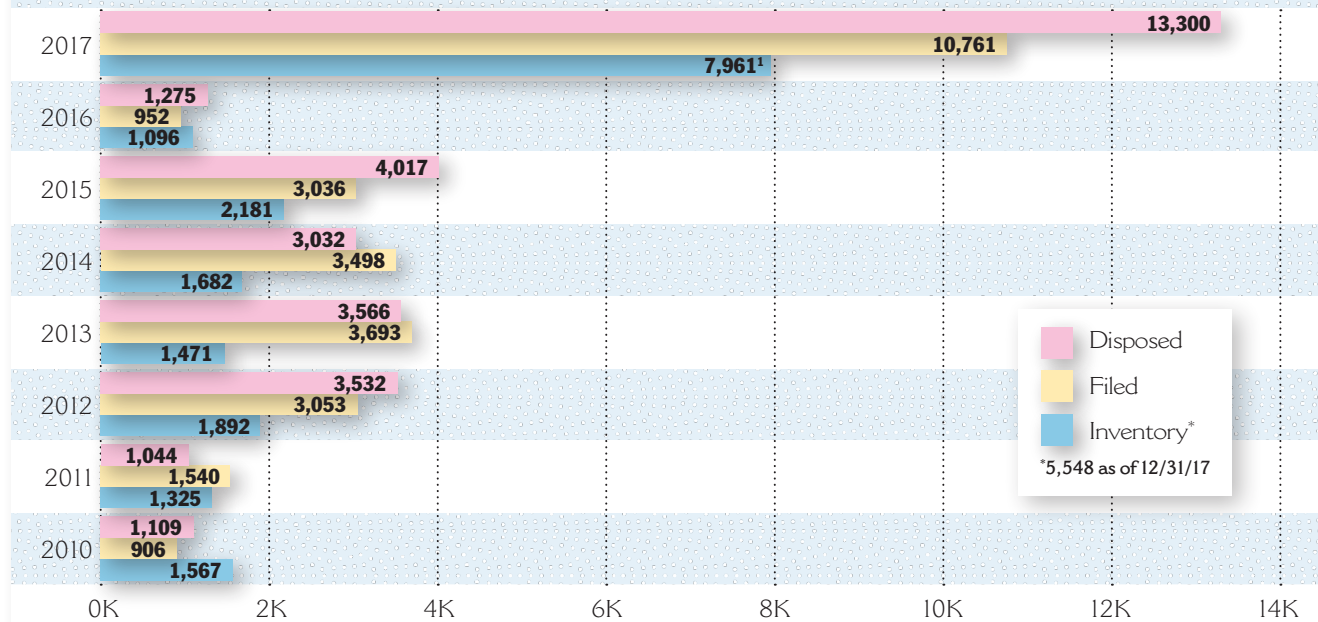
Judges in the Motions and Statutory Appeals Program are primarily responsible for the review and disposition of Preliminary Injunctions, Temporary Restraining Orders, Motions, Petitions and Statutory Appeals filed within the





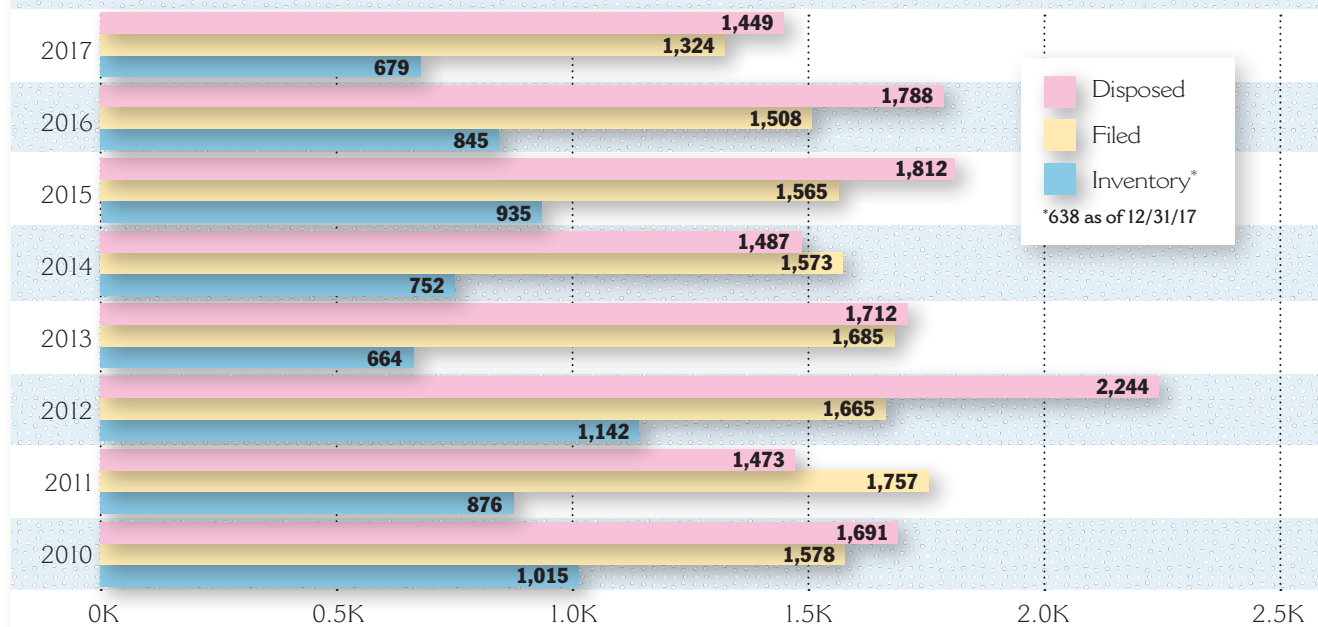


## 2010-2017 Programs Assigned to Motion Judges



<sup>1</sup> Real Estate Tax Lien Petitions were added to Programs Assigned to Motion Judges causing Inventory Pending as of 01/02/17 to increase from 824 to 7,961.

## 2010-2017 Governmental & Administrative Agencies





following Civil Programs: Compulsory Arbitration, Civil Tax, City of Philadelphia Equity, Landlord/Tenant, Lead Contamination, Agency Appeals, Municipal Court Appeals and Penn-DOT Appeals.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 23,600 petitions

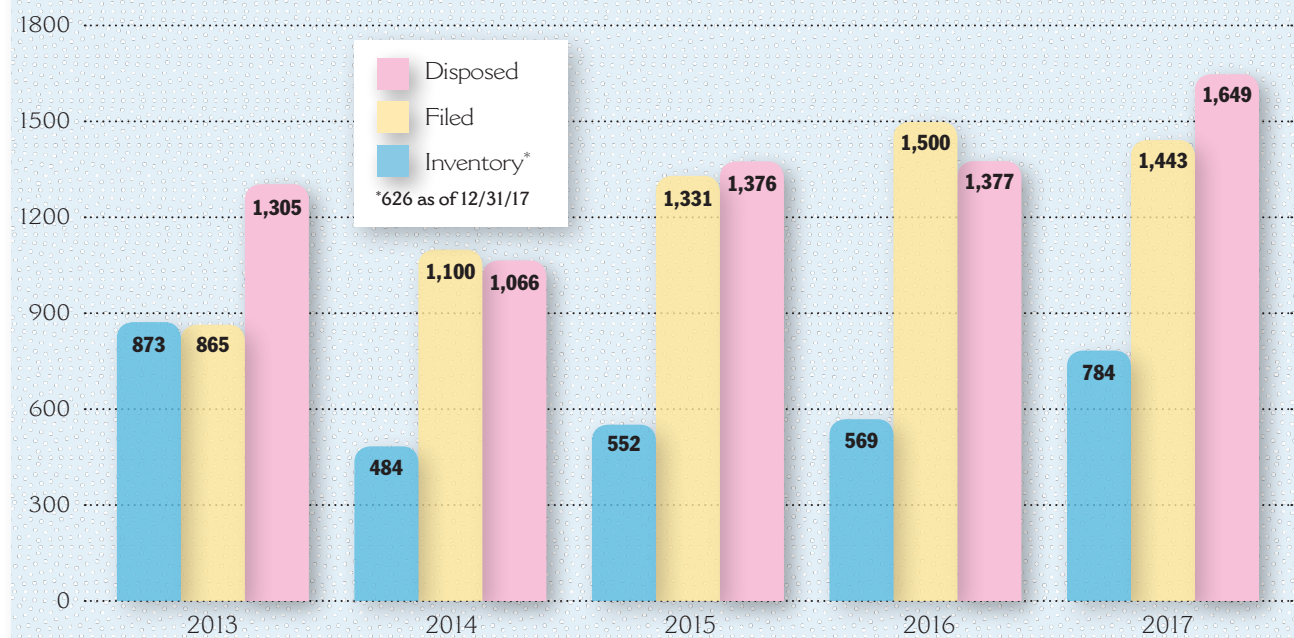
and/or motions were resolved by the Motions Court Judges throughout the 2017 calendar year.

<sup>1</sup> The assignment of motions and petitions to the Administrative Judge, Supervising Judge and Judicial Team Leaders of the respective

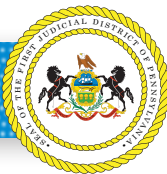
### 2017 Governmental & Administrative Agencies

	Pending 1/2/17	Filed	Re- Open	Disposed	Net Deferred	Net Transfer	Pending 12/31/17	Deferred	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Equity-City of Philadelphia	410	645	14	718	1	4	356	1	-54	-13%
Landlord/ Tenant Appeals	85	258	43	317	1	0	70	4	-15	-18%
Lead Contamination	34	1	11	53	0	0	43	0	9	26%
Penn-Dot Appeals	150	370	14	361	0	-4	169	2	19	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-6%</b>

### 2013-2017 Rent, Lease & Ejectment







### 2008-2017 Trials: Jury/Non-Jury

Year	Jury Trials	% of Jury Trials	Non-Jury Trials	% Non-Jury Trials	Total
2008	338	59%	234	41%	572
2009	320	62%	197	38%	517
2010	391	56%	312	44%	703
2011	258	48%	278	52%	536
2012	305	51%	293	49%	598
2013	347	61%	221	39%	568
2014	331	54%	283	46%	614
2015	318	50%	320	50%	638
2016	297	47%	331	53%	628
2017	293	40%	440	60%	733

#### Discovery Court Program

The Discovery Court Program operates in accordance with the alternative motion procedures set forth in Philadelphia Rule of Civil Procedure (Pa. R.C.P.) \*208.3 with the Discovery Unit encompassing just about all Trial Division – Civil programs. The assignment of discovery motions to judicial teams is an important component of the Court’s civil case delay reduction strategy. This strategy provides early and appropriate intervention in cases within the various civil programs. All Discovery petitions and motions (except in Mass Tort cases and cases already assigned to an individual Judge) are presented to, argued before, and determined by the Discovery Court Judge.

During calendar year 2017, the Discovery Unit was responsible for processing and assigning 28,135 motions, petitions and stipulations requiring Court approval. The unit also processed and managed 296 Name Change Petitions.

#### Dispute Resolution Center

The Dispute Resolution Center is an integral part of the Trial Division – Civil as its purpose is three fold:

- Centralize the location for mandatory settlement conferences;
- Enhance uniformity in practice and procedure for settlement conferences; and to
- Offer counsel and parties the appropriate facilities to assist in the timely disposition of civil cases.

As part of the initial case management order issued in civil cases, a mandatory settlement conference is scheduled. These occur after discovery, motion, and expert deadlines so that the parties have a thorough understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their cases and can approach settlement negotiations in a fully informed and meaningful manner. Depending upon the case type and case management



### Medical Malpractice Inventory

Year	Filed	Active	Disposed	Total % Disposed	Deferred
2012	414	1	411	99%	2
2013	376	0	371	99%	5
2014	382	13	369	97%	0
2015	381	101	270	71%	10
2016	378	235	135	36%	8
2017	406	344	58	14%	4

track (expedited, standard or complex), mandatory settlement conferences will take place six (6) to twelve (12) months after the initial Case Management Conference and two (2) to three (3) months before trial.

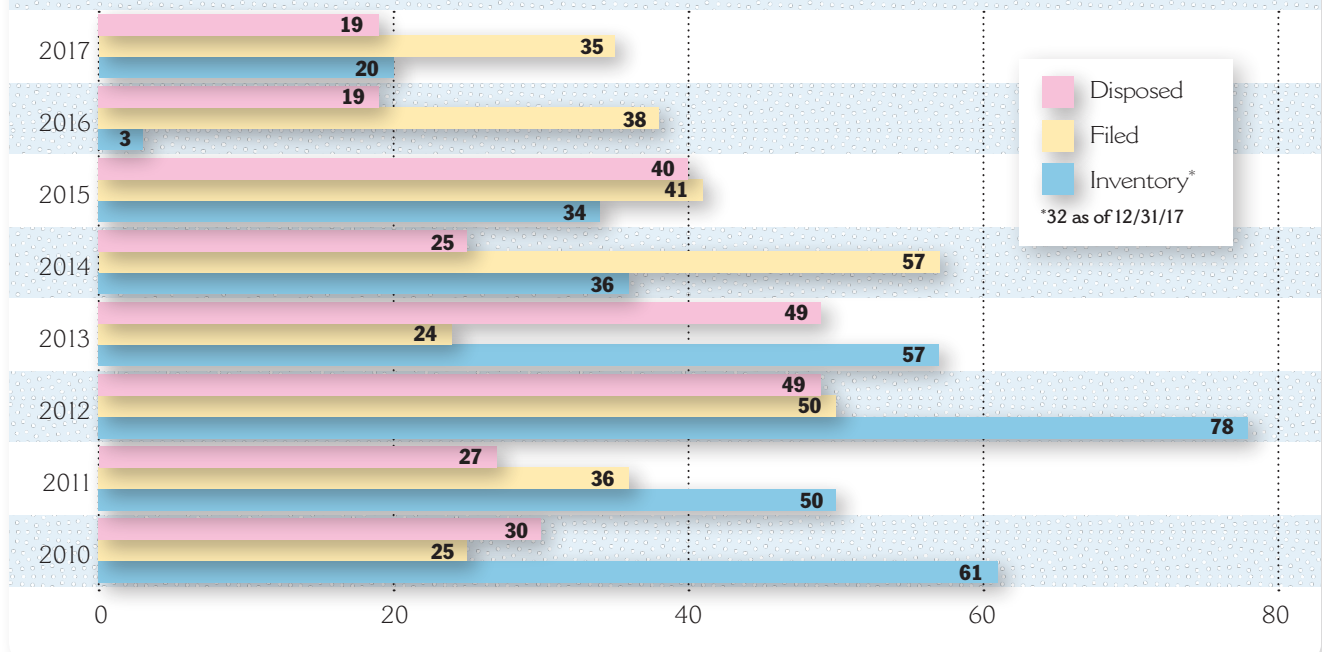
The mandatory settlement conferences are presided over by

a Judge Pro Tempore (JPT). JPT's are recruited from experienced members of the Philadelphia Bar. On average, four (4) JPT's preside each day; each handling six (6) to eight (8) conferences daily. Consequently, approximately thirty-two (32) conferences are held daily.

During calendar year 2017, exactly 4,222 settlement conferences were conducted within the Dispute Resolution Center. Thirty-one percent (31%), or 1,319 cases, were amicably resolved;

five percent (5%), or 204 cases, were transferred to the Compulsory Arbitration Program; and less than one percent (1%), or 37 cases, were transferred to binding arbitration programs. The remaining sixty-three percent (63%), or 2,659 cases, proceeded to the next significant Court event (i.e., pre-trial conference or trial).

### 2010-2017 Class Actions







## TRIAL DIVISION – CIVIL INVENTORY

- **New Filings:** Including arbitration matters, the Trial Division – Civil received a total of 48,481 new filings during calendar year 2017.
- **Dispositions:** Total civil dispositions for 2017 equaled 47,267. Excluding arbitration matters, the Court disposed of 35,300 civil records.
- **Trials:** There were 293 Jury Trials and 440 Non-Jury Trials conducted in the Civil Section of the Trial Division during calendar year 2017.
- **Records Pending:** Civil records pending as of December 31, 2017 totaled 42,238; representing a seven percent (7%) increase in records pending when compared to the prior year.



### Trial Division - Civil Program

	Civil Records Pending	Percent of Inventory
Mass Tort (Asbestos & Pharmaceuticals)	10,984	26.0%
Arbitration Program	9,355	22.1%
Major Jury Program	8,105	19.2%
Programs Assigned to Motion Judges	5,548	13.1%
Mortgage Foreclosure Program	3,108	7.4%
Major Non-Jury & Arbitration Appeals	2,830	6.7%
Commerce Program	941	2.2%
Rent, Lease & Ejectment	626	1.5%
Governmental & Administrative Agencies	638	1.5%
Conservatorship Act 135	71	0.2%
Class Actions	32	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,238</b>	<b>100%</b>



## TRIAL DIVISION - CRIMINAL

### Criminal Listings

The Criminal Trial Division conducted formal arraignment for 10,006 cases during 2017 as compared to 10,995 cases during 2016. The Division disposed of 12,074 cases in 2017. Of these, 4,052 cases (29.7%) were disposed in the SMART pre-trial courtrooms. In 2016, the Criminal Trial Division disposed of 13,580 cases.

Criminal Listings, in conjunction with Courtroom Operations, has been successful in reducing the inventory of aging active criminal cases that are over 1,000 days old. As a result of a program of monitoring this inventory, highlighting these cases to the presiding judges, and targeted hearings before the Supervising Judge, the inventory of these cases has been reduced from a high of 404 in August of 2016, to 226 in November 2017.

In 2017, the FJD, with the assistance of the District Attorney's Office, streamlined the procedure by which individuals can get cases expunged. As of October 2017, all expungement petitions are reviewed electronically by the District Attorney's Office after which a response of consent or objection is filed. If the District Attorney's Office consents to the petition, the petitioner is notified that his appearance is not necessary and an order will be mailed directly. If the District Attorney's Office objects, the hearing takes place before the Criminal Motions Judge. The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office consents to more than 80% of expungement filings, thus eliminating court time for those cases.

### PCRA Unit

It was another year of development, growth, and innovation for the Criminal Listings Department. Several steps were

taken to further improve our PCRA process. The first step was to assist Research and Development and the Information and Technology departments with developing a new PCRA inventory report. It has been a successful inventory tool assisting the judiciary and judicial administration in their mission to efficiently manage the PCRA inventory.

Another step taken in September, 2017, was the decision to designate a dedicated judicial authority to handle all reassignments of PCRA matters filed on cases where the judge is no longer sitting, retired, or deceased. Additionally, a CLE for PCRA was designed and held in December, 2017, in attempt to increase the number of attorneys willing to be

appointed to PCRA cases. This session produced new attorneys to be court appointed to PCRA cases.

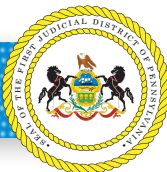
**The Criminal  
Trial Division  
disposed of 12,074  
cases in 2017.**

### Specialty Post Trial Programs

Several specialty programs/assignments were developed or continued throughout the year to handle a wide variety of specific post-conviction filings. The Honorable Kathryn Streeter-Lewis has been tasked with the review of the approximately 320 petitioners who were juveniles when they were sentenced to life in prison. As of the end of the year, 40% of the defendants had been resentenced.

The FJD Common Pleas Court, lead by the President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, has nearly completed the review and adjudication of the PCRA cases arising from the indictment of a group of Philadelphia Police officers. By year's end, there were approximately 200 matters remaining to be adjudicated from the original 1,300 cases filed by the Defender Association in 2014. Also, an *en banc* panel was formed to address Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) claims filed on behalf





of approximately 350 defendants by the Defender Association. The review and adjudication of these matters is ongoing.

## Mental Health Court

The First Judicial District Mental Health Court (MHC) reported several notable achievements during 2017. There were 59 referrals to MHC during 2017, of

which 30 were admitted bringing the total number of participants in the program to 180. MHC had their annual goal achievement ceremony on September 28, 2017, recognizing 35 program participants who met or surpassed milestones or goals set by the court. Secretary John E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections was the keynote speaker.

## Courtroom Operations

In 2017, the Court of Common Pleas Video Program flourished with 5,060 State and County matters scheduled via video resulting in transportation savings of \$486,575. In addition, the Attorney/Client Video Interview Program scheduled 754 State and County video interviews resulting in the early disposition of approximately 30% of these matters.

In conjunction with Municipal Court and the Sheriff's Department, the Attorney/Client Same Day Video Interview Program was instituted on December 4, 2017. This program allows for attorneys to meet via video conference with their custody clients on the day they are scheduled for court. This program saves valuable time as custody defendants need not be brought to the courtroom unnecessarily. In just its first month, 50 defendants were seen by counsel utilizing this new program.

The Municipal Court Case Consolidation Program resolved 2,627 Municipal Court cases in the Court of Common Pleas. Also, nearly 100 matters have been scheduled pursuant to the Rule 631A Waiver Program (jury selection without the presence of the judge) which saves many hours of judicial time to address other matters.

The Ready Pool Program addresses cases over 1,000 days old. At the inception of this program, the number of matters was nearly 900. Currently, the number has decreased to approximately 230 cases. The Daily Ready Case Pool Program

which "spins" out ready cases on daily basis to available judges resulted in nearly 300 cases being disposed, instead of potentially being continued to another date.

In addition, Courtroom Operations personnel have coordinated and hosted Studies Program participants from elementary through graduate school; assisted in the planning and carrying out of numerous special court sessions including swearings-in, portrait unveilings, memorial services and various other ceremonies.

## Research and Development Unit

The Research and Development Unit had another productive year filled with collaborative efforts both within the FJD and in conjunction with our justice and behavioral health partners. At the request of judicial leadership, research staff led efforts to create an online tool to assist with managing the PCRA inventory. Staff worked with the IT Department, the PCRA unit, and Office of Judicial Records to create the FJD's first PCRA online application that allowed judges to review their inventory. This application was released late in the summer, and a more sophisticated application doubling as an in-depth look at PCRA individuals, cases, and inventories, and a source of data extraction for researchers to create monthly reports is forthcoming in 2018.

The acquisition of Tableau software has greatly facilitated



the generation and sharing of complex data reports. Numerous reports were put into production in Tableau this year, examples include Municipal Court Dispositions and Filings, the Appearance Rate Report, Common Pleas Continuance Rates, Municipal Court Continuances Rates, Early Bail Review Outcomes, Early Parole Petition Outcomes, Early Resolution Expansion, and the Prison Population Summary. Many of these reports are for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, as two of the four employees in the unit are funded by the MacArthur grant.

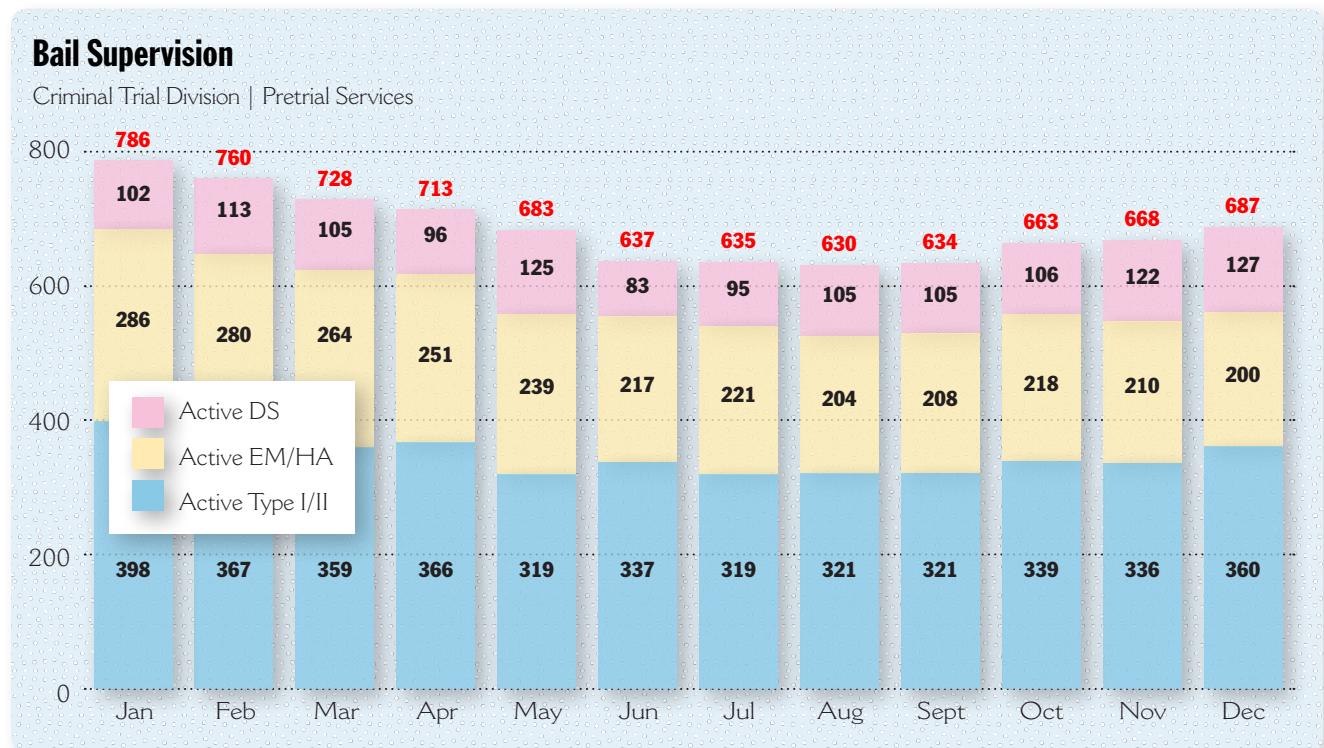
The Research and Development unit has made great strides in addressing issues with data integrity and data sharing. The unit was integral in discovering and subsequently resolving substantial issues with the prison data used for MacArthur reports. The research staff works frequently with the IT Department to build Quality Control measures as needed for various applications and reports. Additionally, staff completed a comparison of race/

ethnicity data across all justice partner databases to assess accuracy, as reducing race/ethnicity disparities in the prison population is one of the tenets of the MacArthur grant.

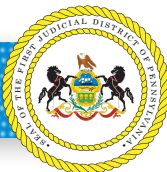
The unit continues to be recognized by its justice partners and the MacArthur Foundation as an invaluable resource for monitoring outcomes and providing evidence to effect change. Dr. Henderson, Director of Research and Development, was asked by the MacArthur Foundation to present on all of the work being done in Philadelphia around data at the bi-annual MacArthur Conference in October. The coming year will undoubtedly bring additional collaborations and continued success.

## Pretrial Services

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania's Pretrial Services Department had a successful 2017. Pretrial Services saw a significant change in the Electronic Monitoring (EM)







Unit in 2017. The Electronic Monitoring Unit is a 24/7 operation. Prior to 2017, this unit was utilizing hardware and software that was procured in the mid-90s. In 2017, Pretrial Services trained all staff and transitioned all pretrial and post-trial defendants to the new equipment. The hardware and software upgrade/conversion was made possible through a grant funded by The MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge.

In 2015, the average number of days in custody prior to being placed on EM was 37 days; by 2017, it was 27. On average, defendants' stays in prison have been reduced by 10 days. The goal is to reduce this number with the implementation of the new EM equipment and technology that allows the process to be expedited. These numbers will be fully realized as we move through 2018. In 2017, the EM Monitoring Room fielded 64,483 total alerts, while the Field Team completed 1,315 EM installations, 963 field interviews, and 1,421 maintenance requests.

The Pretrial Services Bail Interviewing Unit had a productive 2017 as well. In 2017, there were 35,558 defendants interviewed. In 2017, 50.5% of residential addresses were verified which is down slightly from 2016 which saw 53.03% of addresses verified. In 2017, the unit obtained email addresses in 54.1% of interviews which increased from 2015 (22.73%) and 2016 (50.79%). Residential verifications and email addresses greatly assist the court, pretrial supervision, and an array of other justice partners as the case moves through the system.

With the addition of interpreter services in May 2016, we have seen the number of interviews waived due to language barriers drop significantly. In 2015 38.6% of interviews were waived due to language barriers and that number tumbled to 20.2% in 2016 and 4.9% in 2017.

**Pretrial Services experienced a decrease in the total number of defendants on pretrial supervision from 2016 to 2017.**

Pretrial Services experienced a decrease in the total number of defendants on pretrial supervision from 2016 to 2017. The decline was mainly due to the significant reduction of those supervised on Type I, Type II, and EM releases. There was an increase in the number of those on Direct Supervision from 2016 to 2017 due in part to the Early Bail Review program which has placed more defendants into this type of supervision.

The Pretrial Services Data Verification Unit is also a 24/7 operation with significant figures to report. The unit had 2,876 NCIC inquiries that required a response in 2017. Pretrial Bench Warrant Court employees assisted in disposing 3,138 bench warrants in the surrender room and 7,189 from the jail in 2017.

Throughout 2017, Pretrial Services was heavily involved in The MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge. Philadelphia's Justice Partners and the City were awarded \$3.5 million for multiple initiatives, several of which fall under the purview of the Pretrial Services Department. As discussed above, one of the projects which has completed was the new EM hardware and software.

Pretrial also participated in the MacArthur supported development of Municipal Court's Early Bail Review Program in which a subset of defendants are given bail reviews automatically after five days in jail. Pretrial staff prepare a report which includes each defendant's success or failure with pretrial in the past, as well as failure to appear history for the court's consideration. As part of this program, Pretrial Services received funding from MacArthur for an additional Pretrial officer to supervise those being released from these hearings. This position is grant funded for one more year. Also in 2017, with MacArthur funding, Pretrial hired 2 additional EM Field Team employees who assisted with



the transition and in the growth of the EM post-trial population for additional grant-funded initiatives.

Additionally, this grant allows Pretrial Services to create a home grown, state of the art risk tool to be used to determine a defendant's risk of failing to appear in court and

risk of reoffending while in pretrial posture. This is slated to be completed in 2018. Additional initiatives were funded for Pretrial Services that will begin in 2018 and 2019, which include additional staffing for Pretrial Supervision of defendants, a needs assessment, and a social worker.

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## **Adult Probation And Parole**

### **Smart Supervision Grant**

The Adult Probation and Parole Department (APPD) received its second, one-year extension from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to continue implementing and refining the project components and moving forward with the evaluation of the project. Specific efforts included strengthening the APPD's use of evidence-based practices in interactions between officers and offenders, making adjustments to the needs assessment interface and continuing data sharing. During this period, APPD continued to collaborate with its academic partners from George Mason University (GMU) and Temple University (TU) to realize the grant goals and sustain the progress made.

### **Soaring 2 Observations**

APPD supervisors continue to complete observations of officer and offender meetings. In addition, the supervisors completed a series of refresher trainings on SOARING 2 and have led learning sessions with their unit members to promote sustained development in the use of the techniques. Supervisors also provided suggestions that were incorporated into the ongoing observation and feedback procedures.

### **Needs Assessment and Case Plan**

APPD continues to assess new offenders for criminogenic needs and develop structured case plans to respond to those target areas, such efforts increase the chances of success on supervision.

### **Focus Groups**

Researchers from Temple University held a focus group with officers to assess perceptions of the changes in department procedures as a result of the grant. Data collected from these sessions provided valuable information about how the new tools are used in practice and ways to promote the sustainability of the new procedures.

### **MacArthur Grant Proposal**

APPD administration, along with other Philadelphia justice partners, remain involved in the MacArthur Foundation's competitive Safety and Justice Challenge, an ongoing, collaborative process to develop a comprehensive, data driven plan to reduce the local prison population and the disproportionate number of incarcerated minorities and impoverished defendants.

### **Detainer Alternative Program**

The Detainer Alternative Program (DAP) is the first of two initiatives developed by APPD, its various Criminal Justice Partners and the Public Defender. DAP is a graduated sanction that provides a non-specialized offender, who meets specific eligibility requirements, an opportunity to engage or re-engage in substance abuse treatment with the support of involved agencies in an effort to provide the best possible avenue of addressing his/her needs, in lieu of incarceration. The APPD and its partners launched the DAP





in January 2017. One probation officer has been assigned as the DAP officer. As of the end of 2017, 133 individuals have participated in the program. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of removed individuals have graduated. Only 5% of removed individuals have incurred a new arrest. The current caseload at the end of 2017 was twenty-three (23) individuals. As of the end of 2017, this diversionary initiative has prevented its participating offenders from serving a combined total of 9,025 days in custody.

**As of the end of 2017, 133 individuals have participated in the DAP. 39% have graduated.**

## Violation Electronic Monitoring

The Violation Electronic Monitoring (VEM) program is an alternative to incarceration for supervision offenders, who meet specific eligibility requirements and are awaiting final disposition of Violation of Probation hearings. Following the training and equipment transition to the new electronic-monitoring vendor, a total of 240 monitors have been dedicated exclusively to the VEM program. On December 4, 2017, the APPD formally instituted the VEM Unit, assigning six (6) probation officers and one (1) supervisor. The APPD launched Phase I of VEM on December 11, 2017.

## Implicit/Explicit Bias Curriculum

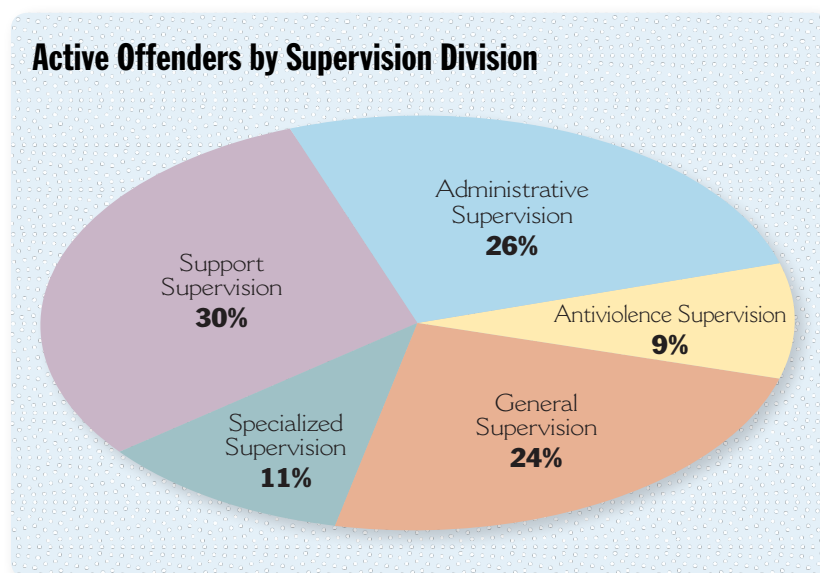
Consistent with all its Justice Partners, the APPD leadership participated in a one-day session to introduce “The Mind Sciences,” consisting of a lecture and interviews by the Perception Institute. A follow-up session was held in the Fall of 2017, with a representative sample of APPD managers to introduce “The Mind Sciences” curriculum and begin to develop an agency-specific Implicit/Explicit Bias Training. At the end of 2017, the APPD leadership chose an online training module,

to be developed in conjunction with subject matter experts from the University of California - Berkley, who plan to hold focus groups with staff during the first quarter of 2018. An anonymous internal climate survey measuring APPD staff perceptions of the agency’s awareness of and response to potential racial and ethnic bias will also be conducted during the beginning of 2018. The results from the focus groups and survey will help inform the development of the resulting training for staff. The goal is to have an online training module ready for

testing with members of the APPD staff by Spring of 2018.

## Armed Officer Warrant Initiative

In 2017, the APPD continued to participate in warrant initiatives with Juvenile Probation and the Philadelphia Police Department. The goal of this initiative is to apprehend offenders in APPD Absconder status. To date, this multi-agency collaboration has assisted with information gathering and sharing, apprehensions of absconders and enhanced community safety.

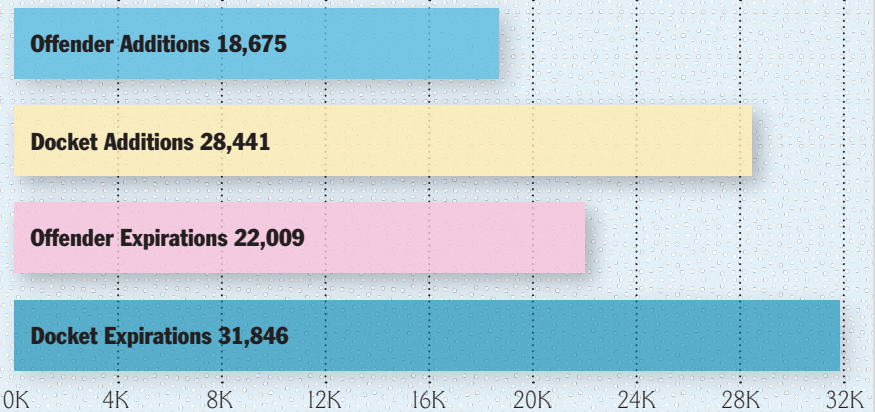




With respect to the APPD absconders, warrant initiatives were completed 23 times during 2017. One-hundred fifty (150) attempts were made to apprehend APPD absconders, resulting in a total of 36 successful arrests. In addition to the apprehension of APPD absconders, several confiscations occurred during operations, including and not limited to firearms, weapons, controlled substances and drug paraphernalia. Items seized as a result of these

### 2017 APPD Inventory of Offenders and Supervision Dockets

Criminal Trial Division | Pretrial Services



**Total number of offenders supervised by APPD on 12/31/2017..... 42,282**

**Total number of dockets supervised by APPD on 12/31/2017 ..... 63,950**

### 2017 Workload Figures

New Arrests	8,826
<b>Gagnon I Hearings</b>	
Held	16,775
Lifted	409
Cancelled	317
<b>Gagnon II Hearings</b>	
Dockets Scheduled	23,313
Dockets Scheduled By Unique Date	35,588
Dockets Revoked	10,709
Drug Tests Administered With Result In Pcms	66,187
Presentence Investigations Administered	2,457
Needs Assessments Completed	4,389
Case Plans Completed	4,348

warrant attempts are turned over the Philadelphia Police Department for processing.

Absconders where also apprehended during normal field operations by officers in the APPD Armed Officer Program (AOP) has also apprehended absconders during normal field operations. These encounters occurred while officers where in the community conducting home visits. In 2017, the AOP apprehended a total of 12 absconders.

While in the field, the AOP confiscated narcotics, paraphernalia, and contraband while inside offender residences. In most instances, these actions taken by Probation officers do not result in the filing of new charges. The confiscated items are logged and safely secured.





## OFFICE OF JUDICIAL RECORDS

### Financial Services (FS)

OJR Financial Services collected **\$326.5 million** during calendar year 2017. **\$9.23 million** were collected in fines, fees and restitution, **\$41.3 million** was collected in bail, **\$37.2 million** was collected in civil filing fees and **\$238.8 million** civil escrow payments. In addition, FS disbursed **\$1.96 million** in restitution and **\$8.35 million** in bail refund. OJR FS also oversaw the

collection of \$7 million in restricted and unrestricted revenue and disbursement of \$2.8 mil in bail poundage to the City of Philadelphia.

#### 2017 City Disbursements - Partial Listing

OSP	\$758,023
OJR	\$427,362
Bail Poundage	\$2,810,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,996,151</b>

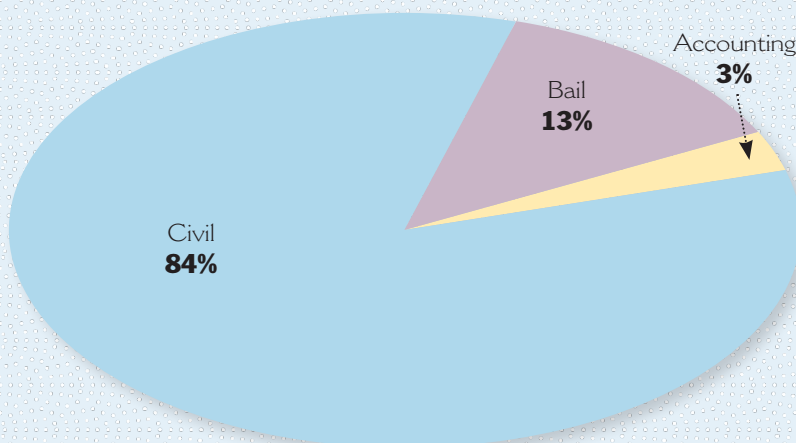
#### 2017 Revenue Collection Summary by Type

Civil Filing/Escrow	\$275,945,783
Bail	\$41,368,588
Accounting F/C/R	\$9,234,426
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$326,548,797</b>

#### 2017 Disbursements to City of Philadelphia

Restricted Revenue <i>Sup Fee, Diversionary Courts etc.</i>	\$1,810,294
Unrestricted	\$ 5,236,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,046,996</b>

#### 2017 OJR Civil Collections by Revenue Type



### OJR Civil

Civil filing fees were the area with the highest revenue collection for calendar year 2017, accounting for approximately 84% of total collections. In conjunction with banking services, FS continues to comply with judicial orders and accounting procedures to allow thorough accountability, accuracy and speed in receipting and disbursement of funds.



## OJR Criminal

For calendar year 2017, FS accounted for \$50.6 mil in bail posting and collection of court assessments.

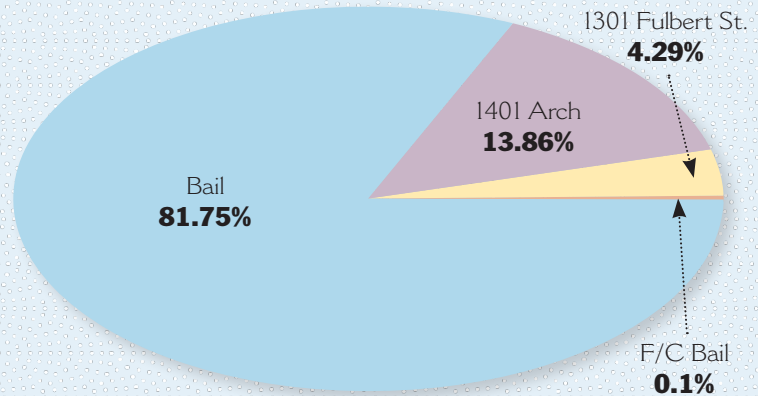
## Accounting Units

FS has two Accounting Units. These units are responsible for processing electronic and other forms of payments. Services are offered to the public at two different locations: Stout Center for Criminal Justice, Room B101 and 1401 Arch Street, First Floor. The public can remain financially compliant with court orders by using the following payment options: wage deduction; Online ([www.philacourts.us](http://www.philacourts.us)); in person at 1401 Arch Street location (this location offers after

hours services once a month).

For calendar year 2017, FS collected \$9.23 million in fines, fees and restitution. As part of our fiduciary responsibility, FS

### 2017 OJR Criminal Collections by Revenue Type



For calendar year 2017, the Accounting Unit, Stout Center disbursed 11,884 checks to victims of crime for a total of **\$1.9 mil** in restitution and 9,323 checks in bail refund for a total of **\$8.3 mil**.

### 2017 OJR Revenue

Bail	\$41,368,588
F/C/R Total	\$9,234,426
SCCJ-F/C	\$2,171,482
Bail - F/C	\$1,188
1401 Arch	\$7,011,756
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,603,014</b>

## OJR Payments

	2016	2017	Difference
Professional Bondsman	\$20,432,890	\$29,346,690	\$8,913,800
Real Estate	\$735,000	\$537,086	-\$197,914.5
Monetary Bail	\$11,935,842	\$11,484,813	-\$451,029.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,103,732</b>	<b>\$41,368,588</b>	<b>\$58,264,856</b>





is also responsible for disbursement of funds collected. Recipients include state and local agencies, victims of crime entitled to restitution and sureties entitled to refund of the bail collected, upon full and final disposition of the case.

## Bail Acceptance Unit

Bail security collections and proper posting of the funds in compliance with bail guidelines and judicial orders remains priority one for the Bail Acceptance Unit (BAU). In addition, BAU accounted for \$43.4 mil in bail securities - an increase of approximately \$8.3 mil from last year.

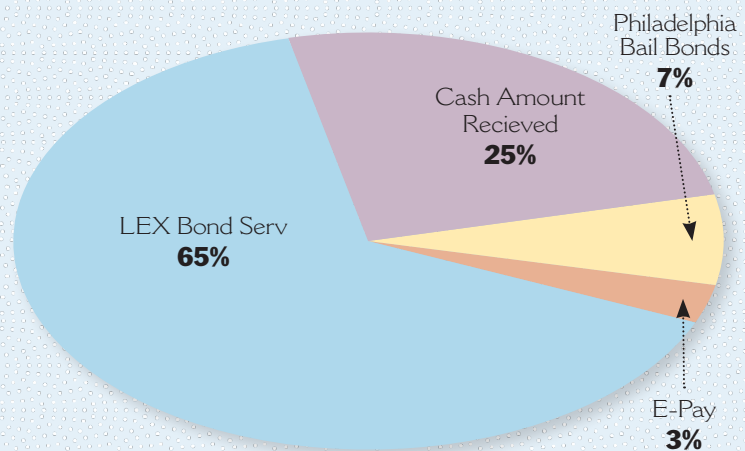
This increase was associated only with the Professional Bail bondsman payments. From 2016 to 2017 the professional bail payment increased by \$8.9 mil while the real estate bail and monetary bail saw a decrease of \$197,000 and \$451,000 respectively.

An increase in activity on the E-Pay Bail, a convenient method of payment for the public, has been noted. In 2017, BAU observed an increase from year 2016 of \$702,866 in e-payments and increase of 627 transactions. For calendar year 2017 the unit processed 10,882 bail transactions, an increase of 1,529 from last year. Monetary bail remains the most frequently used method of payment followed by e-pay and professional bondsmen.

## 2017 Payments

Over the Counter	\$2,502,844
Electronic Payments	\$4,296,771
Mail	\$84,051
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,883,667</b>

## 2017 Bail Collections



## Financial Services Office

Financial Services Office is responsible for review of deposits, disbursements and adjustments for all activities

## E-Pay Bail

	2016	2017	Difference
Amount	\$1,402,576	\$699,710	\$702,866
Transactions	1277	560	627



## 2017 Reconciliations

	Deposits	Amount	Checks Issuance	Amount
Cash Bail	5,688	\$11,914,450	1,679	\$12,576,216
Court Assessment	4,988	\$10,463,605	12,668	-\$9,836,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,676</b>	<b>\$22,378,055</b>	<b>14,347</b>	<b>\$22,412,383</b>

related to funds receipted in the Criminal side.

For year 2017, Financial Services Office reconciled \$22 mil in bail and court assessment revenue.

In addition, the Unit oversaw the Day Backward reconciliation of \$2.3 mil in legacy bail account and adjustment and clearing of 975 deposits.

## 2017 Accomplishments

OJR, Financial Services is very excited to report on progress of completed and ongoing projects and ready to face new challenges in the upcoming year. A few areas and projects that we are currently working on are as follow:

- Bail Acceptance Unit continues to process bail payments through E-pay bail. The initiative has received overwhelming acceptance by the public and the public

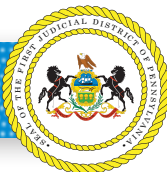
serving organizations and entities. The online payment allows the public to make payment for the loved ones through the comfort of the home in all lower court cases that do not have additional bail conditions. The Unit processed 1,277 payments and receipted approximately \$1.4 mil through this method of payment.

- Office of Judicial Records collaborated with Philadelphia Police Department and Mayor's Office in implementation of stations in the Central Booking Center. This will allow arrested individuals who have credit cards in their possession to post

Photo by Theresa Cannon







bail themselves, significantly reducing the time frame of the bail posting process and eliminate unnecessary transportation to holding facilities, furthermore generating financial savings and efficiencies to the Criminal Justice System as a whole.

- Bail Acceptance and Bail Refund Units are working closely with Community Organizations to facilitate the process of non-profit organizations posting bail on behalf of incarcerated individuals.

- OJR Administration and Bail Acceptance Unit are assisting the Philadelphia Police Department in drafting Standard Operating Procedure in relation to bail activities and how it relates to the Police Officers duties in simplifying and expediting the system in an efficient and uniform manner.

**Accounting processed \$128,089 in payments from CMC collection agency and created a formal process to effectively contact the agency for referred cases and receive timely credits.**

- Accounting processed \$128,089 in payments from CMC collection agency and created a formal process in aiding the public to effectively contact the agency for referred

cases and receive timely credits for payments submitted.

- Finance Unit, Civil finalized the new financial component in BANNER allowing for better accountability of assessing and receipting in civil case management system. In addition, a new web based system – BARS (Banner Assessing and Receipting System) was implemented and currently being tested in Family Court and Civil Court. Municipal

Court has also implemented parallel cashiering system.

- Bail Acceptance created a database to maintain inventory of documents surrendered per court order.





**FAMILY COURT DIVISION** ■







## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE *Margaret T. Murphy*



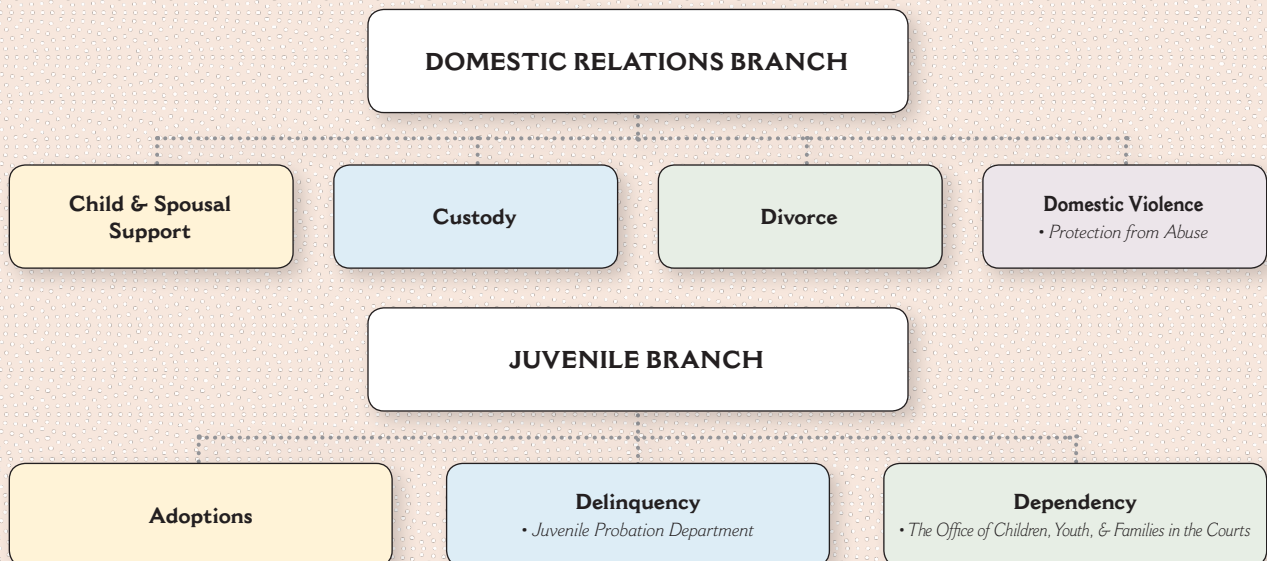
**O**n behalf of the dedicated Judges, Administrators and Staff of Philadelphia Family Court, Supervising Judge Walter J. Olszewski and I are very pleased to present Family Court's 2017 Annual Report. On a daily basis, approximately 4,500 people enter our state-of-the art Courthouse, to address their most personal and sensitive issues, ranging from matters involving domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, delinquent and dependent children, custody of children, support for children and families, divorce and adoption proceedings.

We serve the most vulnerable and at risk children and families in Philadelphia, and we strive to provide each child and family with innovative programs and resources to meet their unique, varied and often complex needs. Our report highlights some of the measures we have implemented in our various units and departments, in order to provide greater access to justice to so many in need of our assistance. The successes we have achieved in Family Court are a result of the efforts of our committed Judges and employees, who work collaboratively with our stakeholders and partners, and who together seek to improve the quality of justice in Philadelphia.

We look forward to continuing to serve the children and our families in Philadelphia, as part of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

Portrait Photo by Anthony Leonardo

**L**ed by Administrative Judge Margaret T. Murphy and Supervising Judge Walter J. Olszewski, the Family Division, as part of the First Judicial District, consists of the Juvenile Branch and Domestic Relations Branch. Twenty-four (24) judges are assigned to Family Court and approximately 800 full-time employees. This report will provide some highlights of the day-to-day operation of the Philadelphia Family Court. Philadelphia continues to be a model court in both the Juvenile Branch and Domestic Relations Branch by implementing widespread reforms that are both fiscally and socially responsible.



**Domestic Relations Branch Judges**

Honorable Ida K. Chen  
Honorable Michael Fanning  
Honorable Holly J. Ford  
Honorable Elizabeth Jackson  
Honorable Joel S. Johnson  
Honorable Christopher Mallios  
Honorable Maria McLaughlin  
Honorable Ourania Papademetriou  
Honorable Doris Pechkurow\*  
Honorable Daniel Sulman  
Honorable Diane Thompson

**Juvenile Branch Judges**

Honorable Amanda Cooperman  
Honorable Lori A. Dumas- Brooks  
Honorable Joseph Fernandes  
Honorable Vincent Furlong  
Honorable Daine Grey  
Honorable Richard J. Gordon  
Honorable Jonathan Q. Irvine  
Honorable James Murray Lynn  
Honorable Robert J. Rebstock  
Honorable Allan L. Tereshko\*  
Honorable Lyris Younge

\*Indicates Senior Judge

## JUVENILE BRANCH

**T**he Juvenile Branch has jurisdiction over delinquency, dependency, truancy, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings. Juvenile Branch judges also preside over criminal matters involving juvenile victims and adult defendants.

Deputy Court Administrators (DCAs) Mario D'Adamo, Esq. and Kathy Grasela appointed in 2017, work directly with the Administrative Judge and Supervising Judge of Family Court, to carry out the initiatives identified by the Court Administrator of FJD. The Deputy Court Administrators are responsible for managing the overall operation of the Juvenile Branch.

Chief of Juvenile Probation, Faustino Castro-Jimenez, oversees the Juvenile Probation Department along with Deputy Chief Bennie Price, who directs the daily functions of the department.

**The Juvenile Branch  
has jurisdiction  
over delinquency,  
dependency, truancy,  
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proceedings...**

The Juvenile Branch judicial component consists of eleven (11) judges and one (1) senior judge. Five (5) of the juvenile court hearing officers are stationed in the courthouse; one (1) to preside over delinquency hearings, and four (4) to preside over dependency matters.

Our judicial reach is also extended by assigning four (4) juvenile court hearing officers at regional courts for truancy hearings and one (1) at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (PJJSC) for pretrial and detention hearings.

The Juvenile Branch consists of the Adoptions Branch, the Court Operations Units, the Juvenile Probation Department, Specialty Courts and Courtrooms, Specialized Service Units, and the Office of Children, Youth, and Families in the Courts. This report will focus on performance, reform, innovation, collaboration, and celebration by Family Court in the past year.





## Delinquency - Juvenile Probation Department

Justice is best served when the community, victim and youth receive balanced attention and all gain tangible outcomes from their interaction with Juvenile Probation. When crimes occur, it is not an isolated phenomenon, but affects the entire community. Therefore, the mission of the Juvenile Justice

System is to protect the community from delinquency, to impose accountability for offenses committed, and to restore the victim. Consequently, there are three clients- the community, victim and offender whom shall receive equal consideration from the Juvenile Justice System in order to reduce crime and restore order.

## Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) and Juvenile Justice Enhancement Strategies (JJSES)

In Philadelphia, as in the rest of Pennsylvania, the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy has been embraced to enhance the capacity of the juvenile justice system so as to achieve balanced and restorative justice (BARJ).

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provided legislative mandate through the passage of Act 33 in 1995. The amendment to the act redefined the mission and purpose of the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania. Act 33 clearly mandated that the juvenile justice system shall provide equal attention to the victim, the community, and the juvenile. By doing so, the juvenile justice systems and Probation Departments across Pennsylvania since have endeavored to achieve a balanced approach when dealing with acts of delinquency. Accordingly, the three tenets of balanced and restorative justice are supported through: 1) community supervision and protection, 2) residential treatment for rehabilitative and competency based services for youth, 3) victim restoration and engagement. Evidence based research is used to guide practice and includes the framework of balanced and restorative justice.

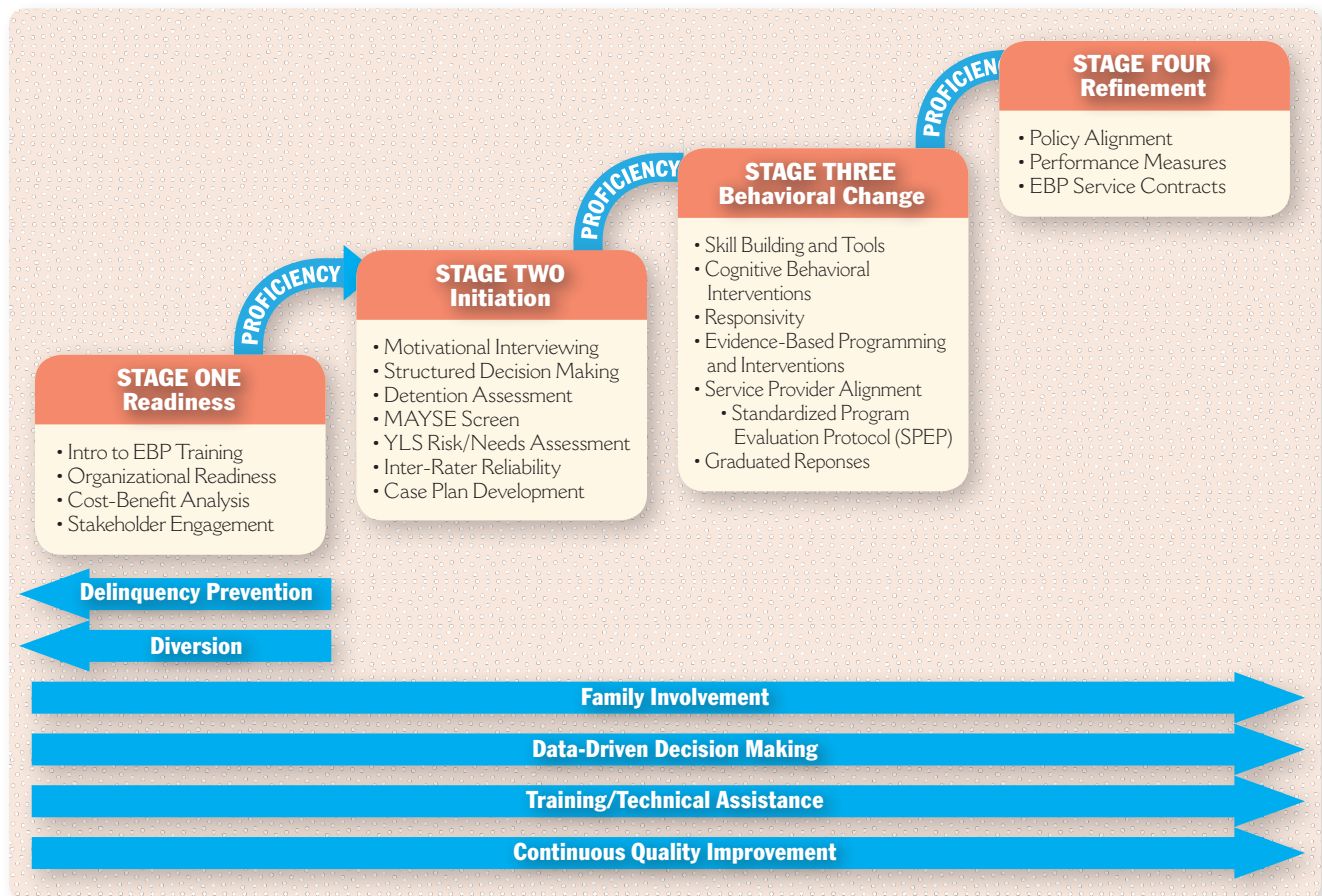
Philadelphia Juvenile Probation is committed to providing evidence based practices with respect to the most current and valid research findings. In 2009, Pennsylvania took the initiative and developed the Juvenile Justice Systems Enhancement

Strategies (JJSES). JJSES has four stages (see illustration) to assist local jurisdictions to effectively implement evidence based practices. Evidence based practice is the application of evidence from research studies to inform decision making within processes and systems. Research has taught us that when applying effective evidence based practices, there is a reduction in recidivism.

During stage two of the JJSES, Philadelphia implemented the use of an evidence based risk assessment tool, the Youth Level of Service (YLS). This instrument assists the juvenile probation officer (JPO) by determining the top criminogenic needs and with a services matrix, JPOs can refer youth to community based agencies that will

address the criminogenic needs. The YLS aids the JPO in determining the amount of supervision dosage and duration that a juvenile requires depending on the juvenile's level of risk; low, moderate, high and very high. This prevents JPOs from overwhelming juveniles with too many services and supervision, as research has shown that providing too many services to a youth can be detrimental to their progression on supervision. The principles of BARJ and the four stages of JJSES go hand in hand when providing juveniles probation supervision. By utilizing evidence based practices such as the YLS and Graduated Responses, juvenile probation is addressing competency development, accountability and community protection. The stages are fluid and currently, we are in between stages two, three, and four of JJSES.





## Juvenile Probation Overview

As a leader in providing critical probation services to youth and families, Philadelphia's Juvenile Probation Department strives to promote policies and reforms consistent with the mission of the Juvenile Justice System in Pennsylvania. Outcomes for Philadelphia's most disadvantaged youth while under probation supervision continue to trend positively. The realization of two new units within the Juvenile Probation Department has further focused the Department's resolve to better serve families and seek those resources that can effect real change. This year the department restructured its' geographic districts to create two new units, piloted a Graduated Response System, and designed,

developed, and opened the Post - Adjudicatory Evening Reporting Center (ERC). To address the complex needs of vulnerable children touching both the dependent and delinquent streams in the Juvenile Division, and to appropriately assess risk so that suitable services may be carefully chosen for youth, the Cross-over Unit and the Youth Level of Service (YLS) Unit were created.

Given the multitude of initiatives undertaken by the Probation Department, outcomes for Philadelphia's most disadvantaged youth continue to trend positively. In 2017, many families benefitted from probation services. This is evidenced most by:

- 34,098 successful contacts with youth and families through office, school, residential, and community site visits;





- Decreases in the number of youth under supervision from 2,117 youth in January of 2017 to 1,897 youth as of December 28, 2017;
- Although there was a reduction in the number of youth supervised in 2017, there continued to be an increase in hours of services to Philadelphia Communities. 30,080 worth of service hours were completed by youth under supervision;
- To properly assess criminogenic needs and deliver services based on dosage and duration, 2,652 risk assessments were conducted; of these 1,399 were initial assessments, an 8% increase from 1,296 initial assessments completed in 2016;
- The Pre-ERC, program accepted 82 males and females, 76 whom were discharged. Of those who completed the program, the average length of stay was 66.5 days with a 78% success rate;
- The Newly Opened Post- Adjudication ERC serviced 68 males, 49 of whom were discharged. Of all youth who had the opportunity to complete the full six month program, 89% had their Restitution and Court Fees paid in full and 95% were linked to an ongoing program or community based resource. Only 1.3% of youth serviced at this site were re-arrested.
- Steadfast diversionary efforts that were supported through Court and stakeholder programs that collectively diverted 825 youth from further penetrating the Juvenile Justice System;
- The Global Positioning System Program (GPS) monitored 815 youth as an alternative to detention, saving the City of Philadelphia \$5,404,548.46 in detention costs;
- The Juvenile Probation armed officer units along with the Philadelphia Police Department and the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department seized 20 firearms, \$89,705 worth of narcotics, and \$9,570 in currency;
- 155 court involved and at risk youth, were recruited and placed in summer job programs;
- 320 youth, received over 1,700 hours of free sports instruction in the Sports for Juvenile Justice Program, an innovative program receiving local media attention which offers court involved youth the opportunity to participate in non- traditional sports such as Golf, Tennis, Martial Arts, and Softball, as a way to foster social skills, become more disciplined, develop team building skills, and to build self-esteem, and;
- 281 Youth earned a High School Diploma or GED Certificate, while in residential care.

## Probation Operation

### Management Team Committees And Collaborations

Philadelphia Juvenile Probation is committed to improving outcomes for Philadelphia's most vulnerable youth. It is therefore important to engage stakeholders who also have a vested interest in improving the lives of our young people. Philadelphia's Juvenile Probation Management Team is involved in several collaborations and committee meetings throughout the county and the state of Pennsylvania.

The following are committees that furthered Juvenile Probation's mission. Statewide committees include; the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission (JCJC) Technology Committee,

Graduated Response, Regional Planning Committee, the Pennsylvania Justice Network, and the Pennsylvania System of Care Collaboration. Management Team members also collaborated with the 100 Day Challenge, a City program which prevents young adult homelessness, Youth Fatality Review, Re-entry Programming for youth returning from residential care, and the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), which includes subcommittees for Disproportionate Minority Contact and Victim and Community Support. Ongoing collaboratives include the STOP/ Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Collaboration, the Violent Injury Collaboration, the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, and regular meetings with Philadelphia Police.



## Supervision

### Community Supervision

Community Based Probation is the first intervention for juveniles who have been arrested and deemed ineligible for diversion and preventative services. Currently, there are four community based probation units covering the City of Philadelphia by zip codes. There are 27 geographic Probation Officers providing direct supervision to 542 juveniles in the community, with an average caseload of 20 cases. The average caseload is in line with the Juvenile Court Judges Commission standards of 25 cases per Probation Officer. At the end of 2017, a unit was created to specifically supervise juveniles involved in the child welfare system and the juvenile

justice system, the Crossover Unit. One hundred and fifty-three (153) cases are currently supervised by 10 probation officers in the newly created unit. Decreases in the amount of juveniles supervised by community based probation, are not only attributable to the creation of the Crossover unit, juvenile supervision by community based probation districts has decreased 5% from 2016 (734) to 2017 (695). Despite, a 4% increase of in the number of petitions filed from 2016 (2,158) to 2017 (2,247), community based supervision caseloads continued to decrease based on numerous factors such as diversionary efforts, enhanced supervision utilizing promising practices and evidence based solutions, and more accountability placed on service agencies that provide supports and care for our youth.

### Youth Level Of Service

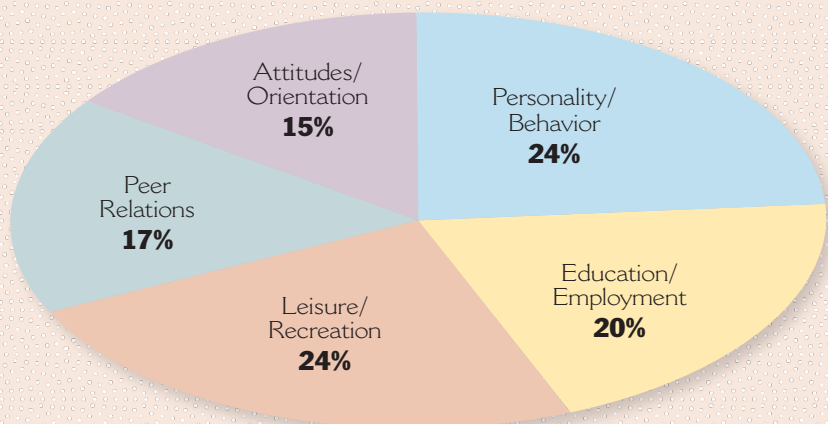
Supervision contacts are utilized to effectively monitor a juvenile on probation within the community. Community based Probation Officers conducted 18,649 supervision contacts with juveniles and families in 2017. This averages around 690 supervision contacts per JPO.

In accordance with the policy for the Youth Level of Service (YLS), a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) is required to conduct a specific number of visits for each juvenile per month depending on their level of risk. A juvenile's level of risk is assessed based on their answers to a series of questions centered on criminogenic needs (Prior and Current Offenses, Family Circumstances and Parenting, Education/Employment, Peer Relations, Substance Abuse, Leisure/Recreation

Time, Personality/Behavior, and Attitudes/Orientation). Identifying the criminogenic needs assists the JPO in selecting the appropriate community based resources that offer services.

In 2017, 41% of the juvenile population were found to be at a low level of risk to reoffend, 48 % at a moderate risk to reoffend, 10% at a high risk to reoffend and 1% were at a very high risk to reoffend.

#### Philadelphia's Top Five Criminogenic Needs in 2017







Risk Level to Reoffend	% of Juvenile Population
Low	<b>41%</b>
Moderate	<b>48%</b>
High	<b>10%</b>
Very High	<b>1%</b>

Acknowledging that the YLS is the first step to measuring a youth's risk level and identifying appropriate supports and services, Philadelphia Juvenile Probation created a probation

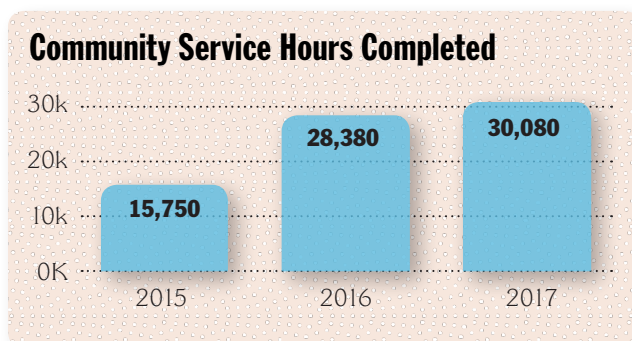
district specifically focused on completing the initial YLS risk assessments. The YLS unit consists of 6 probation officers that will complete the initial YLS social summary and risk assessment prior to a youth appearing in court for a pre-trial hearing. At the time of disposition, the courts will have access to the tool and the youth's criminogenic needs, which will further assist in determining appropriate services. In 2017, 2,652 YLS assessments were conducted, 1,399 of the assessments being initials, which was an increase from 1,296 initial assessments completed in 2016.

## Graduated Response

Aligned with reducing the utilization of secure detention and reducing the population in residential placements, one of the components of associated with the third stage of JJSES is Graduated Responses. Philadelphia has been working diligently on developing a Graduated Response approach. With a Graduated Response approach, juveniles will have the opportunity to earn tangible and non-tangible incentives when compliant with court ordered conditions and receive interventions for non-compliance. This system was created with the assistance of a consultant from Drexel University along with a committee including JPOs, Supervisors, and management team members. Stakeholders are supportive of the system and

have been involved throughout the development, eager for the system to be implemented. The judiciary also provided ideas and feedback on the approach in anticipation of the roll-out in 2017.

Phase one of the Graduated Response pilot rolled out April 2017. Eleven (11) JPOs participated in the pilot. Twenty-six (26) youth received 259 incentives, ranging from verbal praise, reduction in court ordered conditions, and SEPTA tokens, in comparison to 32 interventions received. Families and youth responded positively when incentives were earned and they were given recognition when complying with court ordered conditions. Philadelphia is now in line with the rest of the state as Pennsylvania moves toward the philosophy of utilizing both tangible and intangible incentives and sanctions to achieve successful outcomes on juvenile probation supervision



## Community Service Hours

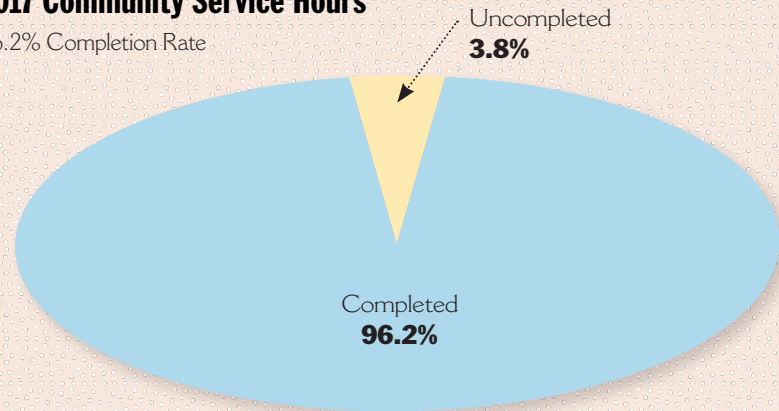
As mentioned, the Department follows the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model and one of the ways that youth are held accountable for their actions is through the completion of community service. Community service may involve the beautification of communities, spending time with the elderly, feeding the homeless and other worthy projects to



help communities. For cases closed in calendar year 2017, 660 youth in Philadelphia were court ordered to complete community service hours. Of those cases that were ordered community service, 635 youth completed 30,080 hours of community service in Philadelphia. This encompasses an outstanding 96.2% completion rate. Although there was a significant decrease in the number of youth supervised, the number of service hours provided to communities has had a steady increase since 2015.

### 2017 Community Service Hours

96.2% Completion Rate



■ \$218,080 worth of volunteer service if converted into earnings at the \$7.25 per hour rate

## Residential Supervision

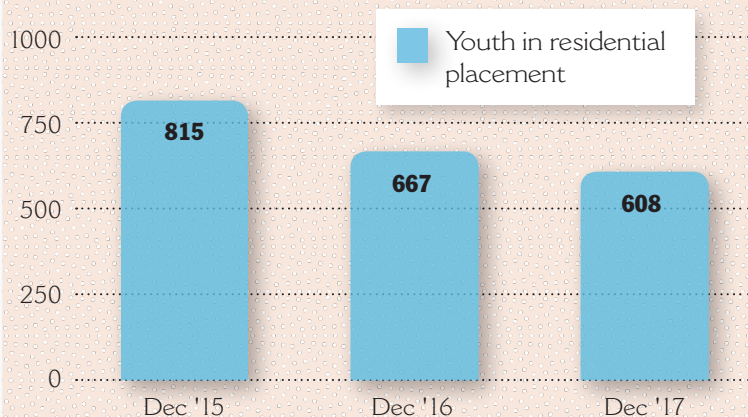
Children committed to residential care for treatment, rehabilitation, and supervision, are supervised from placement to their subsequent discharge on aftercare probation supervision upon reentry to communities. Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) assigned to the residential service units (RSU) travel to private and state residential facilities, visit homes, schools, and community-based services to meet with youth, their families and support service staff to monitor progress and compliance. During these visits, JPO's also ensure the child's treatment and education goals are being met by provider.

Residential JPOs conducted 14,942 visits/contacts. The contacts served to review compliance and progress of court orders while providing necessary support and guidance for youth and their families to sustain successes and address setbacks.

Youth in private and state placements

combined earned 193 high school diplomas and 88 GED certificates. Youth were also provided an opportunity to participate in vocational programs. The Pennsylvania Academic Career Technical Training (PACTT) alliance continues to be a component in most residential programs. The PACTT affiliates provide and endorse vocational classes and soft skills to strengthen a youth's employment prospects.

### Residential Placements







## Global Positioning (GPS) Program

The GPS program serves as an alternative to secure detention, and allows youth opportunities to remain safely in their communities while under strict monitoring conditions. The Global Positioning System (GPS) program is an additional tool that is used to assist youth in their community supervision coupled with it being used as an added layer for public safety.

Through a specialized unit, youth are monitored pending outcomes of their scheduled hearings. Specialized Supervision is also provided to Juvenile Treatment Court participants, YVRP high risk youth offenders, the Juvenile Enforcement Team Unit, Philadelphia Youth Advocacy Partners' Pre-Evening Reporting Center (ERC), and the Northeast Treatment Center's Post-Evening Reporting Center.

**Family Court's  
GPS program  
saved the City  
of Philadelphia  
\$5,404,548.46.**

A total of 1500 youth were monitored by the GPS Unit in 2017; 815 were monitored as alternative to detention, 529 were supervised as alternative to placement, and 156 were monitored for varying reasons. Hypothetically, if we multiply the number of youth placed on GPS as an alternative to detention (815) by the daily average per diems for detention at the Juvenile

Justice Services Center and Community Based Shelters (\$385.22), and the average length of stay (17.54 days) – the total cost would be \$5,506,758.42 for those 815 youth if they would have been detained. However, given that they were released on GPS at a \$7.15 per

diem rate and using the 17.54 average days of stay, the cost was \$102,209.97. Subtracting the GPS cost from the secure detention cost, we may say that Family Court's GPS program saved the City of Philadelphia \$5,404,548.46.

## Student Transitional Center

Daily, youth are discharged from state and residential facilities, and as such, we ensure that youth successfully transition to community or alternative school settings. The Juvenile Probation School District Probation Liaison (SDPL) partners with the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) to assess a youth's educational needs. The Student Transitional Center (STC), at the SDP, is the link between residential placement and youth returning to their neighborhood school. The SDPL and STC staff work collaboratively to evaluate school transcripts academic credits and Individual Educational Plans, so youth are assigned to the most appropriate academic setting in their community.

In calendar year 2017, there were 434 intakes processed at the STC. Of the 434 youth reporting the STC, 253 youth were assigned to a Comprehensive or Transitional School to

work on attaining their academic goals. The remaining 181 either completed their educational requirements or were assigned to an alternative school program through the School District of Philadelphia.

## Private Criminal Complaints

Diversory Programs continue to be an integral part of Juvenile Probation. The Private Criminal Complaint (PCC) Office implements mediation to resolve situations without police involvement. Juvenile Probation continues to offer victims of offenses to file with PCC to formulate a resolution to their complaint. PCC utilizes mediation practices for youth between the ages of 10-17, where a youth allegedly committed a criminal act. Mediation practices are applied to resolve matters so cases are not moved to a formal court hearing. PCC reviews all allegations, assesses for accountability,



discusses options and goals, and recommends community based services to resolve the conflict in a peaceful, safe manner. Most complaints are resolved without a formal court hearing. In 2017, the PCC office processed 699 complaints. Of the 699 filed, 480 were scheduled for a PCC hearing and all were successfully resolved through mediation. The PCC

offices will refer youth and families for other community-based services available in our prevention services unit to enhance the mediation process and strengthen the resolution. The PCC office continues to assist youth, families, the police, and schools to review and resolve complaints, so as to continue to strive for safer and healthier communities.

## **Grant Awards**

### **Federal Second Chance Act Grant**

Along with three other Pennsylvania Counties, Philadelphia applied and was awarded, part of a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP). The

grant that was received from OJJDP will continue to support Philadelphia's efforts in reducing recidivism for older youth returning from state-run residential care facilities. The project's thrust endeavors to maximize interventions while employing strategies that will assist youths' successful transition into the work force.

## **Initiatives**

### **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)**

Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department continued its commitment to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) by focusing on safely reducing reliance on secure confinement. JDAI works to strengthen the Juvenile Justice System through a series of interrelated reform strategies. Task Forces made up of key stakeholders regularly meet to discuss certain focus areas such as objective decision-making, special detention populations, and data-driven decisions. Successful task force collaboration has resulted in the following tangible policy reforms: 1) the implementation and ongoing evaluation of the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument which objectively screens all newly arrested youth to determine who can be safely supervised in the community, 2) the continued success of the pre-adjudicatory Evening Reporting Center (ERC) to serve as an alternative to detention, 3) the design and development of the city's first post-adjudicatory ERC to serve as a community-based alternative to

placement, 4) the piloting and ongoing development of a system of graduated responses used by juvenile probation officers to reinforce positive behavior change, and 5) continued partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department to implement the Police Diversion Program that diverts youth with minor offenses in the school environment to Intensive Prevention Services to avoid formal penetration of the system

### **Sports For Juvenile Justice (SJJ)**

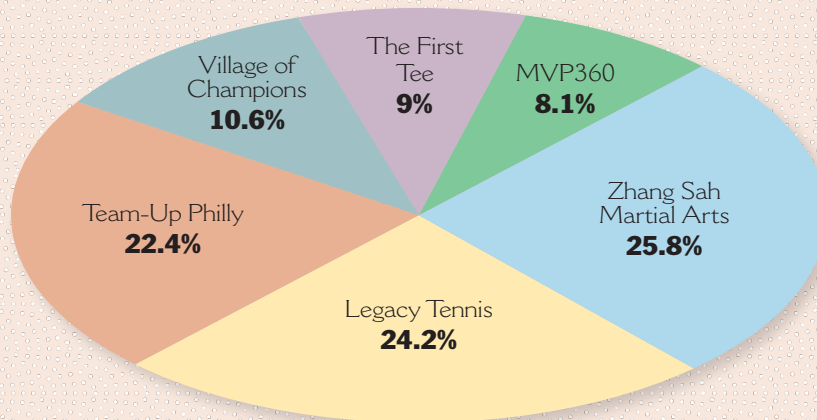
This unique sports program, created a partnership with local juvenile justice agencies to enlist court involved youth to participate in non-traditional sports such as Golf, Tennis, Martial Arts, and Softball. Court involved youth are introduced to non-traditional sports as a way to foster social skills, team work, self-esteem, and discipline.

There were over 1,700 hours of sports instruction received by all SJJ participants, with an average of 5.5 hours of instruction received per youth. In 2017, SJJ provided free sports programming to over 320 juvenile justice involved youth.





### Participants of SJJ



The initiative is supported by the Philadelphia Family Court, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS), and Northeast Treatment Centers (NET) who

collaborated with six subcontracted sports providers. After streamlining the program's infrastructure and operating procedures, SJJ management has continued to meet with sports providers and discuss new and innovative ways to retain "alumni" youth participants after their discharge from the juvenile justice system – a primary goal for the upcoming calendar year.

Finally, SJJ received further media attention in 2017, with a Fox29 video

feature run on multiple local news broadcasts and posted on Fox's digital platform. The story can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.fox29.com/news/267634964-video>

### Summer Work Program

For the summer of 2017, Philadelphia Youth Network subcontracted with three providers to handle recruitment and registration for court-involved and at-risk youth. The providers were JEVS Human Services, Youth Advocate

Program (YAP), and De La Salle Vocational. For this initiative, the Juvenile Probation Department held a registration date at the court house at 1501 Arch Street on June 27, 2017. Through this collaboration, 155 court-involved and at-risk youth were recruited and placed in summer job programs.

### Alternatives To Secure Detention- Evening Reporting Centers

Evening Reporting Centers (ERCs) are community based alternatives to detention or placement. ERC programs add an extra layer to community based supervision by coupling GPS monitoring with additional services for youth. Programs are based on a sound understanding of adolescent developmental research which urges us as practitioners to consider all the ways in which a teenager's brain is fundamentally different from an adult. These

programs aim to provide youth with prosocial opportunities to develop autonomous decision-making and critical thinking skills, all while abstaining from delinquent behavior.

### Pre-Adjudicatory Evening Reporting Center (Pre-ERC)

The Pre-ERC staff supervise and counsel youth five days per week. The hours of operation are from 3pm to 9pm and every other Saturday. The primary objectives are to promote court appearances and reduce the likelihood of re-arrest

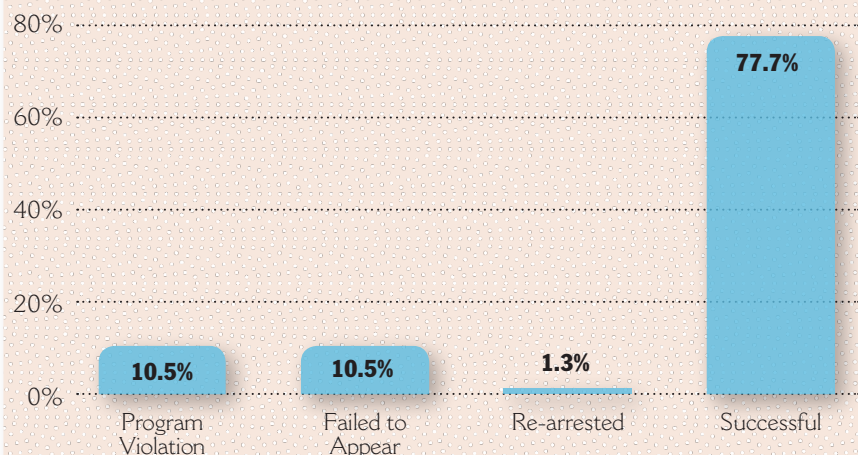


throughout the adjudicatory hearing. Youth remain at home and continue to attend their neighborhood school while receiving tutoring and a multitude of group activities during the evening hours. Eligibility for the program is largely determined by the Pennsylvania

Detention Risk Assessment Instrument which informs the intake unit at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (PJJSC) which youth are at a low, moderate, or high risk to re-offend or fail-to-appear in court. Typically,

those who score in the moderate range are considered the target participant. The Pre-ERC has a program capacity of 20 youth, male or female, with gender-specific programming built in. In

### 2017 Pre-ERC Outcomes



2017 the program accepted a total of 82 youth, 76 of whom were discharged. Out of those who completed the program, the average length of stay was 66.5 days with a 77.7% success rate.

### Post Adjudicatory ERC (Post-ERC)

Due to the continued success of the Pre-ERC program, our delinquency judges requested an ERC specifically for

adjudicated youth. The Post-ERC is a community based supervision program for adjudicated male youth on probation struggling to comply with probation rules who need a highly structured “last chance” intervention before placement.

#### Phase I: Cognitive Behavioral Life Skills and General Immersion (4 Months)

- Youth report to the ERC 5-days-per-week (and alternate Saturdays)
- 56-hour evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Life Skills curriculum
- Educational, vocational, cultural, and life skills workshops, including Anger Management, Sex-Education/Healthy Relationships, Job Readiness, Music, Art, and Sports for Juvenile Justice programming.

#### Phase II: BARJ: Victim Awareness, Community Service, and Selected “Tracks” (1 Month)

- Youth report to the ERC 4-days-a-week, fifth (and alternate sixth) day of community service
- Victim Awareness curriculum, weekly Impact of Crime on Victims restorative justice circles with proxy victim speakers
- Youth select “track” of cultural/vocational classes to continue

#### Phase III: Individualized Discharge Planning & Community Reintegration (1 Month)

- Individualized service plan link youth with ongoing supports in the community
- Clients already connected with outside programs permitted to increase the frequency of their involvement in lieu of reporting to the ERC every day, while receiving ongoing support and monitoring from ERC staff
- Clients not yet linked to ongoing supports continue to report to the ERC daily





In addition to addressing BARJ principles, the Post-ERC seeks to align with the Probation Department's current reform initiatives. These initiatives include the philosophy of Graduated Response which utilizes incentives (both tangible and non-tangible) to increase compliance with court ordered conditions and implements sanctions for non-compliance. In 2017, the Post-ERC

program serviced 68 youth, 49 of whom were discharged. Of all youth who had the opportunity to complete the full six month program, 88.9% had their Restitution and court fees paid-in-full. ERC youth also completed a total of 425 hours of community service and 95.0% of positively discharged youth were linked to an ongoing program or resource in the community at discharge

### Expungements

The number of expungements in 2017 (861) decreased by 29% in comparison to 2016 (1,214). In 2016, the Juvenile Probation Department in collaboration with the Public Defender's Association and the District Attorney's Office

undertook an effort to clean up an additional 284 outdated dockets. The decrease in dockets expunged this year is directly attributed to the 2016 cleanup effort.

In 2017, the electronic processing of juveniles eligible for expungement continued. A total of 304 dockets were expunged for informal adjustments (169) and for our Youth Aid Panel (YAP) (135).

### Expungements

Process	Granted	YAP- Informal Adjustment	Juvenile Treatment Court	Total
General Process – Filed	530	-	22	552
Electronic Process – Informal Adjustments		169	-	169
Electronic Process – Youth aid Panel	-	135	-	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>856</b>

### Public Safety

Juvenile Probation continued its partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in 2017. The Armed Officer Units – the Youth Violence Reduction Partners (YVRP) and the Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET) allow the department to maintain a balanced commitment to both its social service focus and its law enforcement obligation. Through its Armed Officer Units, Philadelphia Juvenile Probation is able to focus on the most at-risk youth in our communities. During the reporting period of 2017,

the Armed Officer Units of the First Judicial District's Juvenile Probation Department have worked collaboratively to yield 960 total enforcement actions. These actions consisted of warrant attempts, searches, debriefing interviews, area patrols, and other actions.

Collectively, the Juvenile Probation Department's armed officer units along with the Philadelphia Police Department and the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department seized 20 illegal firearms, \$89,705 in of illegal narcotics, and \$9,570 in US currency. In 2017 JET continued its collaboration with law enforcement partners which includes but is not limited to, the



Philadelphia Police Department, the Southeastern Transportation Authority Police (SEPTA), the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia, US Marshals, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

The Youth Violence Reduction Partners (YVRP) initiative attempts to keep all youth under YVRP probation “alive at 25” using two key strategies (1) steering youth partners away from violence through close and intensive supervision and, (2) providing a youth partner with the necessary supports and services such as education, employment, drug/alcohol treatment, and counseling services (for participant, but may also be provided for participants’ parents) to set them on a path to productive adulthood. These strategies are implemented by an Intervention Team consisting of Probation Officers, police, and mentors. Probation Officers and Police Officers collectively conduct home visits which allows for community policing. The YVRP unit supervises six of the most violent Police Districts in the city of Philadelphia: The 22nd, 24th, 25th, 39th, 19th, and 12th Police Districts. 78 high risk youth on average were monitored by the program resulting in 2,452 successful patrol contacts throughout the year.

## Victim Services

The purpose of the Victim Services Unit is to reduce the trauma of crime by assisting the victim and their family members in reconstructing and restoring their lives through advocacy, support, information, and referrals. One of the main goals of the BARJ principles is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions. Victim Services carefully monitors the restitution of our youth and works closely with Probation Officers and the District

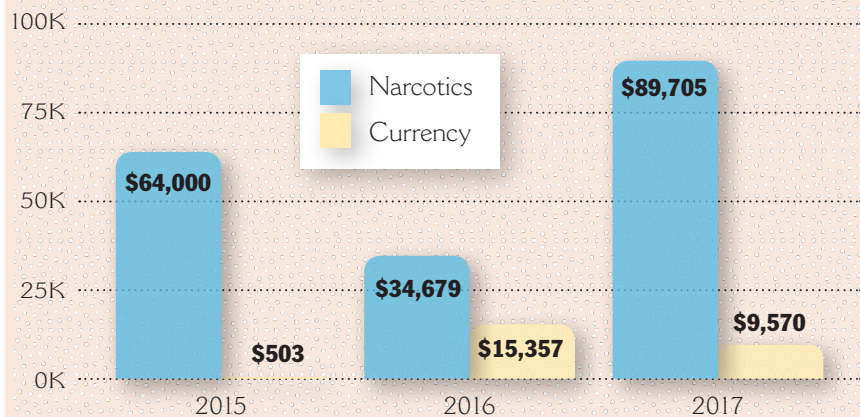
Attorney’s Office to assure victims are being compensated.

Currently, the unit provides all services as listed in the Crime Victims Act for Victims of Juvenile Offenders, the Juvenile Act, and the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedures.

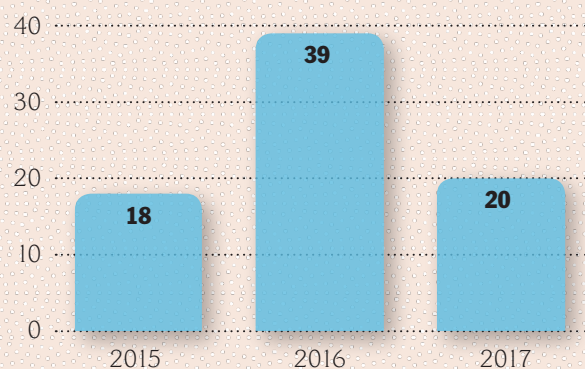
Some of these services include but are not limited to, the provision of victim notification services, sending address confirmation forms, providing information to victims on their rights, informing victims of the amount of restitution ordered, the status of restitution payments, and act as liaison with

### Narcotics & US Currency Confiscated

Three year total: \$213,814 confiscated



### Illegal Firearms Confiscated





Probation Officers and victims. The Victim Services Unit serviced 1,837 unduplicated victims for the 2017 calendar year, up from 1,186 serviced in calendar year 2016. The number of services provided during this time period, which includes servicing a victim multiple times is 3,865. The monies released

to victims from the restitution hold report totals \$15,591.00.

The unit's goal for 2018 is to continue to provide services to all victims requesting assistance, provide outreach to all victims, and to continue to provide restitution compensation for victims as ordered by the Court.

## Specialty Courts

### Juvenile Treatment Court



Philadelphia Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC) is a problem solving diversionary program of the Family Court of Philadelphia. The mission of Juvenile Treatment Court is to

eliminate substance abuse and to reduce crime among non-violent substance-abusing juveniles. The objective is to provide coordinated strength-based intervention and treatment with intensive judicial and interdisciplinary oversight. The intended results are to develop socially responsible juveniles and safer communities. Philadelphia's Juvenile Treatment Court operates under the leadership of Administrative Judge, Margaret T. Murphy, Supervising Judge, Walter J. Olszewski, and the Honorable Robert Rebstock. JTC collaboration between the Public Defender's Association, the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Department of Behavioral Health, the Department of Human Services, Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, and various Treatment Providers has contributed to the program's success since operations began in 2004.

Always, wanting to keep informed of current trends, initiatives, and new information regarding juvenile substance abuse, the JTC team and presiding Judge, the Honorable Robert Rebstock attended a February 2017 training in Harrisburg, sponsored by the Administrative Offices of Pennsylvania

Courts (AOPC) for the purposes of enhancing responses to youth behavior in juvenile drug treatment courts. The JTC team also attended the Pennsylvania Problem Solving Courts Regional Training, 'How to be a Good Consumer of Treatment' on November 14. As a result of these training opportunities, the work group met to implement some adjustments to the court. At the conclusion of 2017, the JTC team applied for the court to be a participant in a study to improve problem solving court outcomes. The team anticipates a response in February of 2018.

### Program Participants/Referrals/Outcomes

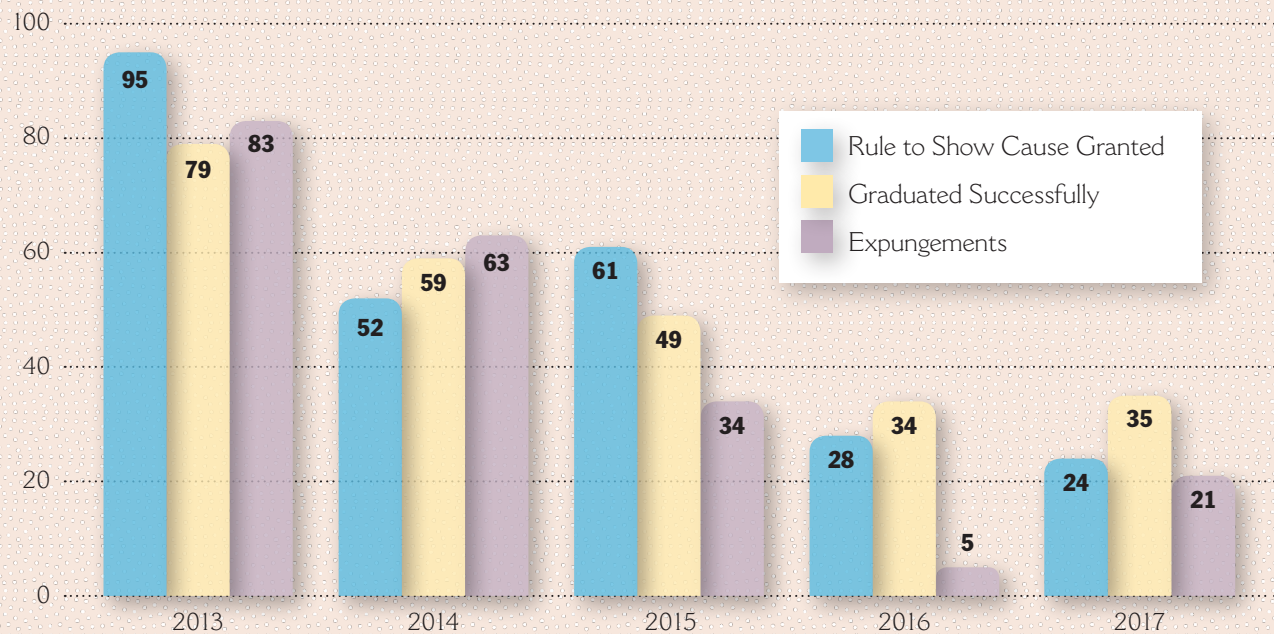
Juveniles are identified for participation in JTC at admission and if initial eligibility is met, the youth is scheduled for a Pre-Trial Hearing in JTC. The target population is newly-arrested juveniles ages 14 to 17 with a substance abuse problem, who are not charged with a violent offense and have no history of adjudication for a violent charge. This is a pre-adjudicatory diversion program and it is voluntary. A juvenile enters this program and agrees to a stipulation of the facts of their case(s) and then enters a "Deferred Adjudication" status, thereby avoiding the negative consequences associated with being adjudicated delinquent. The juvenile then enters a drug and alcohol program either at the inpatient, intensive out patient, or outpatient level determined at time of assessment.

There were a total of 151 juveniles referred to the JTC program in 2017; 99 juveniles were admitted to the program, 19 juveniles did not meet the criteria for the program, and 33 juveniles declined. JTC outcomes for 2017 have improved since





### JTC Outcome Comparison



2016. More juveniles had their records expunged, and there was a decrease in youth unsuccessfully completing the program. Of the juveniles that entered JTC in 2017 (99), 10% have already successfully completed the program, 9% were removed unsuccessfully, 7% on active bench warrant status, and 74% are still active in the program. Of all the youth active in 2017 (173), 46% are still active, 20% have graduated successfully, 12% had their records expunged, 8% are on active bench warrant status, 7% have been removed for being on bench warrant status for over 21 days, 5% have been removed for being found guilty of a new charge, and only 2% have been removed for noncompliance.

JTC utilizes a graduated response system to address a youth's negative and positive behaviors. During 2017, more rewards were given than in 2015, and 2016. It is important to note, that the number of participants has increased, double the amount of sanctions were rewarded, and the percent to show cause decreased by 4% in 2017.

### Crossover Court

Shared Case Responsibility (SCR) is the practice of mutually providing care of services to youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system. Supervising Judge Walter Olszewski presides over cross-over court. Since 2011, Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) and Social Workers have taken part in Joint Assessment Meetings (JAM) to develop a coordinated single case plan. Crossover court handles cases of children adjudicated dually dependent and delinquent as well as cases in which there is a court ordered mandate for Shared Case Responsibility. In 2017, over 410 juveniles were reviewed in Crossover Court, resulting in 3,205 hearings.

Juvenile Probation Officers work cohesively with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Community Umbrella Agencies (CUA) to provide the best possible services



### Guidelines for Improving Cross-over Youth Outcomes

- Coordinated case assignment
- Joint assessment processes
- Coordinated case plans
- Coordinated case supervision

for crossover youth in the community and in dependent residential facilities. Cross-over Youth researchers have developed a series of guidelines that will better meet the needs of this population, and will ultimately improve outcomes for these youth. Recognizing that, multi-system collaboration amongst the courts, child welfare services, and service providers is essential to success and that when there is a lack of communication and collaboration

amongst all parties that gaps in service may occur, Supervising Judge Walter Olszewski, identified the need for a Cross-over unit within the Probation Department.

The unit, a designated group of Juvenile Probation Officers assigned to provide supervision to youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, was created in the thought that having a core group of Probation Officers, social workers, and CUA workers, allows the stakeholders to have an intimate knowledge of cases, to build relationships, and to increase communication and collaboration amongst all parties. Ten (10) Juvenile Probation Officers, currently supervise 153 juveniles. During 2017, 345 JAM were conducted that enabled all parties to participate in planning for the needs of the youth and their families with multiple system involvement. In addition to JAM, monthly stakeholder meetings are held to discuss the broad challenges facing the cross-over youth population and how juvenile need-based supports available to all cross over youth may be improved.

### Outcome Measures

The successful outcomes during calendar year 2017 are attributable to the hard work of the judiciary, dedicated

probation staff, and continued collaboration with our stakeholders. The Pennsylvania Juvenile Case Management System (PaJCMS) reflected the following data for juvenile cases closed in Philadelphia:

Outcome Measures			
	2016	2017	Change
Closed Cases	1,663	1,357	↓ 306 cases
Community Service Hours	28,380	30,080	+1,700 hours
Median Supervision (in Months)	16	14	↓ 2.0 months
Juveniles without a new Adjudication at Closure	1,331	1,081	↓ 250 youth



### Accountability

- Restitution
- Community Service
- Victim awareness curriculum

### Community Protection

- Violation of Probation
- New Adjudication

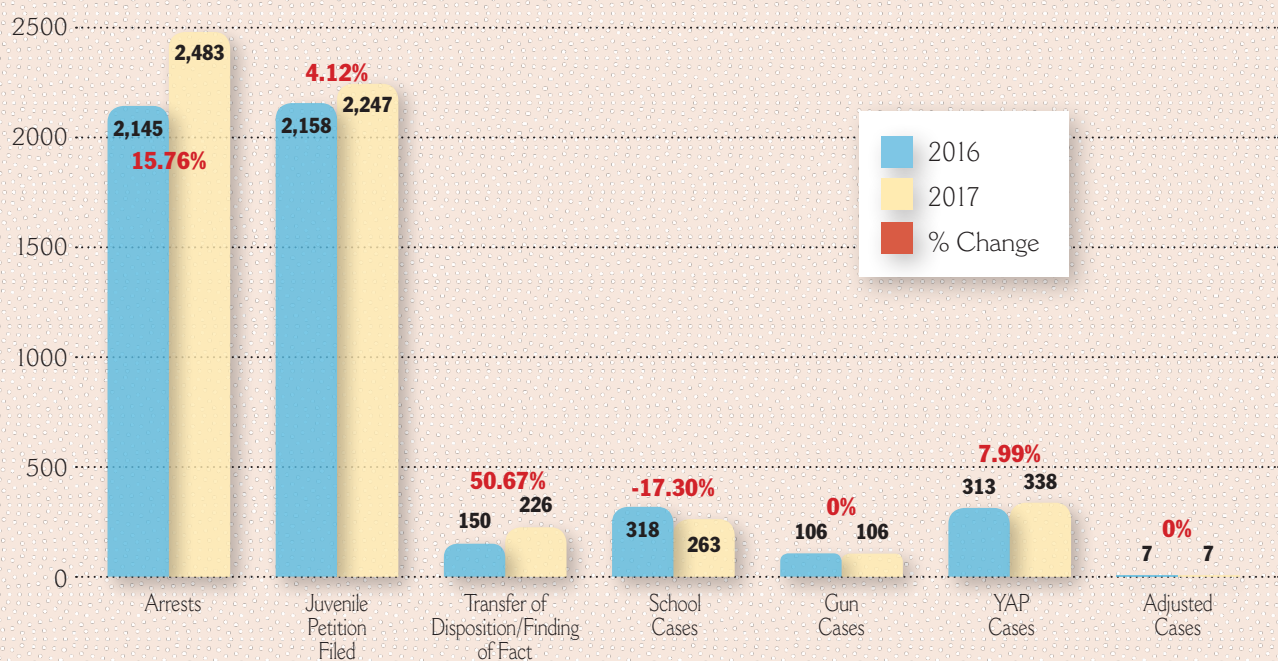
### Competency Development

- Attend School, Vocational Program, GED program, or employed

### PaJCMS data highlights for cases closed in 2017:

- \$128,845.72** collected in Restitution
- 612** youth participated in a victim awareness curriculum
- 939** youth had no judicial finding of technical violations
- 891** youth completed a competency development activity/program

### Arrests/Dockets Processes at the Juvenile Justice Service Center

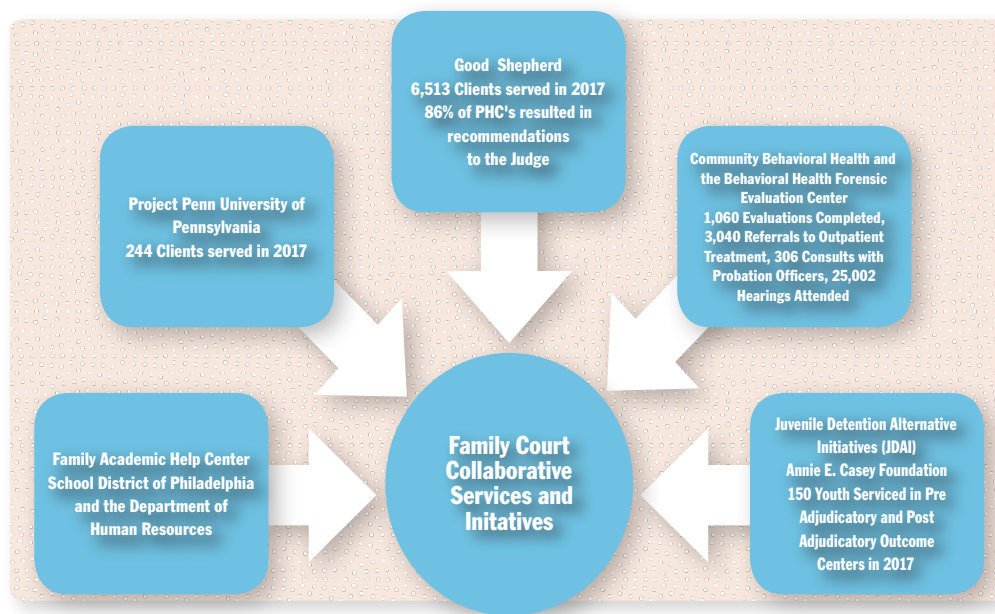






## Collaborative Initiatives

Our collaborative partnerships have provided families in the delinquency and dependency systems with “in house” educational, medical, and psychological supports as well as resources. In 2017, Family Court of Philadelphia continued their collaboration with the following parties:



### Family Academic Help Center

This in-house center aims to assist dependent and delinquent youth in obtaining educational stability as well as fostering a successful educational experience. The Academic Help Center works with court ordered Youth and Families, Probation Officers, Court Representatives, Legal Personnel, DHS, Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs), provider agencies, and anyone seeking educational assistance to support them with educational consults, educational

records, alternative educational settings, and assisting with referrals to the School District of Philadelphia for a variety of reasons (i.e. academic supports, counseling, physical, mental and behavioral health, community resources, specialized services, bullying issues, transfers/re-enrollments, high school selection process and much more). This year, the Family Help Center set up a universal email address to handle requests while staffing changes were effectuated. In 2017, the center was operational only for three months due to staffing changes.

### Project Penn

The Field Center's Project



**The Field Center**  
FOR CHILDREN'S POLICY,  
PRACTICE & RESEARCH

PENN is a court-based outreach program for families awaiting dependency proceedings at Philadelphia Family Court. On three mornings a week University of Pennsylvania graduate students assist families in finding community-based resources to reduce the most common stressors that cause disruption in families and place children at risk for harm. Participating families have access

to a comprehensive resource directory, web-based resources, and brochures geared toward their individual needs.

#### In 2017, Project Penn:

- Served 244 clients, a 17% increase or 36 more clients than in 2016 due to the addition of signage.
- Partnered with the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) to distribute information about health care access and increase Medicaid signups.



## Community Behavioral Health (CBH) and the Behavioral Health Forensic Evaluation Center (BHFECE)

Providing behavioral health services on site to court involved children, youth and families allows for better communication between the Court, CBH and BHFECE, a more timely process, and keeps with the mission of “one-stop shopping” for families who are at risk and often unable to navigate these complicated multiple systems.

CBH’s Care Coordination Team continues to ensure children, youth, and families have access to and are provided with quality behavioral health services, in their own communities. The role of the CBH CUA Care Coordination Team is

to synthesize/formulate behavioral health information so that the respective CUAs understand the context of experiences (trauma, mental health, addiction) and how it relates to current behaviors, symptoms, and need for treatment, to coordinate meetings with respective treatment providers when team

meetings need to be held, or if behavioral health concerns are elevating to a point where immediate action needs to be taken, and to assist the CUAs in determining if higher levels of care are needed for children and youth.

### Good Shepherd Mediation Program

Family Court of Philadelphia offers all parties the opportunity to participate in Pre-Hearing Conferences (PHC) prior to all adjudicatory

hearings. PHC’s allow parties to discuss placement, services, and visitation, in a neutral setting, in front of a mediator from the Good Shepherd Mediation Program,

before entering the courtroom. After the PHC the mediator provides the recommendations of the parties to the Dependent Judge conducting the adjudicatory hearing to take into consideration when rendering a court

order. The number of clients served by Good Shepherd declined by 9% or 618 clients in 2017, when compared to the number of clients served in 2016.

### Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department continued its commitment to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).

**In 2017, the Juvenile Probation Department and the Annie E. Casey Foundation:**

- Expanded the successful Evening Reporting Center (ERC) program by opening the first “Post- Adjudication”

ERC to serve as a community- based alternative to placement for adjudicated males on probation in need of a highly structured “last chance” intervention before placement.

- Commenced the Graduated Response pilot.
- Continued their partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department to implement the Police Diversion Program that diverts youth with minor offenses in the school environment to Intensive Prevention Services to avoid formal penetration of the system.

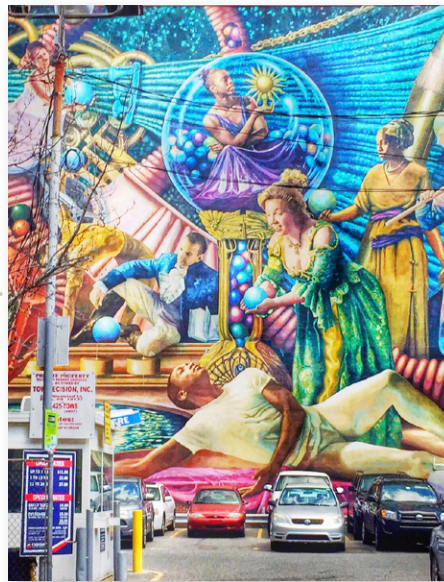


Photo by Theresa Cannon



## Dependency — The Office Of Children, Youth And Families In The Courts

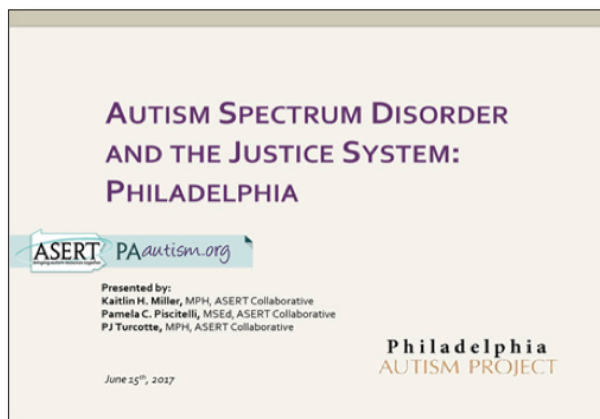
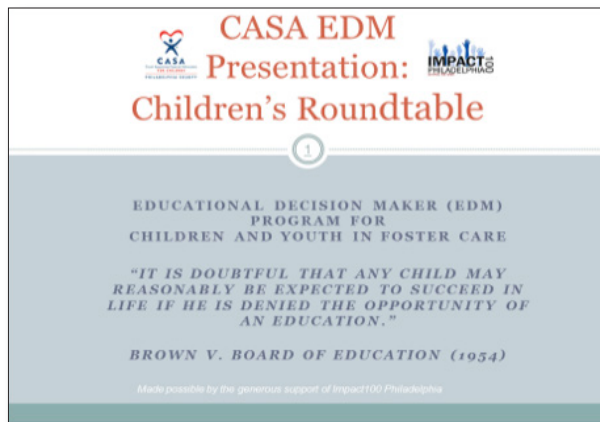
The mission of Philadelphia's Office of Children, Youth and Families is to create and maintain best practice standards and operations that ensure the protection, safety, and stability of all Philadelphia's children, youth, and families who enter the dependency system. Over the past year, the following initiatives have aided us in this mission. Some of the highlights for the year include:



### The Philadelphia Local Roundtable

In its' eleventh (11) year the Philadelphia Local Roundtable (PLR) has made many significant reforms to the child welfare system. The PLR, modeled after the AOPC statewide Roundtable is chaired by the Administrative Judge of Family Court and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner. Representatives from DHS, the Department of Behavioral Health, the School District of Philadelphia, the Support Center for Child Advocates, the Child Advocacy Unit of the Philadelphia Defender's Association, the City Solicitors Office, Community Legal Services, local colleges and universities, and hospitals attend quarterly Roundtable meetings to discuss areas of concern in the Pennsylvania Dependency System. This year's quarterly roundtable discussions included presentations on the following topics:

- Pennsylvania's New Truancy Law: What it Means for You
- Educational Decision Maker (EDM) Program for Children and Youth in Foster Care
- Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Justice System: Philadelphia



### Dependency Court Overview

The goal of the Pennsylvania Dependency system is "to ensure every child grows up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent family". At every stage of the juvenile court proceeding, the courts obligation is to act in the best interest of the child. Every day Family Court works toward this goal, by reunifying children with their parents, placing them with relatives or other kin, or by finding suitable placements for them in their own neighborhoods.





## Case Volume And Court Performance

- Increase in Dependency filings. A total of 3,981 dependency cases were filed in 2017. An 11% increase from 2016.
- Increase of Filings Adjudicated Not Dependent. A total of 738 cases were adjudicated not dependent in 2017, a 4% increase from 2016.
- Decrease in Dependency cases closed or terminated from Supervision. A total of 2,878 adjudicated dependent cases were terminated from court supervision in 2017. A 10% decrease from 2016.
- Of the children under the courts supervision at the end of 2017, 50% remained at home or were in kinship care, 37% were in foster care, 11% were in congregate care, and the remainder either in a detainment center, hospital, or unknown according to case reports.

Building upon the series of proactive measures implemented in prior years, Family Court Administration undertook further efficiency measures which included: creating a Courtroom Operations Daily Report on first case start times to assist with promoting personal accountability by all system parties, ensuring a supportive environment and encouraging communication.

### Dependency Case Inventory

#### Active Dependency Case Inventory Pending Adjudication

	2016	2017
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#### Inbound Cases

New Filings	3,593	3,981
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#### Outbound Cases

Adjudicated Dependent	2,905	3,186
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Adjudicated Not Dependent	709	736
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#### Adjudicated Dependency Case Inventory

#### Inbound Cases

Pending From Prior Period	7,649	7,131
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Adjudicated Dependent	2,905	3,186
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Other <sup>1</sup>	13	11
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<b>Total Adjudicated Dependent Inbound Cases</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>3,197</b>
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<b>Total of Active/Adjudicated Cases</b>	<b>10,567</b>	<b>10,328</b>
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#### Outbound Cases

Court Supervision Was Terminated	3,182	2,859
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Other Removed <sup>2</sup>	11	19
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Removed from Inventory	3,193	2,878
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<b>Total Cases Remaining Active/Adj. Dependent</b>	<b>7,374</b>	<b>7,450</b>
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<b>Grand Total Case Inventory</b>	<b>7,618</b>	<b>7,740</b>
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Source: CPCMS Report 3920

<sup>1</sup> Dependency Jurisdiction Resumed plus Miscellaneous

<sup>2</sup> Transferred Out/ Withdrawn/Miscellaneous



## Adoptions Branch

### Adoptions Branch Overview

Pursuant to 20 Pa. C.S. 713, Philadelphia County is the only county in the state in which the Family Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas has exclusive jurisdiction over adoption matters. The branch accurately and expeditiously processes, schedules, and reviews all Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption petitions filed in Accordance with the Pennsylvania Adoption Act and the Orphan's Court Rules, ensuring compliance with the same.

#### Adoptions staff:

- Work with juvenile court hearing officers in the Accelerated Adoption Review Court (AARC) courtroom to insure the best interests of the children are being met and that any impediments (Profiles/Medical Exams) prior to the filing of the petition are being properly addressed.
- Reviews the AARC caseload to ensure timeliness of disposition.
- Monitor enhancements to the Adoption Act, which include; one judge to preside over all matters pertaining to Finalizations of Adoptions, juvenile court hearing officers to oversee matters pertaining to the Accelerated Adoption Review Court (AARC) proceedings, and pre-trial "Best Interest" hearings to address barriers to Adoption prior to Finalization hearings.
- Assists individuals in locating and contacting their birth families via our adoption search network.

This year amendments to Title 23 Pa. C.S. – Subsections 10 and 11 created additional grounds for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights Regarding sex offenses.

Also, this year to improve AARC courtroom efficiency and reduce the courtroom inventory, the Branch implemented a

### A petition to terminate parental rights may be filed if the parent:

- has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed sexual abuse against the child or another child of the parent based on a judicial adjudication of a "founded report" of "sexual abuse or exploitation".
- is required to register as a sexual offender or to register with a sexual offender registry in another jurisdiction or foreign country.

procedure, in certain instances, to administratively discharge the dependency petition and commit in accordance with Pa. R.J.C.P 1631 (A) (4) when an adoption has been granted in Philadelphia County and or/Out of County. During the last quarter of 2017, ninety seven (97) cases were administratively discharged.

### Termination Of Parental Rights

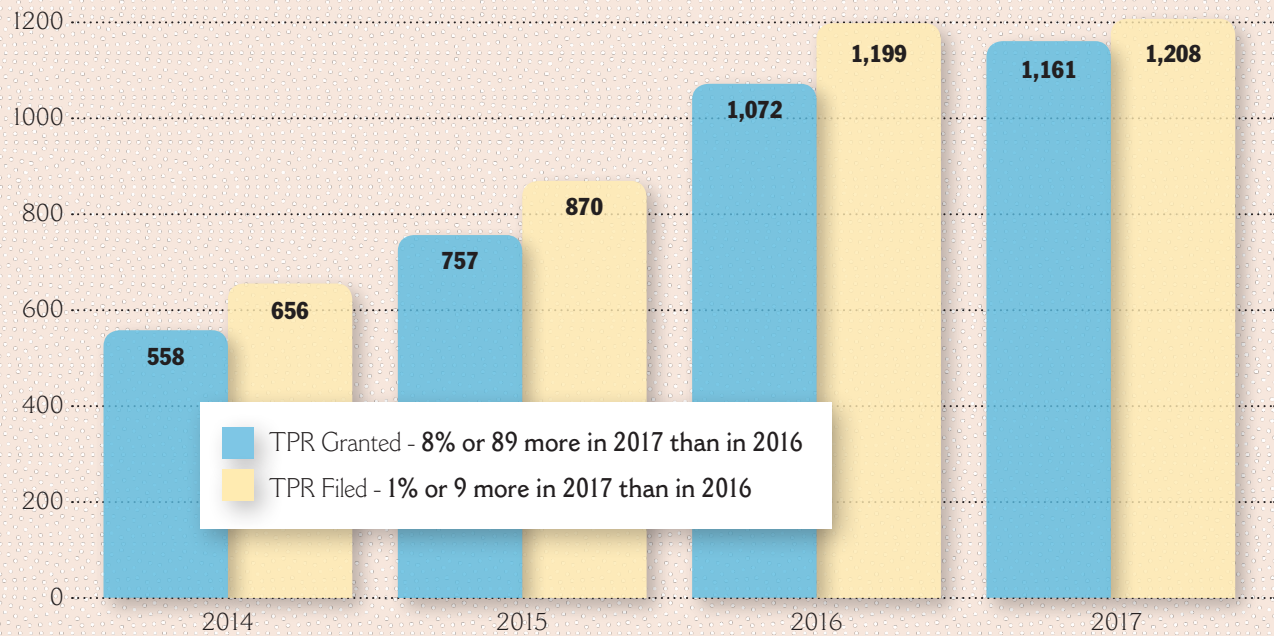
If, it is determined that family reunification is not possible, Adoption may be named as the permanency plan goal. Adoption can only be named as the permanency plan goal, once the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Petition and the goal change petition is granted.

### Accelerated Adoption Review Court (AARC)

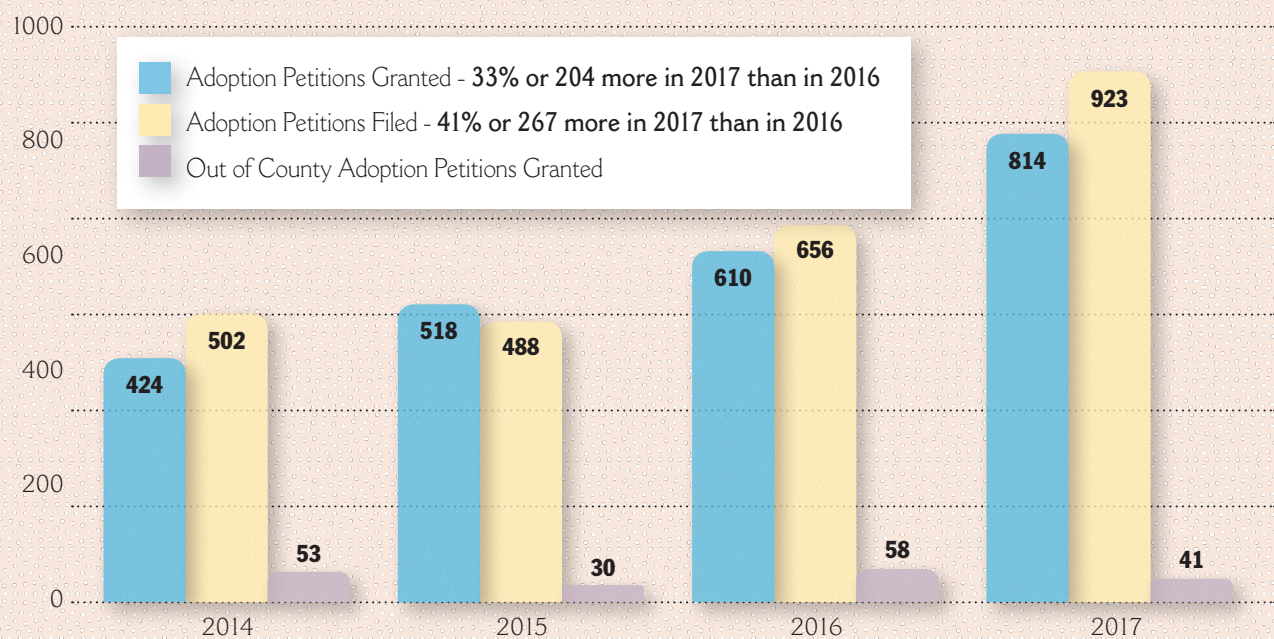
After Adoption is formally named as the goal, the case enters the Accelerated Adoption Review Court, a specialized dependency courtroom focused on achieving permanency. The AARC courtroom examines those cases where parental rights have been terminated but the adoption has not yet been finalized, aiming for timely completion. The goals of AARC are to expedite adoptions and reduce the length of time children spend in foster care..



### Termination of Parental Rights Activity 2014-2017



### Termination of Parental Rights Activity 2014-2017







## Specialized Service Units

### Prevention Services Unit (PSU)

The Prevention Services Unit (PSU) is a voluntary early intervention program which seeks to deter the entry of juveniles and their families into the Delinquent and Dependent Court systems. Families with incorrigible children can contact the PSU to discuss an array of community and evidence based resources. To receive supportive services, a PSU social worker assesses

what factors are causing the youth's problematic behavior and contacts the Department of Human Services (DHS). Services are then initiated by either Family Empowerment Services (FES) at DHS Children & Youth Division or Intensive Prevention Services (IPS) at DHS Juvenile Justice Division depending on the severity or special needs of the family.

The Prevention Services Unit Assisted 624 families in 2017, with 55 families accepting a variety of DHS community based services.

### Truancy Unit

The Truancy Unit's mission is to reduce chronic truancy behavior and increase school attendance. In collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), and the District Attorney's Office (DA), the unit impresses upon families, the importance of education and assists families in developing an improvement plan to achieve a prosperous future. The SDP and DA's Office refer chronically truant youth to the Court once all school level interventions have failed. Youth and their families are required to attend three hearings in one of our four regional courts, at which court-appointed Truancy juvenile court hearing officers order appropriate social and educational services to help the family combat the barriers that led to chronic truancy. Each family receives management services to assist them with re-engagement in their children's education. After the three hearings, the Hearing Officer will make the decision to discharge the case if the family is compliant or will refer the case to Family Court, generating a dependency petition, and subsequent hearing at 1501 Arch Street.

Given that our regional courtrooms are housed in schools, truancy court previously operated on a school schedule. In 2017, the creation of Summer Court allowed the regional court rooms to remain in session during the months of July and

August. During this time period, juvenile court hearing officers heard 407 new petitions and presided over 764 hearings.

Effective for the academic school year 2017-2018 is ACT 138, a new law aimed at improving school attendance and deterring truancy via a comprehensive approach to identify and address issues as early as possible through interventions in order to preserve the unity of the family and to avoid: the loss of housing, the entry of youth in foster care, and the confinement of a parent or child. The law defines Truancy (3 or more days of unexcused absence during the current school year) and Habitual Truancy (6 or more days of unexcused absence during the current school year). Policies and procedures are currently in development to accommodate ACT 138. For the 2016 - 2017 School Year, 12,505 hearings were held at regional courts and at 1501 Arch Street and 4,176 cases were discharged an increase of 23% or 778 cases from 2017.

### Court Operations Units

The Court Operations units offer vital support services to all units of the Juvenile Branch. The operational units assist in the creation of cases, function as support to the Judiciary, and provide timely information and support crucial to determining case outcomes.



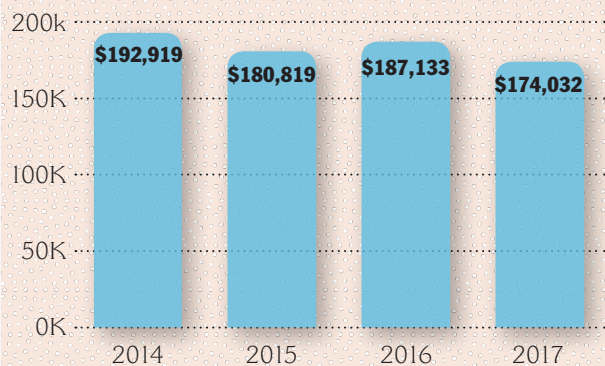
## Dependent And Delinquent Court Operations

The Dependent and Delinquent Court Operations Units (DDCO) are responsible for the coordination of courtroom operations providing direct support and services to the bench, and/or the public/court users.

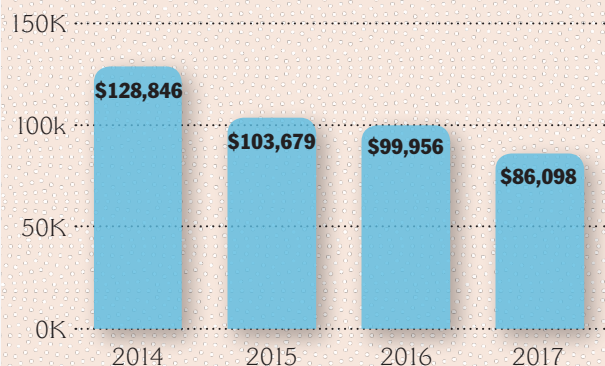
### Fiscal Unit

The Fiscal Unit collects and processes fines, fees, and restitutions ordered by the court, reconciles and deposits

#### Restitution Collected



#### Court Costs Collected



#### Dependency & Delinquent Court Operations Unit

Delinquency Hearings	2016	2017
Adjudicatory	4,046	5,045
Certifications	89	81
Amenability	15	30
Reviews	22,658	19,512
Motions	1,345	1,496
Bench Warrants	299	-
Dispositional	808	833
Status	1,972	1,734
Expungements	661	757
Pretrials	1,198	1,583
Detentions	3,863	3,894
Sanctions	179	15
<b>Total Delinquency</b>	<b>37,133</b>	<b>34,980</b>

Dependency Hearings	2016	2017
Permanency	27,664	28,821
PHC (Ctphc adj)	2,203	2,033
Goal Change	1,144	1,341
PLC	102	159
Status	1,042	1,047
Reviews	5,380	4,310
Adjudicatory	2,405	3,187
Contested	1,162	1,171
Shelter Care	2,253	2,322
Motions	524	581
<b>Total Dependency</b>	<b>43,879</b>	<b>44,972</b>
<b>Total Hearings</b>	<b>81,012</b>	<b>79,952</b>



daily receipts, prepares bank reconciliations, audits CPCMS balances, monitors court orders (such as: remits, reduced to judgement, vacate, revoke, and waive) that affect the financial statements, and serve as financial support to the Juvenile Probation Department, the Adoptions Branch, Dependent Court Operations, attorneys, placement facilities, and agencies. In 2017, the unit executed two major projects,

the collection of Adoption Branch Filing Fees in CPCMS and the deposit of unclaimed juvenile restitution funds to the City of Philadelphia's unclaimed monies fund for subsequent escheat to the state.

The Fiscal Unit processed over 2,222 juvenile restitution payments and delinquency court costs and fines totaling \$260,130 in 2017.

Project	Project Summary
<b>Conversion from Counterpoint to Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) for collecting Adoption Branch fees and costs.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Judicial Records (OJR) informed Family Court that the Counterpoint cash register system was to be discontinued in April 2017.</li> <li>The Fiscal Unit worked with OJR to make CPCMS the mechanism for collecting Adoption Branch fees and costs. Business policies and procedures, regarding the assessment, collection, and reconciliation of payments were expanded and refined to include the additional collections.</li> <li>From April 2017 to December 2017, the unit processed 880 receipts totaling \$79,688.</li> </ul>
<b>Deposit of Restitution Funds to the City's Unclaimed Monies Fund for subsequent escheat to the State.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audited restitution monies that were on hold for a prescribed period of time, despite numerous contacts from the Fiscal Unit.</li> <li>Fiscal Unit staff worked with the Treasurer's Office and the Finance Department to facilitate the escheat process and remove monies on hold from our bank account.</li> <li>In November 2017 over \$106,000 was deposited to the city's unclaimed monies fund, for subsequent escheat to the state.</li> </ul>

## Substance Abuse Unit

The Substance Analysis Unit is responsible for all court ordered specimen testing and services the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Branches of Family Court. The timeliness of the testing and reporting of results is critical to the determination of primary issues in cases before the Family Court. In 2017, the unit conducted over 20,000 specimen tests for youth (46%) and adults (54%).

## Training Unit

This multifaceted unit is designed to provide structured trainings as well as support to the departments within the Juvenile Branch of Family Court.

- Training And Training Assistance** - Members of the unit prepare and conduct identified trainings for staff. The unit also assists with various training providers in planning, coordinating and preparing for trainings and training needs





that occur for the Juvenile Branch. In addition, individual training and coaching is provided to individuals who seek assistance from the unit.

■ **Juvenile Probation Training Hours** - During 2017, Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) completed a combination of 9,917 hours of training. All active JPOs completed above the required 40 hours of training. Some of the training highlights for 2017 were Safe Crisis Management, Human Trafficking, Bullying & Suicide, and a DEA drug training. In addition, self-care trainings were available with Taking Care of Yourself as a Helper and Team Building.

■ **Training Calendar** - The training unit manages the shared training calendars for the 15th floor training rooms as well as numerous conference rooms.

■ **Liaison** - Members of the unit act as liaisons with collaborative partners located within the courthouse such as Project Penn, Academic Help Center, Behavioral Health Forensic Evaluation Center (BHFEC) and various other outside providers.

■ **Career Fairs** - Members of the unit have represented the juvenile branch at various career fairs upon request from public and charter schools as well as colleges and universities.

■ **New Employee Orientation** - The unit provides an orientation to new staff assigned to the juvenile branch in a planned effort to help staff acquire knowledge of the building as well as key policy, procedures, and safety measures.

■ **Juvenile Probation Officer Trainee Orientation** -

With twenty Juvenile Probation Officer trainees joining the department throughout 2017, the training unit coordinated four orientation sessions. JPO trainee orientation includes four weeks of training modules providing JPO trainees with a foundation of: juvenile probation practices, basics of case management, officer safety, victim awareness, computer applications, writing reports, and court room practices.

■ **Tours/Court Observations** - The unit also provides tours as well as informational sessions to numerous visitors from various programs and universities. The unit also coordinates and schedules requests for court observations.

■ **Internship Program** - The training unit manages the student internship program which aims to provide a well-rounded experience and educate students in all areas of court services, court operations, and juvenile probation. In 2017, the unit mentored two high school students as part of the FJD's participation in the Philadelphia Youth Network Summer Youth program and twenty college students participated in the internship program.

■ **Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) Graduate Education Program At Shippensburg University**

- The Training Unit coordinates with staff that attend the Shippensburg University graduate program offered through JCJC. In May 2017, one probation officer graduated from the program earning a Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice. Currently there are three Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Officers benefiting from the program.

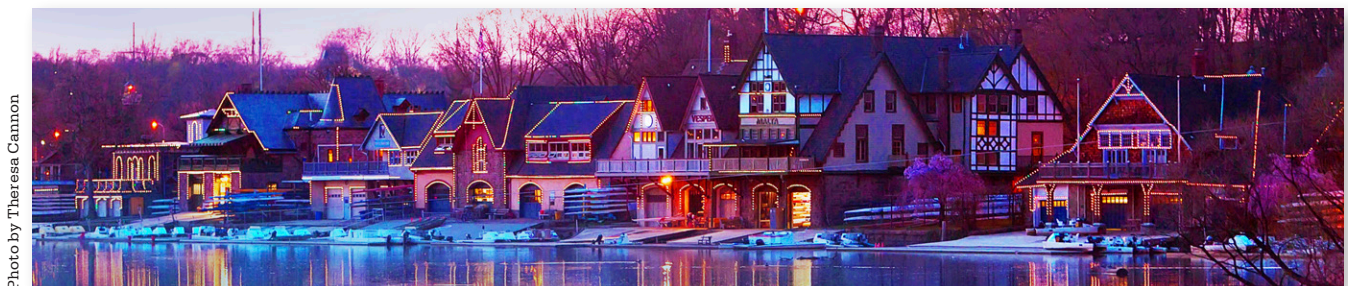


Photo by Theresa Cannon



## Quick Facts — Juvenile Branch

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Juvenile Petition Filings</b>				
<b>Delinquent Filings</b>				
New Filings (Dockets Created)	3,572	2,897	2,678	2,919
<b>Dependent Filings</b>				
New Abuse/Neglect and Status Offense Filings	3,469	3,889	3,593	3,981
<b>Adoption Filings</b>				
New Adoption Filings	502	488	656	923
Relinquishments	656	870	1,199	1,208
<b>Total Adoption Filings</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>2,131</b>
<b>Total Juvenile Petition Filings</b>	<b>8,199</b>	<b>8,144</b>	<b>8,126</b>	<b>9,031</b>
<b>Yearly Hearing Activity</b>				
Dependency Court	37,855	42,892	43,879	44,972
Delinquency Court	46,406	39,847	37,133	34,980
<b>Total Juvenile Hearings</b>	<b>84,261</b>	<b>82,739</b>	<b>81,012</b>	<b>79,952</b>
<b>Yearly Activity by Unit or Support Service</b>				
<b>Juvenile Probation</b>				
Youth on Probation	2,939	2,496	2,141	1,897
Field Contacts	25,209	36,826	39,683	34,098
<b>Diversion</b>				
Youth Aid Panel	422	373	313	338
Informal Adjustments	136	58	7	7



## Quick Facts — Juvenile Branch (cont.)

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>JCJC Outcome Measures</b>				
Closed Cases	1,545	1,563	1,663 <sup>1</sup>	1,357
Community Service Hours Completed	15,362	15,750	28,380	30,080
Juveniles Without A New Offense <sup>2</sup>	1,220	1,244	1,331 <sup>1</sup>	1,081
<b>Victim Services Unit (VSU)</b>				
Victims and Families Served <sup>3</sup>	1,884	1,595	1,186 <sup>3</sup>	1,837 <sup>3</sup>
Total Services <sup>3</sup>	-	-	2,902 <sup>3</sup>	3,865 <sup>3</sup>
Court Accompaniments	120	64	11	2
CPCMS Restitution to Victims (held back)	\$8,585	\$6,147	\$11,133	\$15,391
<b>Prevention Services Unit</b>				
Families Served	470	544	772	624
Families/Children receiving DHS Services	109	86	56	55
<b>Project Start Truancy</b>				
Total Hearings at Regional Courts and Courthouse(s)	10,296	10,730	12,289	12,505
Total Cases Discharged	3,141	3,416	3,398	4,176
<b>Substance Abuse Unit</b>				
Court Ordered Specimen Testing	20,157	19,090	19,798	20,074
<b>Fiscal Unit Collections</b>				
Restitution Payments	192,919	180,819	187,133	174,032
Court Costs/Fees	128,846	103,679	99,956	86,098
Adoption Branch Filing Fees <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	79,688 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total Fiscal Unit Collections</b>	<b>\$321,765</b>	<b>\$284,498</b>	<b>\$287,089</b>	<b>\$339,818</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised due to Case Clean – Up (Previously 1,668 and 1,335).

<sup>2</sup> Resulting in a Consent Decree, Adjudication of Delinquency, or Finding of Guilt.

<sup>3</sup> The method of counting victims has changed in 2016. Previously, if a victim was serviced multiple times, the unit counted that victim multiple times. Now, if the unit serves a victim multiple times the unit counts that victim one time but counts 100 % of the services individually.

<sup>4</sup> Beginning in 2017, the Fiscal Unit began collecting and receipting Adoption Branch Filing Fees in CPCMS.





## DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH

**T**he Domestic Relations Branch has jurisdiction over paternity establishment; child and spousal support order establishment, order modification and enforcement; custody; divorce and domestic violence matters. Under the leadership of Deputy Court Administrator, Mary Lou Baker; Directors, Joseph C. Kamnik, Jr.; Roy C. Chambers; Joseph P. McGill, Esq.; Edward V. Lehmann, Jr., and Fred Keller the Domestic Relations Branch consists of over 30 operational units. DCA Baker is also responsible for carrying out initiatives

identified by the Court Administrator of the FJD, in addition to working directly with the Administrative Judge and Supervising Judge of Family Court. Ten (10) judges and one (1) Senior Judge are assigned to Domestic Relations to preside over all support, custody, divorce and domestic violence matters, including criminal abuse matters. The Domestic Relations Branch utilizes state of the art case management techniques that enhance timely case processing, increase performance measures, collect child support, establish paternity and secure medical support for children.

### The Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program Mission Statement

Partnering with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and the State Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE), the mission of the Child Support Enforcement Program within the Domestic Relations Branch is to

increase the reliability of child support paid by non-custodial parents by: locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing realistic support orders, increasing health care coverage for children, and removing barriers to support payments, such as referring non-custodial parents to employment and educational services. Child support orders are established and enforced in accordance with federal, state and local rules and statutes. In Pennsylvania, the Child

Support Enforcement Program utilizes a statewide computer system, PACSES, to establish, monitor and enforce support orders.

#### Domestic Relations Overview

- The Domestic Relations Branch met the 80% threshold in all performance areas and was instrumental in ensuring that the state of Pennsylvania remained the most efficient and effective Child Support Enforcement program in the country.
- In 2017, support collections totaled more than \$154M.
- In 2017, there were more than 76,000 total filings in the Domestic Relations Branch (21,894 custody, 31,181 support, 9,423 domestic violence and 13,892 divorce) and more than 85,000 interim and final orders entered (31,999 custody, 23,520 support, 26,564 domestic violence, and 3,446 divorce).

#### Federal Performance Measures

Since Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000, the OCSE has assessed the effectiveness of Child Support programs and calculated state incentive payments based on the performance measures as mandated in the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act (CSPIA) of 1998. Performance of 80% or above in each performance measure is required and penalties are incurred if the minimum performance level is not achieved.



The key performance measures are as follows:

- **Paternity Establishment** – all active children on IV-D cases that were born out of wedlock and have had paternity established divided by all active children on IV-D cases that were born out of wedlock
- **Support Order Establishment** – open IV-D cases with orders divided by open IV-D cases
- **Current Collections** – total amount of current support collected and disbursed divided by the total amount of current child support due
- **Arrears Collections** – IV-D cases with payments disbursed towards arrears divided by the total number of IV-D cases with arrears due

**T**he Domestic Relations Branch exceeded the 80% threshold in all performance areas and was instrumental in ensuring that the state of Pennsylvania remained the most efficient and effective Child Support Enforcement program in the country.

**Paternity Establishment** ..... **98.69%**

**Support Order Establishment** ..... **82.24%**

**Current Collections** ..... **80.00%**

**Arrears Collections** ..... **82.38%**

## **Paternity Establishment**

The establishment of paternity is the first step toward determining the child support obligation. In Pennsylvania, there is no legal relationship between the alleged father of a child born out of wedlock unless and until a valid Acknowledgement of Paternity, signed by both parties, is validated and on record with the BCSE; or the court enters an order establishing paternity. Acknowledgements of paternity may be entered voluntarily, or can be completed in-hospital, at the time of the child's birth. Once paternity is established, the child may be eligible for any of the following:

- **Birth Certificate** – child's birth certificate will show name of father
- **Health Care Benefits** – if available, the father may be able to include the child under his health care plan
- **Social Security** – the child may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits if the father becomes disabled or dies
- **Inheritance** – upon death of the father, a child may have the right to inherit from his estate

- **U.S. Military benefits** – the child may be entitled to benefits as a result of the father's military service
- **Child Support** – the court may establish an order for the father to support the child until the child is emancipated

Utilizing rules and statutes governing paternity establishment, the court may enter default paternity orders or use genetic testing to establish the paternity of a child. During the order establishment process, conference officers routinely establish paternity for children born out of wedlock by executing acknowledgements of paternity or scheduling genetic tests. This testing procedure is non-invasive, i.e., the body is not pierced by any instrument. The instrument used to collect a buccal swab is a cotton or Dacron™. The procedure involves gently stroking the lining of the inner cheek (buccal mucosa) with the applicator. The tissues collected on the swab are buccal epithelial cells that are continually shed as a normal physiological process and are normally present in saliva. These cells contain the DNA required to perform parentage testing. Typically four (4) swabs are collected from each individual in a case, two (2) are used for initial testing, which is usually adequate to finish a



case; and the remaining two (2) are stored indefinitely. There are no age restrictions on individuals from whom specimens are to be drawn. Currently, buccal swabs are used on one-day-old infants as part of in-hospital acknowledgement programs. Because some intergovernmental jurisdictions may not currently utilize Buccal Specimen Collection, it may be necessary to

collect blood specimens in reciprocal cases. The Domestic Relations Branch also has access to the Pennsylvania Paternity Tracking System (PTS) that allows them to research and view in-hospital Acknowledgements of Paternity.

The Genetic Testing Lab located in Family Court conducted approximately 3,600 DNA paternity tests.

## Support Order Establishment/Modification

In a continuing effort to improve performance and increase support collections, all conference officers manage their assigned portion of the child support caseload. Officers conduct establishment, modification and enforcement conferences in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil procedure and are expected to effectively manage their caseload by establishing realistic orders, and by utilizing the Pennsylvania Automated Child Support Enforcement System (PACSES), and other ancillary applications to ensure compliance.

There were more than 31,000 support filings, including 13,861 new complaints for support and 9,007 petitions to modify an existing support order.

Each new complaint is scheduled for an establishment conference which is conducted under Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure (Pa. R.C.P.)1910.12. If no agreement for support is reached at the conference, or if the defendant fails to appear, the conference officer may enter an interim support order based on the support guidelines as allowed by Pa. R.C.P. 1910-12 (b) (1) (2). If paternity of an out of wedlock child is denied, genetic testing will be ordered and the case listed for court to resolve the paternity issue. Conference officers also hold conferences on claims for spousal and child support raised in a divorce action and process stipulations and orders for alimony payments.

If the matter is not resolved at the establishment conference,

<b>Total Support Filings</b>	<b>31,181</b>
<b>New Complaints for Support</b>	<b>13,861</b>
<b>Conferences Scheduled</b>	<b>41,490</b>
<b>Record Hearings Conducted</b>	<b>9,371</b>
<b>Support Exceptions Filed</b>	<b>1,183</b>

the case is scheduled for a hearing before one of the quasi-judicial support masters assigned to Domestic Relations. All support masters are licensed attorneys who conduct record hearings (by audio-recording). At the conclusion of the hearing, the master prepares a "proposed order," which is the master's recommendation to the court.

Issuance of the proposed order starts a twenty (20) day period during which either or both sides may file "exceptions" to the proposed order. Exceptions is a document in which a party specifies the mistakes of law, fact or procedure that the party believes were made by the master in the report and proposed order and/or during the hearing.

There were 9,371 record hearings conducted before a support master and there were 1,183 support exceptions filed. Under certain circumstances a case can also be "remanded" to the master by a judge after a court hearing on exceptions.





## Support Order Enforcement — Collection of Current and Past Due Support

Conference Officers routinely monitor and track all child support orders in their assigned caseload to ensure compliance. Support orders are electronically monitored through the Pennsylvania Automated Child Support Enforcement System (PACSES) for payments. Efforts are taken to encourage compliance as soon as the order is entered. If necessary, progressive enforcement remedies are taken. When accounts become delinquent, obligors may be scheduled for enforcement conferences, contempt conferences, or judicial contempt hearings, depending on the circumstances or the severity of the delinquency. There were approximately 16,400 enforcement conferences scheduled before conference officers. Domestic Relations judges presided over approximately 10,000 contempt of support hearings. The underlying objective of the child support enforcement process is to compel payment, and encourage ongoing compliance, so that

<b>Enforcement Conferences Scheduled</b>	<b>16,389</b>
<b>Contempt Petitions filed</b>	<b>5,025</b>
<b>Conferences Scheduled</b>	<b>41,490</b>
<b>Contempt Hearings Scheduled</b>	<b>9,972</b>
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$154,084,988</b>

child support payments become a consistent source of income for families and children.

Cases that meet certain criteria for automated enforcement are selected for one or more of the following enforcement remedies: Income attachment, Federal and Pennsylvania tax intercepts, Credit Bureau Reports, Driver's License Suspensions, Professional License Suspensions, Financial Institution Data Matches, Passport Denials, Property Liens, and Lottery Interceptions.

## New Employment Opportunities for Noncustodial Parents (NEON)

In 2004, under the state funded New Employment Opportunities for Noncustodial Parents (NEON) program, the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, Family Court, and Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI) formed a partnership to address

employment barriers faced by many of Philadelphia's child support obligors.

Under this partnership, NEON awards Philadelphia 500 job training and job placement slots annually. The Domestic

**S**ince 2004, 6,579 unemployed obligors have been enrolled in the NEON program.

**70% of the obligors who complete the program find jobs with an average hourly wage of \$10.83, and 45% of those jobs provide medical coverage**

**Since 2004, obligors who have completed the NEON program have paid more than \$36,000,000 in child support.**

Relations Branch created the Networking for Jobs and Ex-offender Reentry Program to promote responsible parenthood and improve work opportunities for unemployed obligors. The Networking for Jobs and Ex-offender Reentry

Program helps unemployed obligors find and keep full time employment by connecting them with EDSI.

EDSI provides career counseling, job readiness classes, peer support, job placement, and on-going contact with a career



counselor. The Networking for Jobs and Ex-offender Reentry Program has since expanded its outreach to include other job providers outside the NEON program; including CareerLink, the Mayor's Office of Community Service (MOCS) Fatherhood Initiative, Connection Training Services and People for People.

Since 2004, 6,579 unemployed obligors have been enrolled in the

NEON program. This partnership has enabled 70% of the obligors who completed the EDSI program to find jobs with an average hourly wage of \$10.83 and 45% of those jobs provided medical benefits.

As of June, 2017, the total life-to-date collections for obligors who have successfully completed the NEON program were \$36,030,472.11.

## Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement System (PACSES) Enhancements: PACSES Technology Refresh

In 2017, the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) initiated a multi-year, multi-phase initiative to "refresh" its aging technology, and eliminate any risk of disruption to the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program associated with outdated mainframe technology. The initiative intends to retain current functionality to protect Pennsylvania's ranking as the #1 CSE

program in the country. A workgroup consisting of county staff, including key personnel from Philadelphia County, was formed to work with BCSE designing and developing the upgraded system. Philadelphia County representatives have actively participated in the System Requirements and General System Design phases of this initiative.

## Custody Responsibilities

The judges and custody masters assigned to the Domestic Relations Branch preside over all custody related matters, including, but not limited to, primary custody, partial custody, contempt of custody and relocation matters. Resolution of child custody disputes is one of the more sensitive and emotionally charged functions of the Domestic Relations Branch.

All petitions seeking to establish a custody order or to

modify an existing order are referred to the Master's Unit by the Clerk of Family Court and the Intake Unit. There were more than 21,000 custody related filings filed with the Domestic Relations Branch, including more than 10,000 complaints seeking to establish or modify a custody order. In 2017, the quasi-judicial Custody Masters assigned to the Domestic Relations Branch, conducted more than 12,000 custody related conferences/hearings.

If an agreement is not reached at the master's conference, the master may, in some cases, direct the parties to a judge for a same-day hearing. More than 630 cases were referred to court directly from the masters hearing. Where no final agreement is reached at the conference, the matter will be listed for a full judicial hearing. There were approximately 12,200 custody related judicial events scheduled. Through the efforts of the custody masters and judges, nearly 32,000 final and interim dispositions were entered.

<b>Total Custody Filings</b>	<b>21,894</b>
<b>Events Scheduled - Masters</b>	<b>12,035</b>
<b>Events Scheduled - Judicial</b>	<b>12,219</b>
<b>Custody Dispositions Entered (Interim and Final)</b>	<b>31,999</b>



## Family Court Help Center

The Family Court Help Center was opened in 2015 as a resource for pro se litigants to obtain forms and information related to domestic relations matters. Staffed by volunteer attorneys from the Philadelphia Family Law Section, Women Against Abuse, and Philadelphia Legal Assistance, the Help Center is located in the office of the Clerk of Family Court on the 11th floor of 1501 Arch Street, and open from 12:00pm to 3:00pm on normal Family Court business days. Although

the initial focus of the Help Center is to provide assistance in custody cases, forms and informational materials are also available for all other domestic relations case types. In 2017, nearly 1,900 pro-se litigants received assistance from the Help Center.

## Divorce Responsibilities

The Domestic Relations Branch has jurisdiction over all facets of divorce proceedings. These include the entry of decrees in divorce and annulments and resolutions of all economic claims arising from divorce actions. Domestic Relations Judges hear all divorce motions, including motions for discovery, substituted service, specific relief, and enter orders approving grounds for divorce. Economic claims arising from divorce actions, such as equitable distribution, alimony, and counsel fees and costs are initially heard by our experienced divorce masters, who conduct non-record hearings. If an agreement is not reached before the divorce master, a proposed Order and Decree is issued and a party may file for a trial de novo before a Domestic Relations judge.

There were 1,815 new Complaints in Divorce filed and there were 1,511 Divorce Complaints disposed. In addition to new Divorce Complaints, there were 12,077 divorce related pleadings (contested and uncontested) filed within the Domestic Relations Branch.

<b>New Divorce Complaints Filed</b>	<b>1,815</b>
<b>Divorce Complaints Disposed</b>	<b>1,511</b>
<b>Related pleadings Filed (Contested and uncontested)</b>	<b>12,077</b>

<b>New PFA Petitions Filed</b>	<b>9,423</b>
<b>Temporary Orders Entered</b>	<b>9,171</b>
<b>Final Orders Entered</b>	<b>8,397</b>

## Violence Responsibilities

The Domestic Violence Unit is a pro se filing unit designed to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. Additionally, the Senior Law Center has representatives located in the Domestic Violence Unit to assist elderly clients who are victims of abuse or who may need referrals for additional services. The Domestic Violence Unit conducts interviews with petitioners and prepares Protection from Abuse (PFA) Petitions, which are then submitted to Domestic Relations Judges for review and, if appropriate, the entry of a Temporary PFA Order. Domestic Relations Division Judges hear cases involving domestic violence between family members, or between parties who have had an intimate relationship. Domestic Relations Judges also conduct hearings to vacate or extend restraining orders, and in contempt of PFA orders, both criminal and civil. In 2017, PFA petitions seeking the entry of an order totaled 9,423. In 2017, Domestic Relations' Judges presided over more than 17,800 domestic violence related events.

Judges assigned to the Domestic Relations Division conduct criminal trials on cases charging defendants with indirect criminal contempt for violation of a protection order entered pursuant to the Protection from Abuse Act. In 2017, Domestic Relations Judges conducted more than 2,800 hearings in criminal abuse cases.





## Philadelphia Family Court Domestic Relations Division

Title IV-D Child Support Program

### DR Quick Facts

#### Performance Measure Support Order

Open IV-D Cases as of 12/16	90,307
Number of Active Children in Open Cases as of 12/16	125,385
Average Children/Case	1.39

<b>Collections (OCSE 34A)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
TANF Collections	64,453,207	66,005,375	63,086,198
Non-TANF Collections	82,870,328	83,688,324	82,693,126
<b>Sub-Total Collections</b>	<b>147,323,535</b>	<b>149,693,700</b>	<b>145,779,324</b>
Non-IV-D Collections	5,757,571	5,652,312	8,305,664
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$153,081,105</b>	<b>\$155,346,012</b>	<b>\$154,084,968</b>

#### Case Count (157a Line 2)

Current	13,529	11,102	8,792
Former	42,696	42,812	43,236
Never	21,092	20,368	20,368
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,317</b>	<b>74,282</b>	<b>72,297</b>

#### Average Annual Collection Per Case (OSCE 34A)

TANF Collections	1,146	1,224	1,213
Non-TANF Collections	3,929	4,109	4,080
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$1,905</b>	<b>\$2,015</b>	<b>\$2,016</b>

#### Accumulated Arrears Owed (October 2017 - December 2017) OSCE 157F

Philadelphia	126,038,656
Pennsylvania	835,667,906

#### Current Staff (As of December 25th 2016)

Full-Time IV-D Employees	349
Part-Time IV-D Employees	0
Full-Time General Fund Employees	69
Part-Time General Fund Employees	0
District attorney Employees	16



## Philadelphia Family Court Domestic Relations Branch (cont.)

Calendar Years 2015-2017

<b>Total DR Filings</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Custody Filings</b>	Custody/Confirm Custody	5,594	5,873	6,397
	Partial Custody/Visitation	429	430	375
	Modify Custody	3,231	3,477	3,824
	Contempt of Custody	1,631	1,837	1,898
	Subtotal	10,885	11,617	12,494
	Custody Exceptions	88	235	204
	Motions & Other Filings	8,625	8,456	9,196
	<b>Total Custody Filings</b>	<b>19,598</b>	<b>20,308</b>	<b>21,894</b>
<b>Support Filings</b>	New Complaints	17,529	16,110	13,861
	Modifications	10,546	9,941	9,007
	Contempt Petitions	5,491	6,090	5,025
	Support Exceptions	1,430	1,421	1,183
	Support Motions	1,588	1,776	2,105
<b>Total Support Filings</b>		<b>36,584</b>	<b>35,338</b>	<b>31,181</b>
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	New Petitions	10,101	9,879	9,423
<b>Divorce</b>	New Petitions	1,732	1,734	1,815
	Misc. Filings <sup>1</sup>	11,479	11,698	12,077
<b>Total Divorce Filings</b>		<b>13,211</b>	<b>13,432</b>	<b>13,892</b>
<b>Total DR Filings</b>		<b>79,494</b>	<b>78,957</b>	<b>78,390</b>
<b>Total DR Petitions Processed</b>				
<b>Custody</b>	Interim, Master and Judicial	26,431	32,649	31,999
<b>Support</b>	Establishment only.	27,901	29,773	23,520
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	Interim & Final	28,102	26,945	26,564
<b>Divorce</b>	Final & Interim Orders only	3,036	3,438	3,446
<b>Total DR Dispositions</b>		<b>85,470</b>	<b>92,805</b>	<b>85,529</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contested & Uncontested



## Child Support Awareness

### Child Support Awareness Day In Harrisburg

On August 14, 2017, Pennsylvania celebrated Child Support Awareness Day with a ceremony inside the Rotunda of the state Capitol building in Harrisburg. More than 100 child support workers from across the Commonwealth were present on the steps of the Rotunda to participate in the ceremony. Lisa Watson, Deputy Secretary, Office of Income Maintenance, welcomed all those present, and on behalf of Governor Thomas Wolf, read and presented a Proclamation declaring August as Child Support Awareness Month. Deputy



Secretary Watson also recognized the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP) on their 50th anniversary.

DRAP President, Edward V. Lehmann, Jr., also addressed those in attendance, speaking of the accomplishments of the child support program and the importance to continue to improve and provide the critical services to children and families.

## Child Support Awareness Month

During the month of August 2017, Domestic Relations celebrated national Child Support Awareness Month. Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement services were advertised in several local neighborhood newspapers during August. All Domestic Relations staff wore a pin to recognize the outstanding achievements and services provided throughout the year.

In honor of Child Support Awareness Month, a three day Training was held for Hearing Officers. There were two days of PACSETI Training focusing on Support Guideline Calculations and an in house Training Day which featured key

speakers, Administrative Judge Margaret T. Murphy, Mary Lou Baker, Honorable Joel Johnson, Honorable Maria McLaughlin, Honorable Christopher Mallios and Joan Esmonde, Esq. from the DA's office, who discussed their role in the Child Support program in Philadelphia County.

## Domestic Relations Association Of Pennsylvania (DRAP)

### Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP) Conference

In September, 2017, Philadelphia County served as host county for the 50th annual training conference of the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP). DRAP President, Edward V. Lehmann, Jr., presided over the conference at the Double Tree hotel in center city. More than 450 attendees, representing 43 Pennsylvania counties, as well as representatives from the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Pennsylvania Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE), and the Pennsylvania Child Support Training







**Edward V. Lehmann, Jr. DRAP President, Rose Bynum OCSE, Scott Lekan OCSE Commissioner**

Institute (PACSETI) attended the 4 day conference. Speakers included new OCSE Commissioner, Scott Lekan, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty, and Philadelphia Family Court Administrative Judge, Margaret Murphy.

To commemorate this milestone event, DRAP also welcomed back many of the association's past presidents, including DRAP's first president, Anthony Voci, from Delaware County. In addition to the 40 workshops covering relevant topics in the area of child support enforcement, attendees were treated to all the sights and sounds that Philadelphia has to offer, including an outdoor, rooftop reception overlooking the famous Philadelphia skyline. On September 25th, President Lehmann hosted an evening reception at the new Philadelphia Family Court facility for the DRAP Board of Directors. Staff from Philadelphia's Domestic Relations Division was instrumental in planning and organizing this long anticipated event. Robert Dacri, Patricia Brown and Ann Romanowski performed an amazing rendition of our



National Anthem to kick off the conference. For many of the attendees, the conference afforded them the opportunity to visit the City of Brotherly Love for the first time. Fair to say that all attendees benefited from the opportunity to interact with their peers from across the Commonwealth and thoroughly enjoyed their time in Philadelphia!!



## Family Court Events And Awards

This year, Family Court hosted and participated in a variety of events celebrating Philadelphia's Families, our staff,

our stakeholders, and the transformational power of the Courts and their partners. Many staff members also received awards and accolades, in recognition of their excellence and service to Family Court.

## Employee Appreciation Days

As part of the Child Support Awareness month and Juvenile Justice Week, Administrative Judge Murphy and Supervising Judge Olszewski hosted employee appreciation luncheons, for all Family Court employees on August 3rd and October 6th.

## Bureau For Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) Meeting

In March, 2017, Philadelphia Domestic Relations Division hosted a meeting with BCSE staff. Topics of discussion included processing of TANF referrals, paternity establishment and disestablishment and PACSES functionality.

## Shadowing Program

The Shadowing Program is a seven-month program that provides interpreters with an opportunity to "shadow" Court Interpreter Javier Aguilar in Family Court and Court Interpreter Elizabeth Basulto in the Philadelphia Municipal Court, as they appear in various courtrooms and hearing offices, providing interpreting and on-site translation services.

This year's program was coordinated by Winnie Gilmore, the Administrative Assistant to former Deputy Court Administrator Janet Fasy, and included the following participants: Mirvat Abuali, Jennifer Chen, Anya Payne, and Olivia Haber-Greenwood.

Participants specialized in the following respective languages:

Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin dialect), Polish, and Spanish.

At the commencement of the 2017 Shadowing Program, March 23, 2017, Family Court hosted a full-day "Information Session" with various speakers and court officials regarding the requirements for state certification as a Court Interpreter; an overview of the criminal justice system, family court procedures and protocols, and Municipal Court criminal operations; and a presentation emphasizing the ethical considerations court interpreters must adhere to pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct for Judiciary Interpreters.

It is believed that the "Shadowing Program" established by the Philadelphia courts, is the only program of its kind throughout the state trial courts, in the United States.







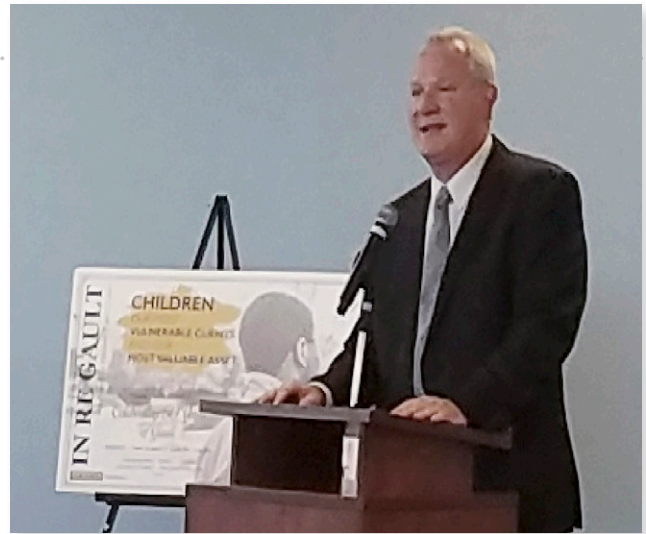
## **Eastern Region Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP) Meeting**

In March, 2017, the Philadelphia Domestic Relations Division hosted a meeting of the eastern region of the DRAP. The meeting included representatives from 16 counties, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE), and the Pennsylvania

Child Support Training Institute (PACSETI). Topics of discussion included proposed legislation changes, and, enhancements to the PACSES system. The meeting proved to be a successful exchange of ideas and information.

## **In Re Gault Celebration**

To mark the 50th anniversary of this landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision *In Re Gault*, Administrative Judge Margaret T. Murphy and Supervising Judge Walter J. Olszewski hosted an awards ceremony at Philadelphia Family Court on May 15, 2017. The Public Defenders of Philadelphia presented awards to stakeholders championing the rights of juveniles in the justice system. Supreme Court Justice and Former Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty spoke at this event.



## **Philadelphia Youth Network Summer Student Program**

During the summer of 2017, Family Court participated with other FJD divisions and provided “real-world” experience to student interns from the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN). Ten (10) PYN students were assigned to Family Court, eight (8) in the Domestic Relations Branch and (2) in the Juvenile

Branch, where they were given hands-on experience working in an office environment. During the program, the students were exposed to many of the operational units within the court, as well as the courtroom environment. Each week, the PYN students attended and participated in a program organized by the Office of Human Resources. PYN students and their mentors attended a farewell luncheon on August 31, 2017.

## **Graduated Response Forum**

Three members of the Juvenile Probation Department participated in the Graduated Response Forum, held in May 2017 in State College, Pennsylvania. Deputy Director Amy Warner gave a presentation on Philadelphia County’s development and roll-out of Graduated Responses.

## **Juvenile Justice Week**

Juvenile Justice Week is an annual celebration, in recognition of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System and its’ work with juveniles, victims, and communities. From October 1, 2017 thru October 7, 2017, the Juvenile Probation Department celebrated Juvenile Justice Week with special events and activities





### **Kickoff to Juvenile Justice Week – Monday October 2, 2017**

The Chief and Directors hosted a morning social for the department to commemorate the beginning of Juvenile Justice Week. Doughnuts and coffee were provided along with an activity for a chance to win a prize. It was a great way to kick off Juvenile Justice Week, highlight the activities for the week, and show appreciation.

### **Staff Team Building Training – Tuesday October 3, 2017**

Staff participated in a team building training conducted by Barbara Orr. Participants enjoyed the activities, exercises, and discussions that focused on how working as a team can benefit staff.

### **Pennsylvania Conference For Women – Tuesday October 3, 2017**

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is a non-profit, nonpartisan one day professional and personal development event for women held in Philadelphia. The conference's special guest speaker was former First Lady Michelle Obama. Ten staff members represented the Juvenile Probation department at this year's conference and thoroughly enjoyed the event.



### **Philabundance – Wednesday October 4, 2017**

The Philadelphia Probation Department sorted and packed food in the freezer section in a community outreach event at Philabundance. Through volunteers and donations, Philabundance is able to feed approximately 90,000 people in the region each week.





## JJSES Activities — Thursday October 5, 2017

Through various activities, probation officers were given a chance to highlight their JJSES knowledge. The Directors provided complimentary pretzels and 2 probation officers competing in the event won Wawa gift cards.

.....

## State of Probation and Award Ceremony — Friday October 6, 2017

Administrative Judge Margaret T. Murphy, Supervising Judge Walter Olszewski, and Chief Probation Officer Faustino Castro-

.....



Jimenez addressed staff during the 2017 State of Probation and Award Ceremony. The ceremony included: a review of 2017 highlights and successes, an overview of upcoming initiatives, staff awards, and the swearing in of fourteen (14) new probation officers.

.....

## 2017 James E. Anderson Annual Conference

Twenty-five (25) administrative, supervisory, and line staff attended the annual juvenile justice conference in November 2017. The training workshops highlighted practices, programs, and initiatives that exemplify best-practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Balanced & Restorative Justice mission and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES).

.....

## Wills For Heroes

On Friday, November 10, 2017, the "Wills for Heroes" program, which provides military veterans, law enforcement officers, and sworn first responders with the opportunity to have basic estate planning documents prepared (wills, living wills and powers of attorney) by trained law students, under the supervision of Professor Kathy Mandelbaum and Associate Dean & Professor Robert Bartow of Temple University Beasley







School of Law, was conducted at the Family Courthouse.

Working in teams, students from Temple Law School and various attorneys (some of whom graduated from Temple Law) specializing in estate planning, estate administration and taxation law, provided their services on a pro bono basis.

Under the leadership of the Honorable Margaret Murphy, Administrative Judge of Family Court, the Honorable Ida Chen established a working group during the planning process which included the following: Deputy Court Administrator Mary Lou Baker; Administrative Assistant & Maintenance Administrator, Linda Candoi; Facilities Resource Manager Mark Poggio; Robert Weisbrod and Thomas Skrocki from

the Information Technology Department; on-site Engineer Dan Groan, from the Elliott-Lewis management firm; Miriam Cardona (Judicial Secretary to Judge Ida Chen); Villanova Law Student Andrew Maude, who has served as a former Summer Law Intern with Judge Chen; and Jordan Shapiro, Esq., former Senior Research Assistant to Judge Chen, and currently serving in the chambers of the Honorable Matthew Carrafiello, the Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division.

Family Court presented each volunteer student, attorney and professor with the American flag pin, as a memento of their dedicated service performed in observance of Veteran's Day.

## National Adoption Day Celebration

National Adoption Day, is a yearly event recognizing the collaborative efforts of the courts, child welfare agencies, advocates, policymakers, and foster families to finalize adoptions and find permanent and forever homes

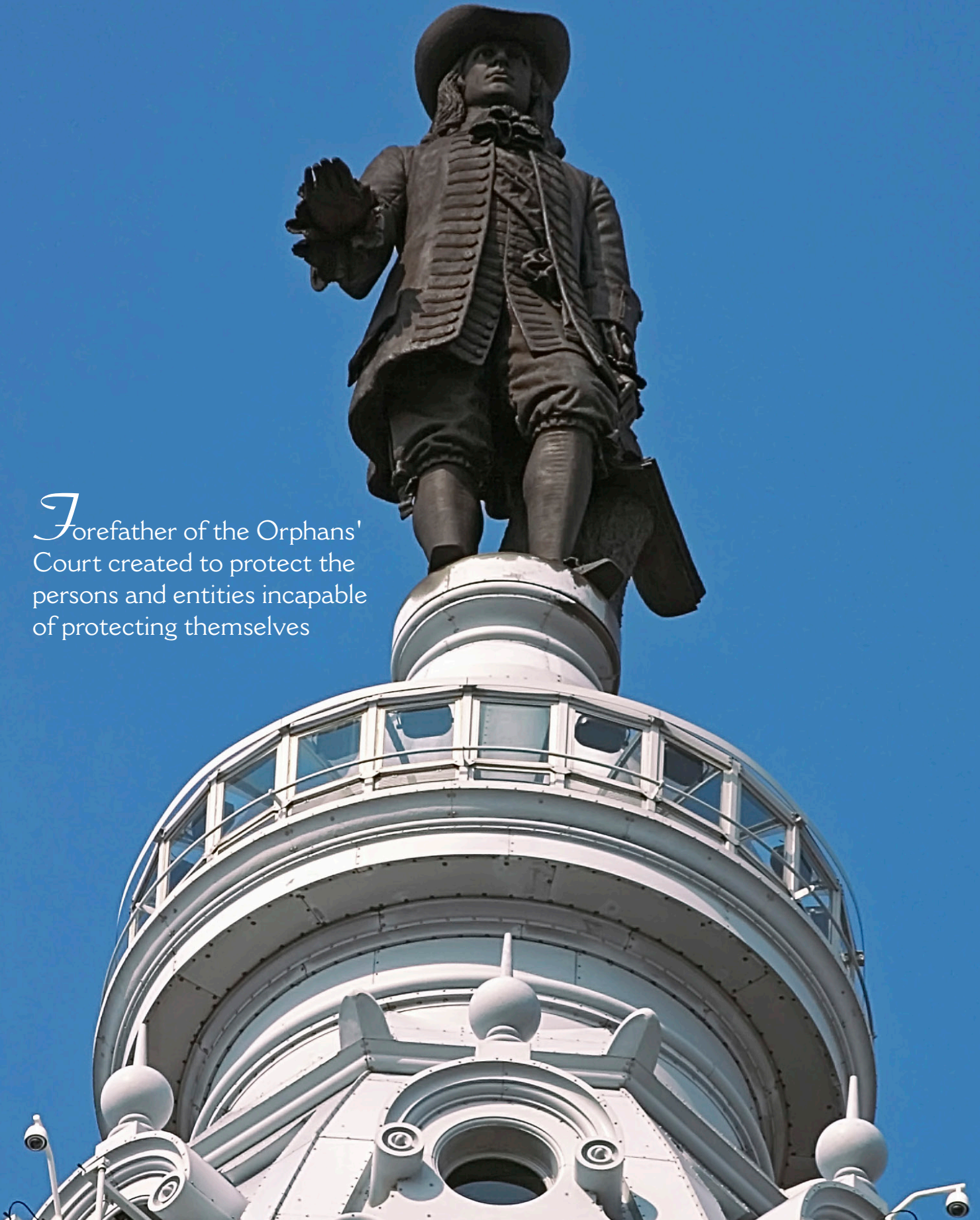
for children. Nationwide, courts and communities across the United States come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care. Administrative Judge Murphy and Supervising Judge Olszewski finalized the adoptions of 12 children, on 11/3/2017 in celebration of National Adoption Day.







*F*orefather of the Orphans'  
Court created to protect the  
persons and entities incapable  
of protecting themselves





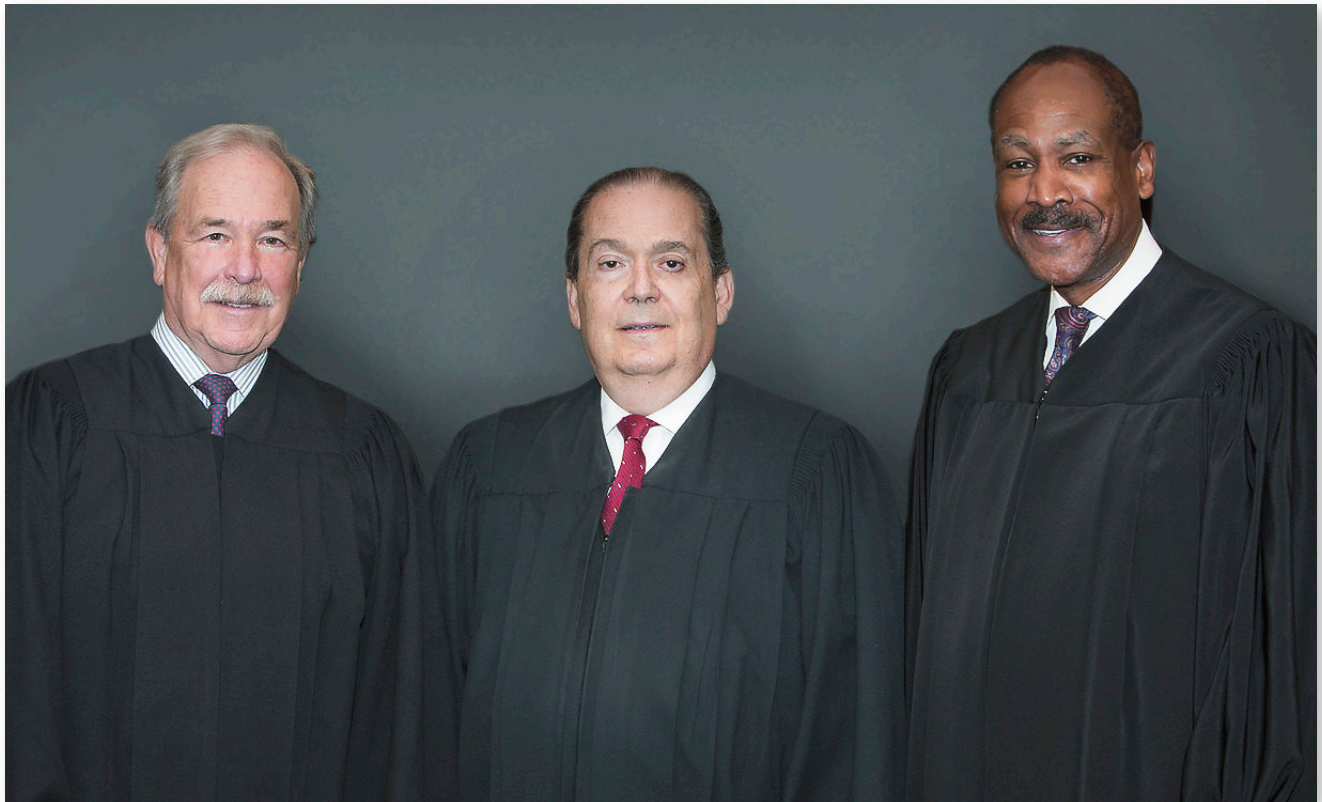


**T**he Orphans' Court protects those who cannot protect themselves, and therefore, the types of cases vary greatly from the protection of people of all ages and at all stages of life to the protection of entities such as estates, trusts, charities and cemeteries. Since 1683, the Philadelphia Orphans' Court, first independent and now a division of the First Judicial District, has been providing protection to those to whom justice might be denied through traditional courts.

Under the leadership of Administrative Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello, with the dedication of Senior Judge John W. Herron and Judge George W. Overton, and the hardworking efforts of the Court staff and administrative personnel, the Orphans' Court Division continues to provide services to those in need.

## Orphans' Court Caseload

Matters coming before the Orphans' Court include petitions, reports, inventories and other requests filed with the Clerk of Orphans' Court and motions filed with the Civil Trial Division's Office of Judicial Records. Matters are then assigned to one of the three Orphans' Court Judges. The total matters assigned and disposed are set forth in the tables that follow.



Senior Judge John W. Herron, Administrative Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello, Judge George W. Overton



## Orphans' Court Cases

It is often said by those familiar with Orphans' Court that cases in Orphans' Court never die, they just linger dormant until an issue arises. While this is said in jest and not of universal validity, matters involving trusts, decedent estates and guardian estates have

been known to last for decades with numerous petitions filed over the years. Cases are assigned a number, year and case type.

Petitions, including reports and inventories, processed in 2017 under each case type are as follows:

### Orphans' Court Division - 2017

	Assigned	Disposed
Petitions, Reports, Inventories and matters filed in Orphans' Court .....	4719	4741
Motions filed in Civil Trial Division and assigned to Orphans' Court Judges.....	740	727
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>5459</b>	<b>5468</b>

### 2017 Orphan's Court Division Case Types

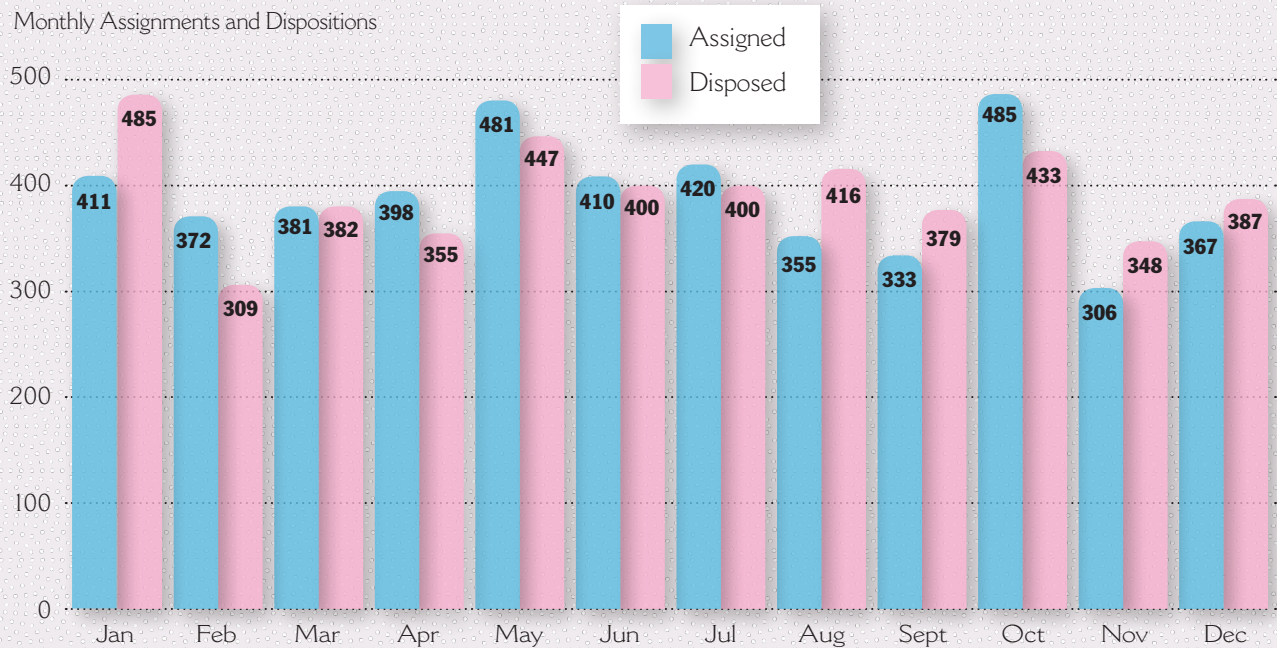
Type	Assigned	Disposed
Alleged Incapacitated Persons	452	455
Appeal From Register	59	53
Corporate Fiduciaries	52	49
Decedents Estate	764	756
Incapacitated Persons	2,502	2,513
Inter Vivos Trust	48	54
Marriage Application Amendment	15	15
Minors	633	657
Non Profit Corporations	43	45
Power Of Attorney	28	24
Special Needs Trust	89	87
Testamentary Trusts	34	33
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,719</b>	<b>4,741</b>



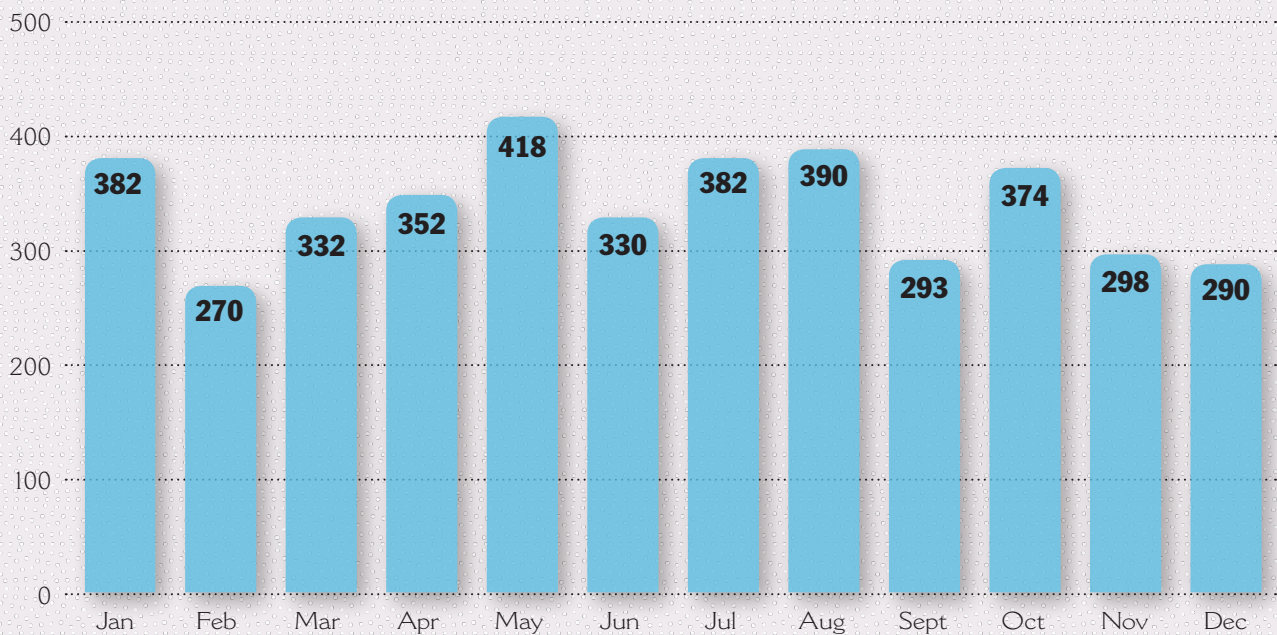


## Orphans' Court Division 2017 Petitions<sup>1</sup>

Monthly Assignments and Dispositions



## Orphans' Court Division 2017 Decrees<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Petitions are processed monthly and decrees issued

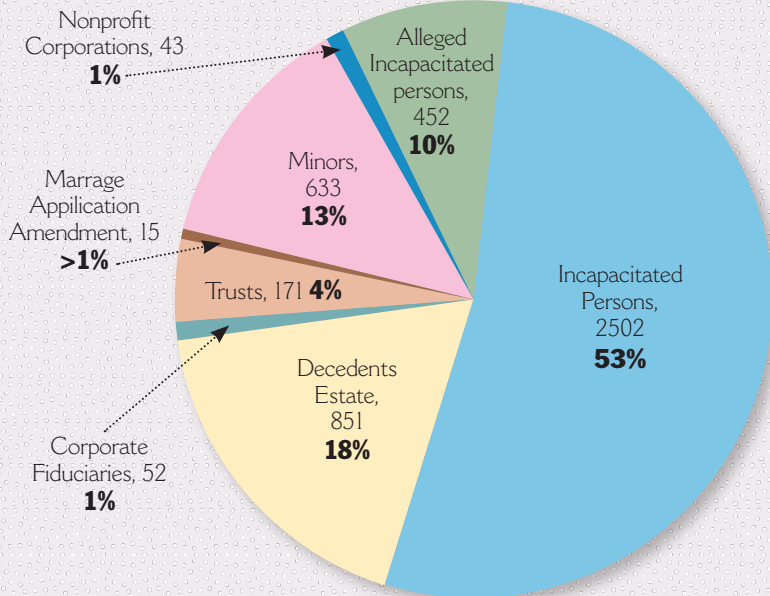


The composition of the Orphans' Court caseload has dramatically changed over the years for Philadelphia County from the traditional areas involving decedent estates and trusts due to an expanding aging population in need of protection because of the inability to cope with an increasingly complex society and exploitation of assets accumulated over a longer lifetime. Approximately 3,200 of the active cases involve people age 60 and over.

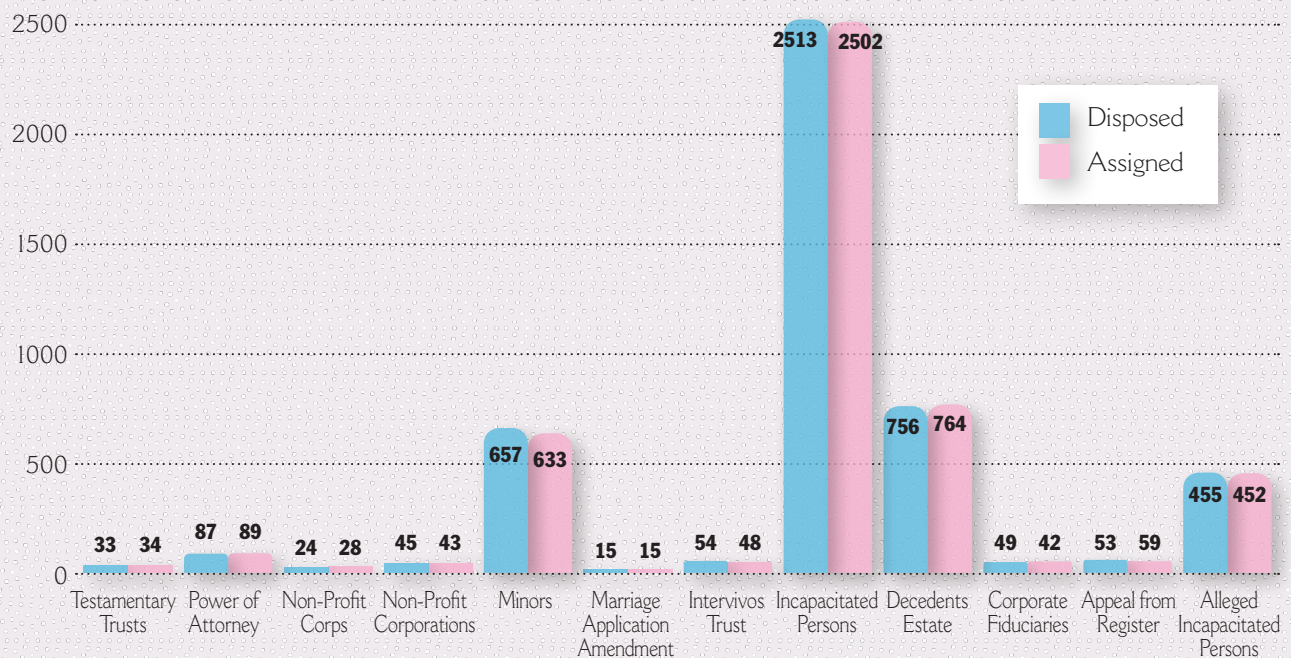
The below charts demonstrate the increased percentage of cases filed in the areas of guardianship (alleged incapacitated persons and incapacitated persons).

### Assigned Petitions by Case Type

Includes Guardian Reports & Inventories



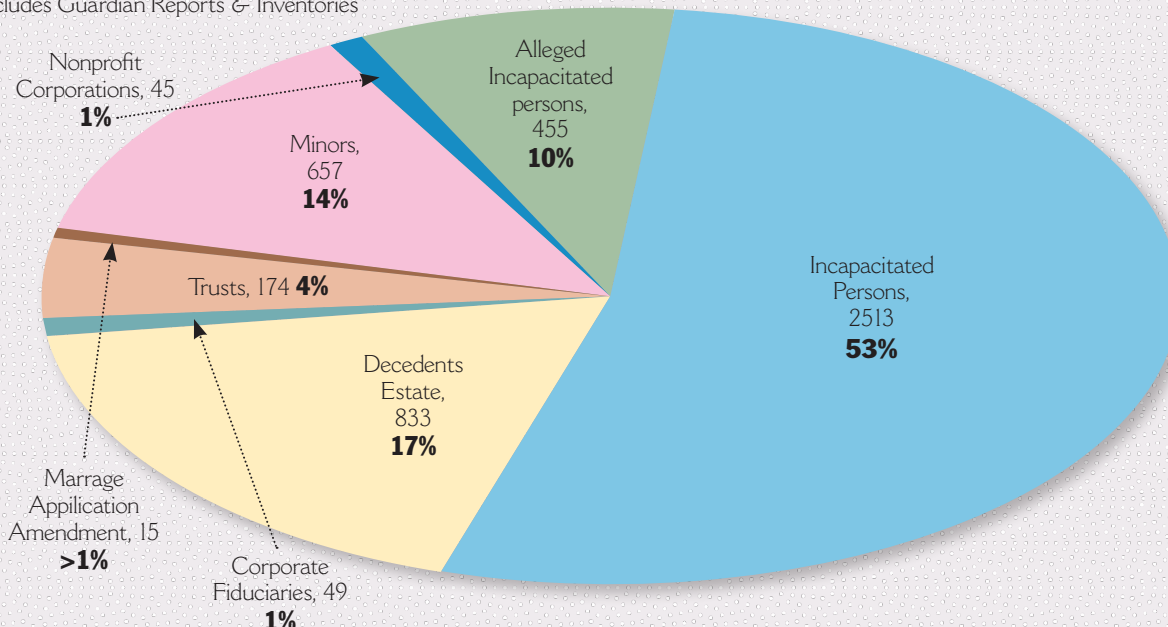
### Orphans' Court Division 2017 Orphans' Petitions





## Disposed Petitions by Case Type

Includes Guardian Reports & Inventories



These charts graphically demonstrate the number of reports, inventories and petitions filed in guardianship cases within the Orphans' Court Division. The filings, including the reports and inventories are reviewed, and if cause for concern ascertained, appropriate action is taken.

## Guardianships Incapacitated and Alleged Incapacitated Persons

Guardians are fiduciaries appointed by the Orphans' Court following a hearing on a petition for the adjudication of incapacity and the appointment of a guardian. They are entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the personal and/or financial well-being of their wards, the incapacitated persons. A guardian can be appointed as the sole guardian of the person to manage health and safety issues, the sole guardian of the estate to manage finances, or guardian of both the person and the estate.

As reflected in the charts, over 50% of the Court's time involves guardianship matters when monitoring of guardians'

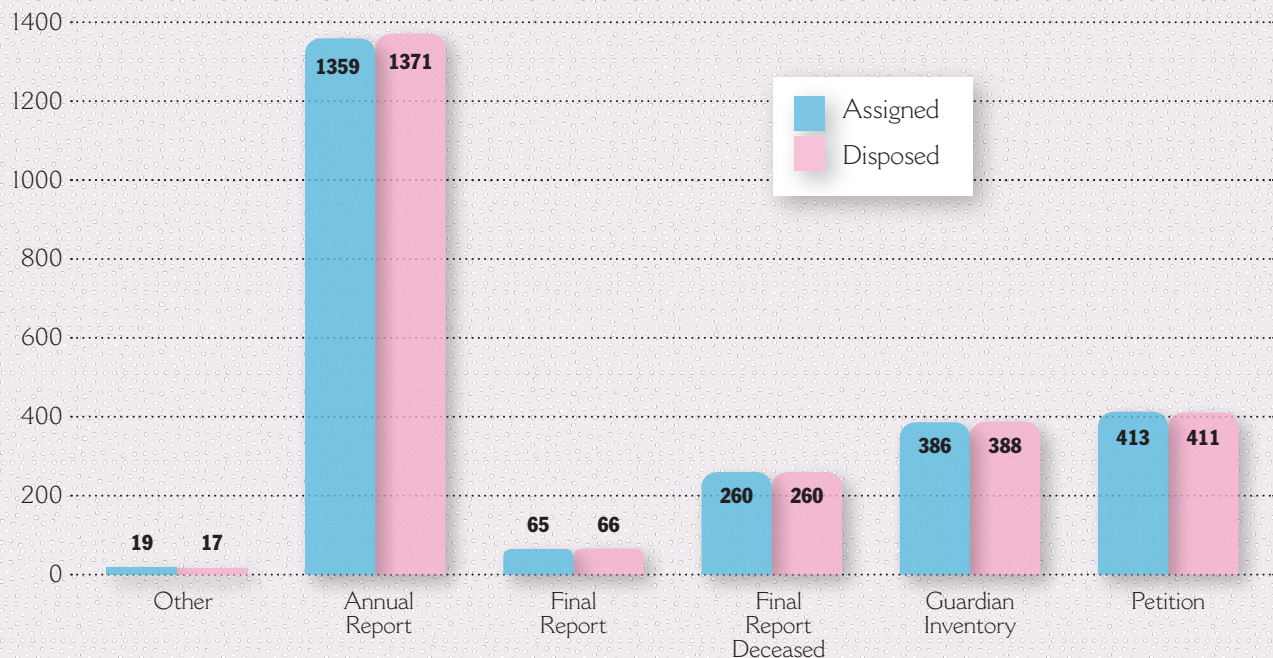
reports is included. As the population ages, the Court has seen a rise in the percentage of guardianship petitions filed compared to the other more traditional areas handled by the Orphans' Court. However, with the implementation of the Health Care Act providing for medical decisions to be made by health care representatives, including family members and other adults with knowledge of the preferences and values of an individual, the Court has seen a slight decrease in the number of petitions for adjudication of incapacity filed in 2017 from 2016.

Philadelphia's tradition of encouraging the appointment of lay guardians continues. With the benefit of appointing those





### **Incapacitated Cases Assigned & Disposed**



most concerned, comes the obligation to see that the guardians act with fidelity for the best interests of the incapacitated person and in compliance with the law. Guardians' actions, especially with respect to their wards' assets and money, are monitored by the Court. Mandatory filing of annual reports and inventories with the Court is required and scrupulous review is made of petitions for disposition and/or expenditures of principal assets.

### **Guardianship Monitoring**

The Guardianship Investigator for the Orphans' Court Division, who joined the Division in the fall of 2016, reviews each Inventory and Annual Report filed by a guardian, tracks guardian compliance with their statutory duty to file reports, and brings any discrepancies to the attention of the assigned Judge. The Guardianship Investigator performs investigation, intervention, counselling and referral to other agencies as deemed necessary.

The Orphans' Court has seen an exponential growth in its regulatory and monitoring functions over guardians and their reports. In 2006, there were 201 active cases, with reports filed in only 3 cases. In 2016, the Court reviewed 1881 filed reports, including Annual Reports, Final Reports, Final Reports-Deceased, and Inventories. In 2017, 1968 reports were reviewed by the Guardianship Investigator.

Petitions are required to be filed to use principal assets for the benefit of the incapacitated person. Such petitions include requests for the following: approval of budgets for clothing, food, vacations, utilities, rent, cable, telephone, nursing home costs, prescription and other medical costs; establishment of burial accounts; creation of trusts; purchases and sales of assets including vehicles and real estate with related insurances, repairs and/or modifications; and approval of counsel fees and guardian commissions.

The incapacitated person's family members and other



interested persons who are concerned with the incapacitated person's welfare, care and safety and/or with the guardian's actions concerning their money and assets can request that the Court schedule a review hearing, and/or when served with a petition seeking Court approval of an action, file a written response. When a guardian is not acting in the best interests of his/her ward or without good judgment, he/she may be removed by the Court and a successor guardian appointed. The Court is working closely with Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to ensure that the interests of the elderly incapacitated persons are protected.

In addition to the protection of elderly individuals, the Orphans' Court protects the interests of minors who require the appointment of a guardian of the person to manage medical, school, residential and other issues, or the appointment of a guardian of the estate to handle financial affairs due to being the recipient of proceeds from personal injury lawsuits, beneficiary

of an insurance policy, or beneficiary from a wrongful death and survival action. Petitions requesting the appointment of a guardian for a minor are assigned and disposed by the Orphans' Court Division. Guardians for minors' estates are required to file a Guardian Inventory pursuant to statute, and when ordered by the Judge, to file reports. The reports and inventories are reviewed by the Guardian Investigator.

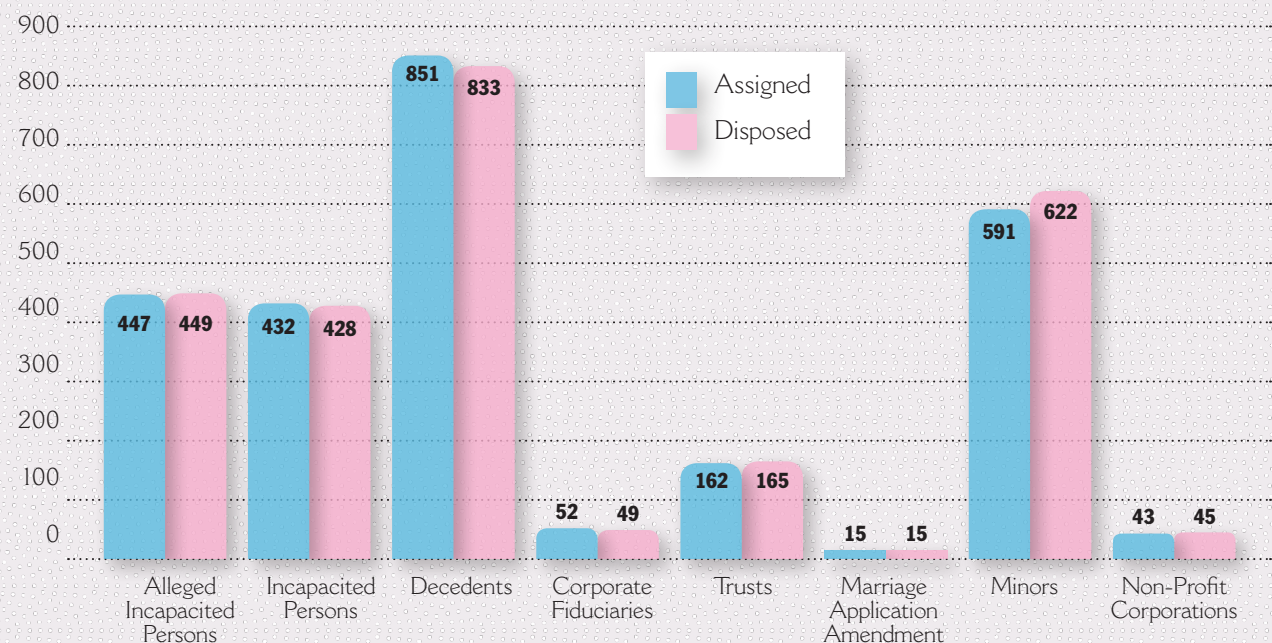
### Decedents' Estates, Appeals from the Register, Trusts, Powers of Attorney

The traditional areas handled by the Orphans' Court Division for Philadelphia County concern Decedents' Estates, Appeals from Decrees issued by the Registers of Wills, Testamentary Trusts, Inter Vivos Trusts, Charitable Trusts, Cemetery Trusts, Powers of Attorney, and audits of accounts under any case type.

Disputes among family members are intensified following the

#### Orphans' Court Petitions Assigned and Disposed by Case Type

Does Not Include Guardian Reports & Inventories





death of a family member where money, real estate, or other assets are involved. This is routinely seen in petitions filed to remove a personal representative, order a personal representative or a former agent under power of attorney to account for assets and funds, to eject an intestate heir from the decedent's home, or for forfeiture. Appeals from decisions of the Register of Wills appointing one family member over another based on allegations

including undue influence, weakened intellect, confidential relationship, fraud, forgery and/or lack of testamentary capacity are common. These cases are often the most complex and time consuming, as families disintegrate trying to advance their positions, driven by emotions.

With the shift in wealth away from Philadelphia County to the surrounding counties, and the termination of long standing trusts, the number of testamentary trusts has declined. Petitions assigned concerning trusts represent less than 5% of the total petitions assigned in the Orphans' Court Division. However, with the increase in multi-million dollar awards in personal injury and medical malpractice cases, and the desire to continue to receive benefits while preserving assets, the Court has seen an increase in petitions for approval of Special Needs Trusts created for disabled individuals, including minors and incapacitated persons, and petitions for the approval of settlement for minors and incapacitated persons.

Philadelphia County, through its Orphans' Court Division, continues to require annual approval of corporate fiduciaries who may be appointed to serve as fiduciaries or depositories of fiduciary funds. Said approval has the benefit of forcing

### **Minors' and Incapacitated Persons' Compromise Petitions**

<b>Orphans' Court Division</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Disposed</b>
Minors	424	448
<b>Civil Trial Division assigned to Orphans' Court Judges</b>		
Minors	439	451
Incapacitated Persons	15	14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>913</b>

those institutions to qualify as doing business within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as submitting to the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Orphans' Court Division. In 2017, 49 corporate fiduciaries were approved.

### **Minors' and Incapacitated Persons' Compromise Petitions**

Orphans' Court approval is required for any settlement and distribution to a minor, incapacitated person, or decedent estate whether it is the result of a settlement, such as with an insurance

company due to a motor vehicle accident, or a jury verdict entered in a complex personal injury, medical malpractice or wrongful death and survival action.

The protection of a minor's and an incapacitated person's interests in litigation is essential. A Guardian Ad Litem, translated as a guardian "for the suit," may be appointed directly by a Civil Trial Judge handling the case

to protect his/her interests during the litigation pursuant to Rules of Civil Procedure, or by an Orphans' Court Judge to whom the petition for approval of settlement is assigned, if concern arises over the effectiveness of representation.

**Orphans' Court  
approval is required  
for any settlement  
and distribution  
to a minor,  
incapacitated  
person, or  
decedent estate**





A petition for settlement, compromise and distribution must be filed regardless of the amount and regardless of whether a lawsuit has been filed. If suit has been filed, the petition is filed with the Office of Judicial Records for the Civil Trial Division, and heard and decided by the Orphans' Court Division acting under its civil trial division jurisdiction. If no suit has commenced, the petition must be filed with the Clerk of Orphans' Court. All such petitions, whether filed in the Orphans' Court Division or the Civil Trial Division, are assigned to an Orphans' Court Judge for review and decision.

## Trial Division Matters Assigned to Orphans' Court Judges

The Orphans' Court Judges dispose of petitions and motions assigned from Civil Trial Division concerning quiet title actions, non-profit corporations whose assets are for charitable purposes, appointment of conservators, approval of settlement and distribution of wrongful death and survival actions, minors' actions and incapacitated persons' actions.

Trial Division motions assigned and disposed by the Orphans' Court Division in 2017 are as follows:

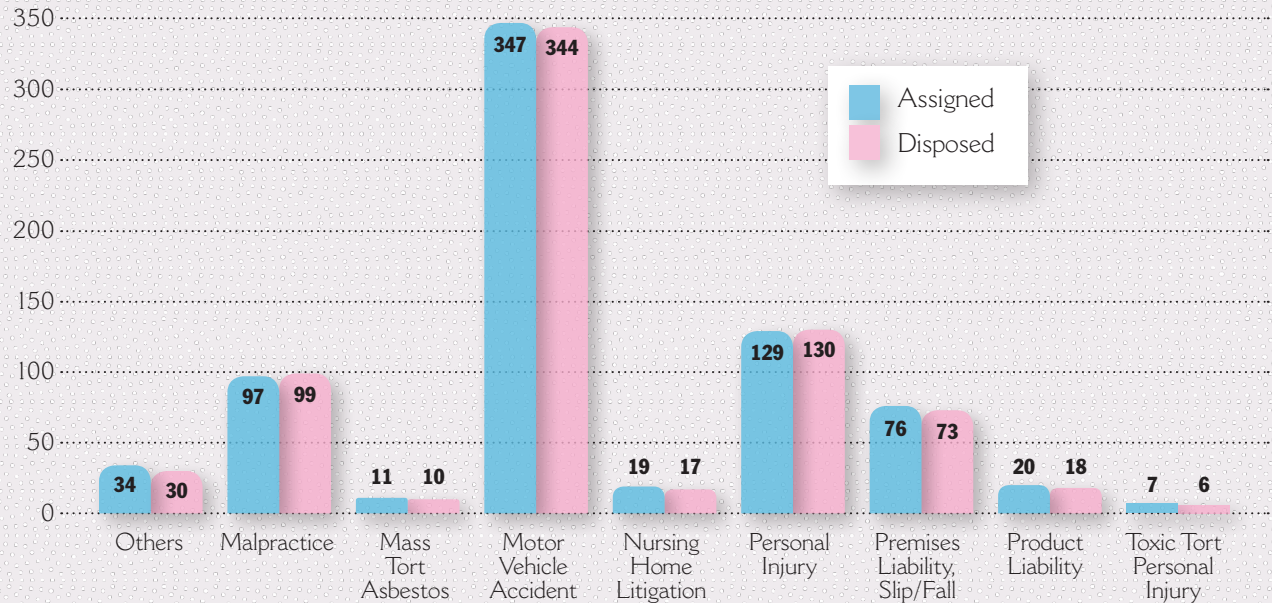
### Trial Division Matters Assigned to Orphans' Court

Type	Assigned	Disposed
Miscellaneous Motion/Petition	32	33
Mot-App & Dist Of Minor's Comp	439	451
Mot-App/Dist Of Wrng Dth/Surv	223	203
Motion for Reconsideration	3	2
Motion to Amend	3	2
Motion to Dispense Funds	2	2
Motion to Enforce Settlement	3	2
Motion to File Under Seal	5	5
Motion to Release Escrow Funds	1	1
Motion to Seal Record	2	2
Motion to Stay Proceedings	1	1
Motion to Strike	2	0
Mot-Reimbursement of Fees	1	1
Mot-Sttle Incomp/Incap Per Est	15	14
Petition to Confirm Settlement	6	5
Petition to Intervene	2	2
Stipulation Filed	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>727</b>



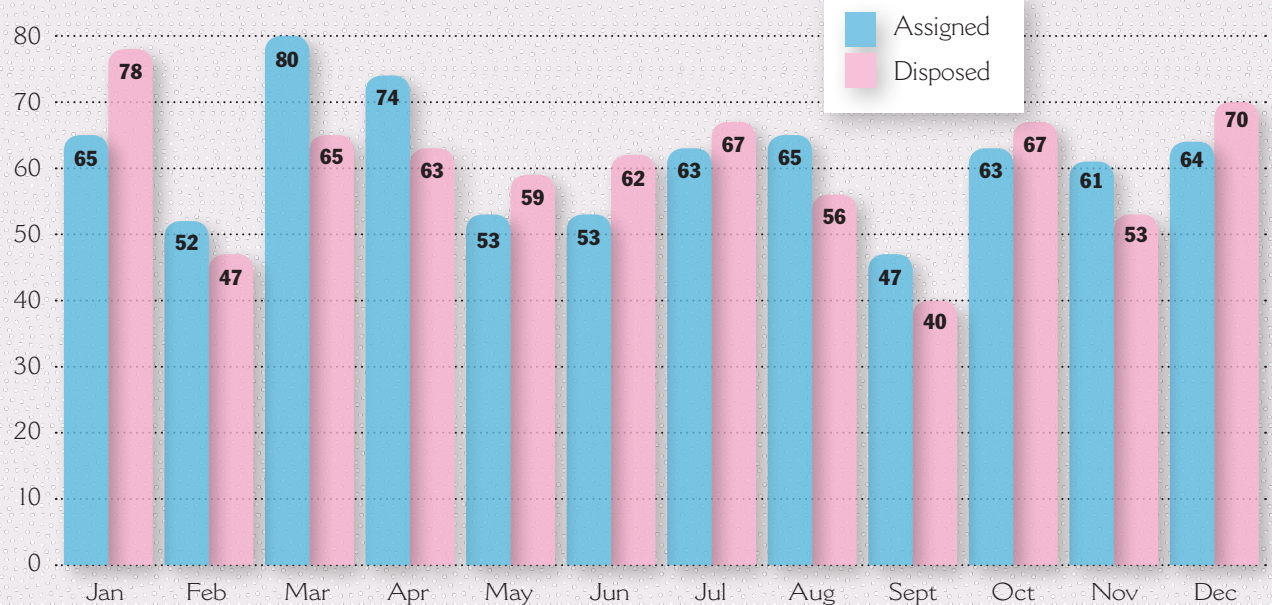
### Civil Trial Motions

Assigned and Disposed by Case Type



### Civil Trial Division Motions Assigned and Disposed by Orphans' Court Judges

by Month





Motions subject to jurisdiction in the Orphans' Court can and do arise under many different civil case types. The motions must be transferred from Trial Division and accepted into the Orphans' Court Division by the Administrative Judge. Motions for approval of settlements involving minors and incapacitated persons, when filed in the Civil Trial Division, will be heard by an Orphans' Court Judge under the Civil Court Term and Number. Motions for approval of distribution in wrongful death/survival actions are assigned to the Administrative Judge of Orphans' Court for his review and approval under the Civil Court Term and Number.

### Civil Trial Division motions are assigned and disposed by Orphans' Court Judges monthly.

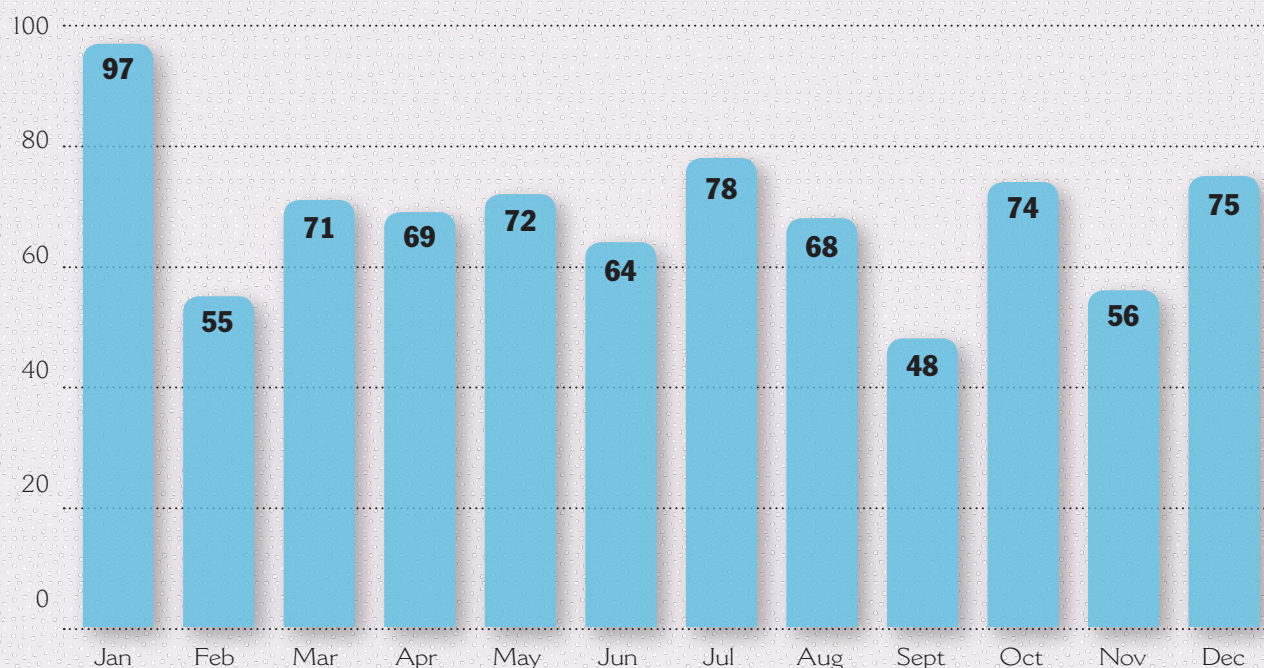
Orphans' Court Judges issue orders for the motions assigned from Civil Trial Division under the Civil Court Term and Number. In 2017, 827 orders were issued.

### Orphans' Court Administrative Review and Determinations

While Orphans' Court hears matters within its jurisdiction as a trial court, and sits as an appellate court for appeals from Decrees of the Register of Wills, it also reviews and approves administratively numerous other matters.

Documents issued by the Register of Wills, acting either as the Register or as the Clerk of Orphans' Court, are certified by the Orphans' Court. Cemetery assets, held in trust, are examined to assure that the purposes for which they are held are being fulfilled. The examination and appointment of corporate fiduciaries, inheritance tax petitions, marriage license waivers, among other matters, are reviewed and approved administratively in an accurate and timely fashion in large numbers, due to the diligence of the Division's Judges, their staff, administrators and appointed examiners.

#### Trial Division Orders







## Administrative Waivers, Reviews and Attestations

Type	Assigned	Disposed
Certificates of Attestation	540	540
Safe Deposit Box Exam	1	1
Marriage Matters	24	24
Cemetery Assets	400	400
Terminations Reports	6	6
Wrongful Death Survival	263	240
Inheritance Tax Matters	15	7
Corporate Fiduciary	52	49
Transferred Matters	4	4
Appeal From Register	59	53
Bench Warrants	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>1325</b>

The Administrative Judge of Orphans' Court has worked with the Administrative Judge and the Supervising Judge of the Trial Division in the smooth transition of matters transferred from the Trial Division to the Orphans' Court Division and vice versa. The two divisions have efficiently handled the settlement of mass tort cases filed in the Trial Division involving minors, incapacitated persons, and decedents' estates.

Wrongful death and survival actions, whether filed in the Trial Division or Orphans' Court Division, are reviewed by the Administrative Judge.

### Orphans' Court Administration Information Technology

The Director of Information Technology, who joined the Orphans' Court Division in the Fall of 2016, has been working diligently to update, integrate and streamline the Division's

data processing capabilities and reporting functions. He has assumed the lead role in working with the programmers at the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) in an effort to assemble the data needed for the migration to the new statewide guardianship reporting and tracking system, to be known as the **Guardianship Tracking System (GTS)**.

Due to the joint efforts of the Orphans' Court Director of Information Technology, the Court Administrative Officer, the Court's Office of Judicial Records, and the AOPC, the Orphans' Court is now able to use PACFILE to electronically submit files to the appellate courts.

**the Orphans'  
Court is now able  
to use PACFILE  
to electronically  
submit files to the  
appellate courts.**

### Court Administration

The Orphans' Court's Administrative Officer has assumed responsibility for updating and monitoring the letter generation process for guardianship cases previously handled by the Office



of Judicial Records, permitting the immediate review by the Court of automatic notices generated when the guardian inventory and annual reports are not filed within the required time periods. This innovation ensures that there is an immediate and accurate response to the guardian's failure to comply with mandated filings.

The Orphans' Court Administrative Officer has taken on the responsibility of interacting with the other administrative branches of the First Judicial District and has, among other things, facilitated the installation of new carpeting and updated/ state-of-the-art sound systems which have been installed in all other Divisions' courtrooms, together with assuming the task of management and production as new rules and mandates increasingly require.

## Orphans' Court Rules

The Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rules and local Philadelphia Orphans' Court Rules effective September 1, 2016 were implemented without issue. Minor changes to the rules were made to accommodate the new statewide public access policy, effective January 2018. Changes to the guardianship rules and forms, while proposed, have not yet been adopted. These changes are expected to increase the duties of the

Division in not only maintaining information, but in using the information received to protect our ever increasing population of individuals under guardianship. This is a challenge we gladly accept and, if given the necessary resources, shall meet.

## What Lies Ahead

Statewide policies for public access and language access effective January 2018, in the process of being implemented in all Divisions of the First Judicial District, are fully operational in the Orphans' Court Division, assuring that all language and information barriers shall not inhibit access to our Division.

The Division shall work diligently to effectuate new programs and systems to protect that ever growing elder section of our population, while zealously protecting those rights which are irreplaceable. Through programs, such as the Elder Court Project and the Guardian Tracking System, the Judges, the legal, administrative, technical and clerical staff of Orphans' Court rise to one of the great challenges of the 21st century.

Orphans' Court shall continue to work with members of the community, the Bar Associations and agencies such as Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to educate other Judges and the public of the delicate issues involving guardians, incapacitated persons and the elderly.

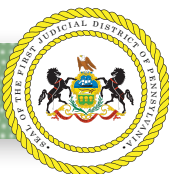




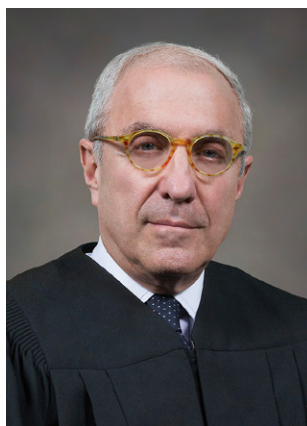
## MUNICIPAL COURT ■







**Marsha H. Neifield**  
*President Judge*



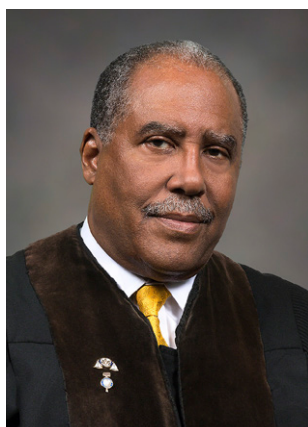
**Gary S. Glazer\*\***  
*Administrative Judge,  
Traffic Division*



**Frank T. Brady**  
*Supervising Judge,  
Criminal Division*



**Bradley K. Moss**  
*Supervising Judge,  
Civil Division*



**James M. DeLeon**



**Patrick F. Dugan**



**Joyce O. Eubanks**



**Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde**



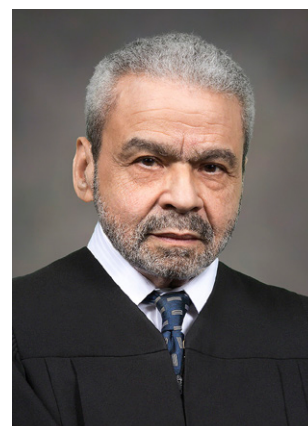
**Thomas F. Gehret**



**Barbara S. Gilbert**



**Christine Hope**



**Nazario Jimenez Jr.**

Portrait Photos by Anthony Leonardo

\* denotes senior judge \*\* Sitting Judge on Court of Common Pleas and Administrative Judge for Municipal Court – Traffic Division



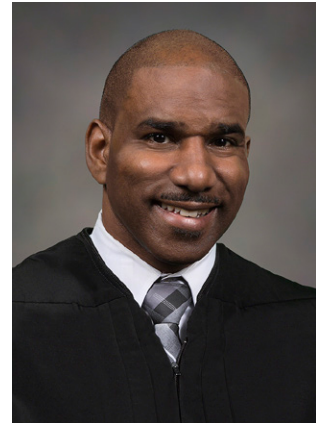
**Gerard A. Kosinski**



**Henry Lewandowski III**



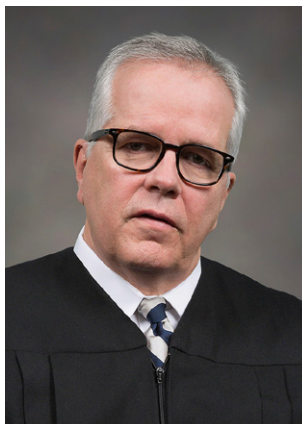
**William A. Meehan Jr.**



**Joffie Pittman**



**Harvey W. Robbins\***



**T. Francis Shields**



**David C. Shuter**



**Karen Yvette Simmons**

..... *Not Pictured* .....

**Martin Coleman**

**Theresa Deni\***

**Charles Hayden**

**Lydia Kirkland\***

**Sharon Williams Losier**

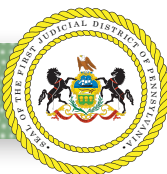
**Wendy L. Pew**

**Craig M. Washington**

**Marvin L. Williams Sr.**

.....  
*\* denotes senior judge*





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *President Judge Marsha H. Neifield*



**C****RIMINAL:** The Philadelphia Municipal Court continued its active participation with reform initiatives in the Criminal Division throughout 2017, focusing on enhancing and providing fair and efficient access to justice for

the public we serve. Diversion programs and initiatives are highlighted in the criminal section of this report. We continue to collaborate extensively with our criminal justice partners to bring about additional criminal justice reforms.

■ **Statistics** - The Criminal Division witnessed a decrease in criminal case filings due to reform initiatives and the expansion of prearrest diversion efforts. 47,787 new felony, misdemeanor and non-traffic summary citations were processed during calendar year 2017, with 48,224 cases adjudicated (clearance rate of 101%). Increasing numbers of felony and misdemeanor cases diverted in 2017 continue to result in cost-savings associated with formal trials, hearings, court-related police overtime and lengthy prison stays for non-violent offenders.

■ **Goals** - The Criminal Division will continue to focus on reform initiatives through proactive expansion of diversion, improving case processing, examining critical issues of racial and ethnic disparities, engaging in implicit and explicit bias training for agency staff and reducing the reliance on cash bail, by creating and implementing a new bail release tool in 2018.

**C****IVIL:** The Civil Division continues to work with other interested parties including the Eviction Task Force and the Philadelphia Bar Association's Municipal Court

Committee to provide a judicial system where cases are heard in an expeditious and fair manner, giving litigants the option to proceed pro se. Although the Civil Division is cognizant of the benefits when litigants have counsel, it is mindful of its directive to provide a forum where an attorney is not required.

■ **Statistics** - The Civil Division witnessed a total of 90,872 cases filed. The 24,856 landlord-tenant cases filed were in line with the number of filings in 2015 and 2016; the number of

code enforcement filings in 2017 was 38,846, an increase of 3,500 over 2016; private criminal complaint filings saw a significant decrease (73% fewer than 2014). The largest increase in filings was in small claims cases, which had a total of 26,895 cases in 2017. The Civil Division disposed of more than 87,000 cases representing a 96% clearance rate.

■ **Goals** - During 2018, the court anticipates finalizing a revised judgment by agreement form for landlord-tenant cases. The revised form will have modified language, will specify the mode of the payment delivery, and will include a date by which the landlord may no longer use a breach of the agreement as a means for eviction. The court also plans to complete the revision of its service rule. The court will continue its work with the City and other interested parties to avoid the multiple continuances of code enforcement cases, provide additional relevant information in code enforcement complaints, and formulate a comprehensive list of fines, as requested by the City. The court will resume its work to establish guidelines to reduce the number of questionable consumer debt collection cases filed, increase the number of consumer debt collection cases settled, and reduce the number of default judgments entered in consumer debt collection cases.

**Increasing  
numbers of felony  
and misdemeanor  
cases diverted  
in 2017 continue  
to result in cost-  
savings...**





## CIVIL DIVISION

### Civil Division Overview

**T**he Philadelphia Municipal Court's Civil Division is a court of limited jurisdiction, which is authorized to hear three types of civil cases. See 42 Pa. C.S. § 1123. The court hears cases arising under the Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951; small claims actions, that are not brought by or against a Commonwealth party, in which the sum demanded does not exceed \$12,000; and code enforcement actions where the City is seeking fines for violations. Additionally, the Civil and Criminal Divisions work together to administer and hear private criminal complaints.

Due to the nature of the division's jurisdiction, many of the cases involve one or more unrepresented litigants. The Civil Division appreciates and strives to meet the challenges of providing a fair and accessible system of justice to pro se litigants. The General Assembly recognized that the Civil Division was established for the purpose of providing "an expeditious small claims procedure whereby it shall not be necessary for the litigants to obtain counsel." 42 Pa. C.S. § 1123(a)(4).

The court fulfills its mission of serving pro se litigants by assisting the litigants with drafting the initial pleading. For those interested, the division also provides training of the CLAIMS system, allowing interested persons to file actions electronically without the assistance of the court or counsel. Since there are no preliminary objections, answers to the complaint or discovery, trials are typically scheduled three to six weeks after a case is filed.

The court works collaboratively with many parties to regularly review and improve its process. These include the City of Philadelphia's Law Department, the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Law Department, the Philadelphia Bar Association,



#### **Court Administration, Civil Division**

*Standing from left to right: Kim Howlett, Damon, Paul Miller, Dorian Nelson, Ken Snyder, Marshall Pierce*

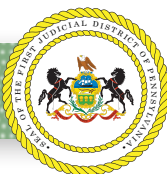
*Sitting from left to right: Rosemary Chiliberti, John Joyce (Deputy Court Administrator), Colleen McGrath*

Community Legal Services, the Eviction Task Force, and individual attorneys who practice in the Civil Division. This collaboration allows the court to have regular communication with the interested parties and build consensus before processes are changed.

### Landlord and Tenant Cases

The Civil Division primarily hears two types of cases that arise under the Landlord and Tenant Action of 1951. The most common case involves a landlord seeking a monetary award and/or the right to use lawful process to evict a tenant who is in violation of a residential or commercial lease. The division also hears cases brought by landlords and tenants after a tenant has vacated the leased premises. These cases concern the return of security deposits and damages to the leased premises.

The number of landlord-tenant cases brought by landlords has remained within the range of approximately 27,000 and 30,000 during the period of 2012 through 2017. The



number of lawful evictions conducted during that period by either a landlord-tenant officer or a sheriff has ranged from approximately 5,600 to 6,100. During 2017, there were 6,072 lawful evictions. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of appeals averaged only 282 per year.

In addition to its ongoing work with the Philadelphia Bar Association's Municipal Court Committee ("MC Committee") the court worked with the Eviction Task Force ("Task Force"). The MC Committee is composed of lawyers representing both landlords and tenants. It meets regularly with the division's supervising judge and provides a means for sharing information, discussing and developing changes to the court's procedures, and fostering professional camaraderie. The MC Committee discussed and developed each of the changes made to the court's procedures during 2017 before they were implemented.

The Task Force was created by an Executive Order of the Mayor. Its stated goal is to recommend methods to reduce the number of evictions affecting low income residents in Philadelphia that result from a housing crisis created by a shortage of safe and affordable housing.

The court devoted many hours during 2017 educating the Task Force and providing it with data. The data shows that the number of landlord-tenant cases filed and the number of lawful evictions have remained relatively steady during the past five years. The court remains open to continued discussions with the Task Force and will consider implementing changes that benefit landlords and residential tenants.

Task Force members were introduced to the processes in place to assist pro se litigants. Several members of the Task Force and their support staff were given tours of the court, where they observed the assistance given to pro se litigants by

the court and to pro se tenants by the Help Center. The Task Force held two focus groups with members of the Civil Division, and members observed negotiations between pro se litigants and litigants who were represented by an attorney, and mediations between two pro se litigants and a trained mediator. The court anticipates continuing its work with the Task Force during 2018.

The court attempted to educate the Task Force about the options available to the litigants other than a trial, where



one of the parties is often dissatisfied and the opportunity for the tenant to remain in the premises can be limited. At times, as with other types of settlements, the better resolution of a landlord-tenant case may be a negotiated or mediated agreement in which the parties are able to continue their landlord-tenant relationship. To support this

goal, the court ensures that pro se landlords and tenants are provided with important information to assist with any decision to enter into an agreement.

### A. Revised Landlord-Tenant Complaint

During 2017, the court worked with the MC Committee to revise its landlord-tenant complaint. The revisions require a landlord to provide additional information to enable the court to determine whether or not the landlord is in compliance with local ordinances. The local ordinances mandate that a landlord have a rental license for every month during which the landlord is seeking rent, provide a certificate of rental suitability and a Partners for Good Housing Handbook to a tenant. In certain circumstances, the landlord must also provide a certification that the property is either lead free or lead safe. The revised landlord-tenant complaint also requires the landlord to state whether or not the leased premises involves a subsidized lease or a low income housing tax credit unit.



If a landlord files a complaint that is noncompliant with the rental license, certificate of rental suitability or handbook requirements, the court notifies all parties of the nature of the noncompliance prior to trial.

During 2017, the court also amended its Civil Rule addressing the required contents of a landlord-tenant complaint, making it consistent with the revised complaint. The amended rule was approved by the Minor Court Rules Committee and published. The revised complaint, new notice of noncompliance and amended rule went into effect on January 2, 2018.

## **B. Changes to the Call of the List During 2017**

Before starting with the call of the list, the trial commissioner reads a script to the litigants, explaining the process. During 2017, the court developed and modified the script with the assistance of the MC Committee. Significantly, the trial commissioner tells the litigants that they will have an opportunity to reach an agreement by meeting with a trained mediator if both the landlord and tenant are unrepresented, and by meeting with the opposing lawyer if one party is represented by an attorney and the other is pro se. The trial commissioner also informs the litigants that they will return for a trial before a judge if they are unable to resolve the case by entering into an agreement. The script makes clear that the court has no preference whether the case is resolved by an agreement or by a trial.

During 2017, the City allocated \$500,000 to fund the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project. As a result of that allocation, a courtroom navigator was added to assist unrepresented landlords and tenants with basic information about the court process. The courtroom navigator can also provide referrals to legal services and resources, and put tenants in

contact with a financial counselor. The courtroom navigator does not work for the court, is not an attorney, and does not provide legal advice. The courtroom navigator is introduced by the trial commissioner when the script is read before the call of the list.

## **C. Changes to Attorney Negotiations During 2017**

During 2016, the court standardized statements made by the court's trained mediators when they begin mediations with pro se litigants. The script read by each mediator ensures that the initial message to pro se litigants is consistent and contains the same important information.

During 2017, the court introduced a standardized script, developed with the assistance of the MC Committee and the Philadelphia Bar Association's Professional

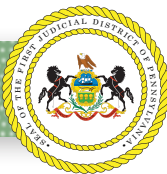
Responsibility Committee, which attorneys must read to pro se litigants before starting negotiations. The script helps ensure that pro se litigants know that the attorney does not represent them and does not work for the court. It also explains the typical issues to be discussed, re-iterates that an agreement does not have to be reached, that court employees are available to address any questions that arise, and a judge will conduct a trial if the parties do not reach an agreement.

## **D. Changes to Trial Procedures During 2017**

Tenants' attorneys who sit on the MC Committee suggested that residential tenants who withhold rent due to conditions affecting the premises' habitability should have an opportunity to pay the amount the court determines is owed, to the landlord, before a judgment is entered. The process allows the tenant to satisfy the abated rent amount, without having the added difficulty of finding another leased premises after a judgment has been entered for nonpayment of rent.

**During 2017, the  
City allocated  
\$500,000 to fund  
the Philadelphia  
Eviction Prevention  
Project**





Under the new procedure, the court makes a finding and provides the tenant with the opportunity to pay the full amount of the finding within a few days. If the tenant does so, a judgment is entered in favor of the tenant and against the landlord. If the tenant does not pay the full amount the judge determined was owed to the landlord, a judgment is entered in favor of the landlord and against the tenant. As with any other case, both the landlord and the tenant may take an appeal.

The new procedure benefits both the landlord and the tenant. For tenants, it provides the opportunity to avoid having a judgment entered against them. For landlords, it provides the opportunity to receive the amount the court determines due, within a few days of the decision. Although this issue does not arise with frequency the modified procedure has worked well.

### E. Changes to Trial Procedures Involving PHA During 2017

The court changed the scheduling of landlord-tenant cases involving PHA. Rather than having a day for negotiations, which rarely occurred, followed by a separate trial date, both are now scheduled the same date. Following this minor change we saw at least 85 percent of those cases resolved through a settlement agreement. A prior change, scheduling all the subsidized housing cases to the same days, made it more convenient for PHA witnesses and saw some decrease in continuances, but did not have the positive impact of eliminating the separate day for settlement discussions.

### F. The Help Center

The Help Center continues to provide legal counseling to low-income, unrepresented tenants. The court provided additional space for volunteer attorneys to meet with tenants

and for the display of informational pamphlets. The work of the Eviction Task Force and the additional funding provided by the City has assisted the Help Center in providing more staff and longer hours. Further expansion of the services is planned for 2018, including the following:

1. Increasing the number of attorneys and paralegals;
2. Establishing a Live Tenant Assistance Hotline that will operate during evening hours and perhaps during the weekends;
3. Providing tenants with financial counseling through Clarifi, a company that specializes in helping people cut through their financial fog to a future of economic clarity; and
4. Creating three short, literacy appropriate informational videos, in English and Spanish, which will be played in the court's waiting room to assist tenants in understanding eviction issues and how to address them.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT CASES:** The court encouraged the City to provide more details in its code enforcement complaint. The additional detail is to assist the court and opposing parties in understanding the basis for the action, as well as the fine requested for the violation. The City successfully added more detail in cases involving properties and is working to add additional details to cases involving unpaid water and sewer rents.

Despite adopting a policy in 2016 to limit the number of continuances, by requiring judicial approval after two continuances, code enforcement cases are still continued multiple times. We are reviewing what additional steps should be taken in 2018 to ensure that these city violations are resolved more promptly.

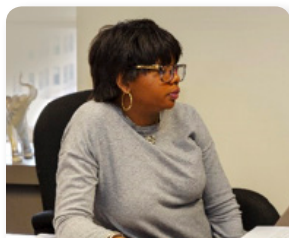


■ **SMALL CLAIMS CASES:** There were no changes to the court's procedures in small claims cases during 2017. The court plans to take another look at consumer debt collection cases during 2018.

■ **SERVICE OF PETITIONS AND OTHER COURT PAPERS:** The court's applicable Civil Rule currently requires that service of petitions be made in the same manner as service of original process. During 2017, the court adopted changes to that Civil Rule so that petitions may be served by first class mail. This change is consistent with the manner in which petitions may be served under the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure that apply to the Courts of Common Pleas. The court also updated other aspects of its Civil Rule concerning service of other court filings. The Minor Court Rules Committee is reviewing these changes. The changes should become effective during 2018.

## **Administrative Changes During 2017 and Statistics for 2017**

### **A. Claims, First Filing, Second Filing and the Judgments and Petitions Unit**



**Kasey Jones**  
**First Filing Unit**

The changes noted above required modifications to CLAIMS and additional training of the members of the First Filing Unit, Second Filing Unit, Judgments and Petitions Unit and the Dispute Resolution Unit. Additionally, changes to CLAIMS now permits the City in code enforcement cases to enter judgments by agreement electronically at any time.

The court made changes that affected the First Filing Unit. It improved the software used by the cashiers. It is also working on a comprehensive First Filing Unit manual to improve the training

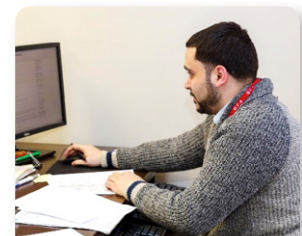


**Employees of the Second Filing and Judgment & Petitions Unit assisting pro se litigants at the customer service counter.**

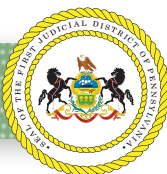
of new staff. Security was enhanced for the units by adding an electronic locking door. Additionally, changes were made to bring the unit into compliance with the Public Access Policy.

A primary role of the First and Second Filing Units is to interact with the public. During 2017, the Second Filing Unit cross trained interviewers to assist litigants at the front counter. The unit is continuing efforts to improve the customer service and communication with the public.

The Judgments and Petitions Unit expanded the information received from the Court of Common Pleas concerning landlord-tenant cases to help ensure no tenant is improperly evicted. In addition to receiving an email that an appeal was filed, the Judgments and Petition Unit now receives email notification of the status of cases on appeal. Therefore, if a Common Pleas Court Judge enters a stay of eviction, the Judgments and Petitions Unit is able to notify the landlord-tenant officer that a scheduled eviction should not occur.



**Michael Lozada**  
**Courtroom**  
**Technician Unit**



## B. The Dispute Resolution Unit



**Morgan Krouse and  
Nate Woodward  
Dispute Resolution  
Unit**

Dispute Resolution continued to train employees from other Civil Division units, volunteers, and third-year law school students. The mediation training program remains a very popular clinical course at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

The table below shows the number of landlord-tenant and

small claims cases that the Dispute Resolution Unit resolved through mediation. The number of cases resolved through mediation continues to decrease. The court plans to study the reason for this trend during 2018.

## C. ADA Accommodations and Interpreter Services

The Civil Division received 1,887 requests for accommodations from individuals with disabilities. During 2017, the Civil Division's ADA Coordinator provided 16 sign language interpreters, facilitated 90 wheelchair requests for access to the courtrooms, and provided additional time for 258

**2014 .....302 per diem interpreters ordered**

**2015 .....307 per diem interpreters ordered**

**2016 .....393 per diem interpreters ordered**

**2017 .....350 per diem interpreters ordered**

individuals. In addition, 127 disabled individuals had telephonic court proceedings because their disabilities prevented them from attending court in person.

The court continued to provide interpreter services in the courtrooms. Additionally, Language Line, a telephonic language service, was used outside of the courtroom. Language Line enabled individuals with linguistic barriers to communicate with court administrative staff handling filing and scheduling issues. It was also used during negotiations and mediations. Above is the number of interpreters that were ordered from 2014 to 2017.

## D. Wage Attachment in Landlord Tenant Cases

During 2017, the court processed new wage attachments in 141 landlord-tenant cases. Thirty-eight of those cases involved pro se landlords. The court collected and disbursed \$251,169.23.

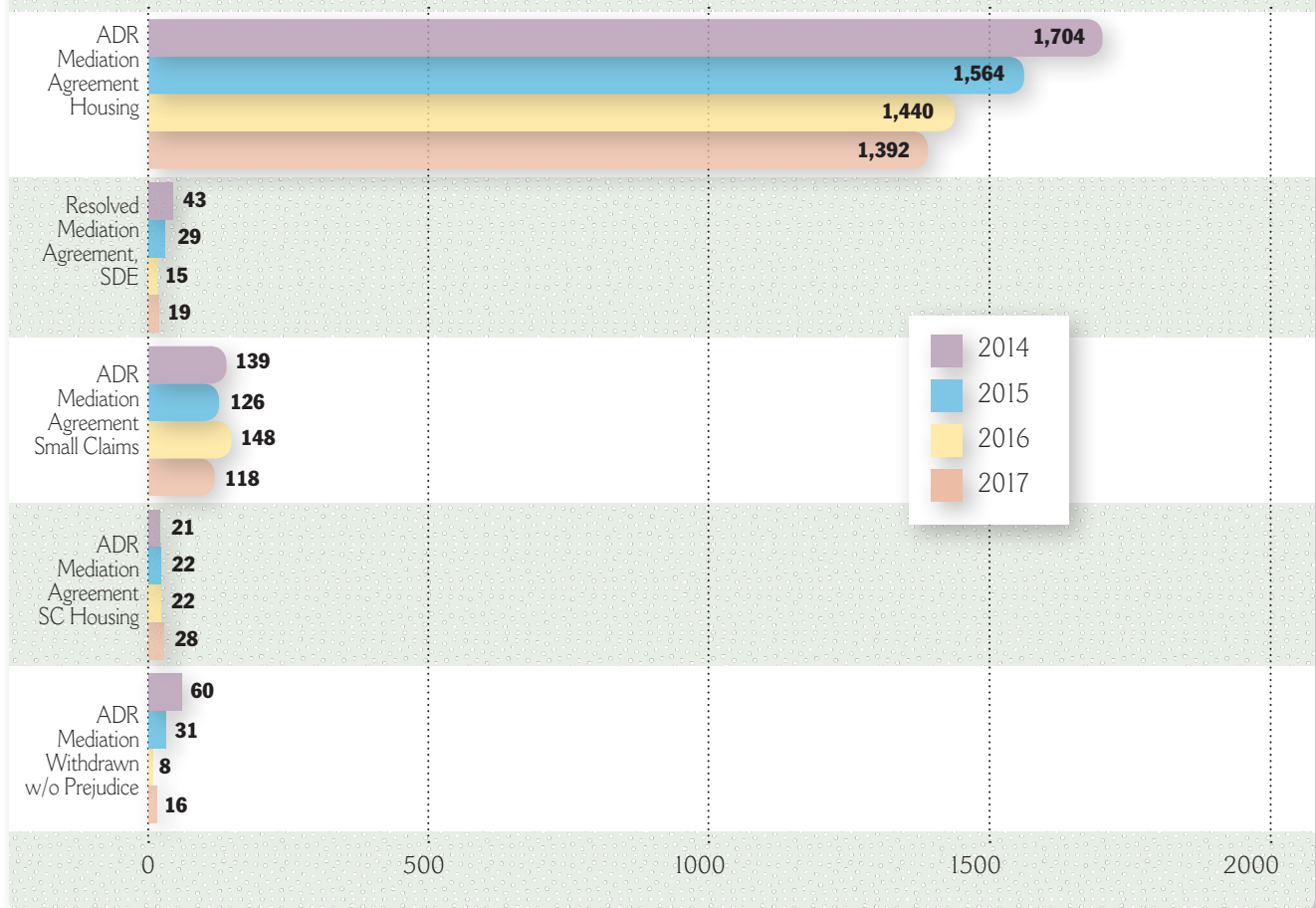
### 2014-2017 Dispute Resolution/Mediation Statistics Comparison

	2014	2015	2016	2017
ADR Mediation Agreement Housing	1704	1564	1440	1392
Resolved Mediation Agreement, SDE	43	29	15	19
ADR Mediation Agreement Small Claims	139	126	148	118
ADR Mediation Agreement SC Housing	21	22	22	28
ADR Mediation Withdrawn Without Prejudice	60	31	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>1772</b>	<b>1633</b>	<b>1573</b>





### 2014-2017 Disposition Resolution/Mediation Statistics Comparison

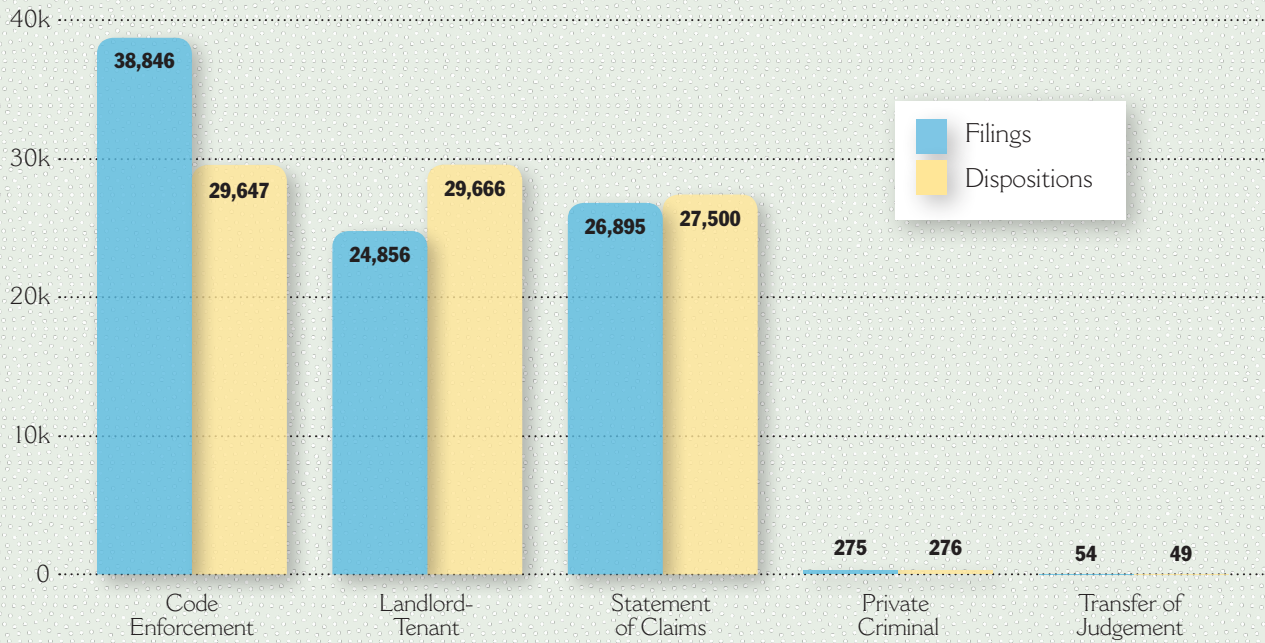


### 2017 Filings and Dispositions Totals by Type

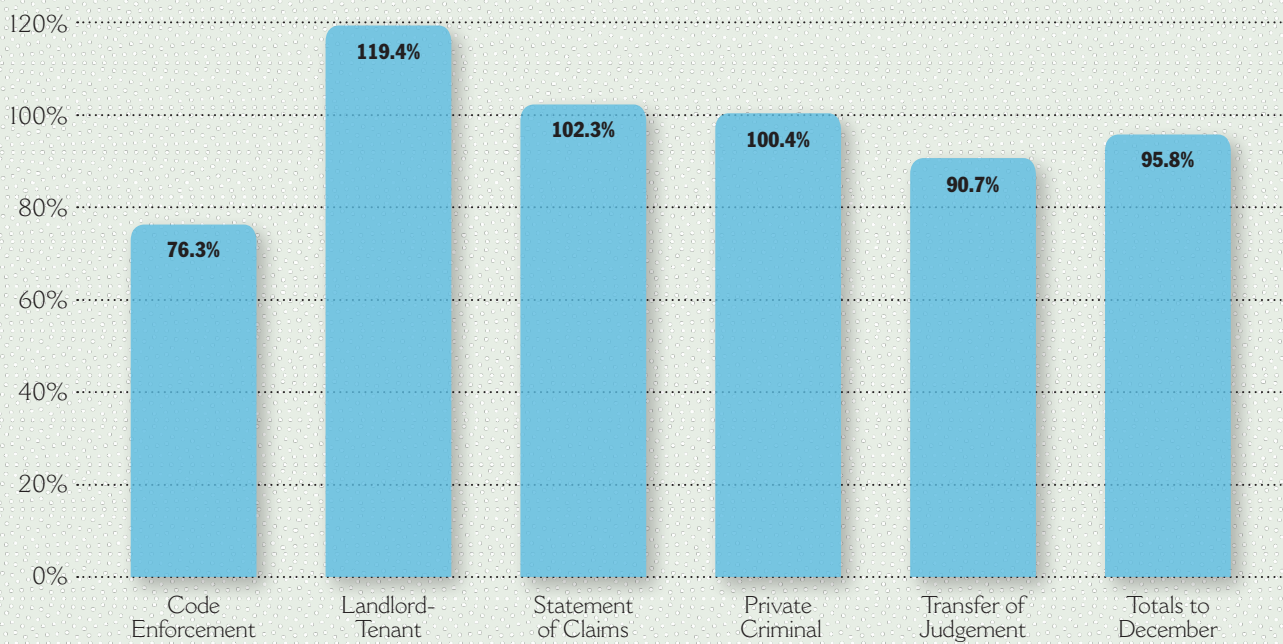
	Filings	Dispositions
Code Enforcement	38,846	29,647
Landlord-Tenant	24,856	29,666
Statement of Claims	26,895	27,500
Private Criminal Complaints	275	276
Transfer of Judgment	54	49
<b>Total to December</b>	<b>90,926</b>	<b>87,138</b>



### 2017 Filings and Dispositions Comparison



### 2017 Clearance Rates by Case Types

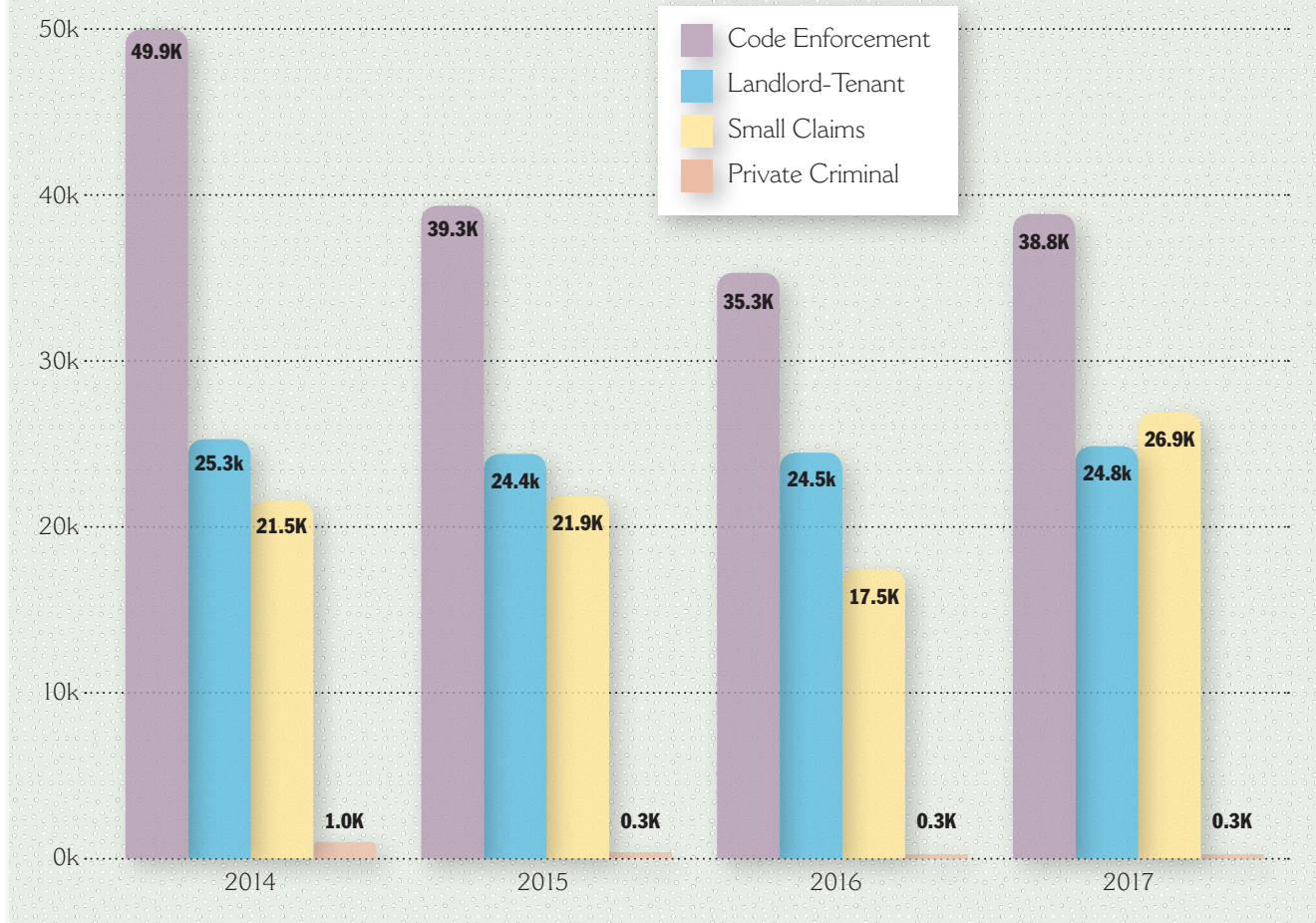




### 2014-2017 Case Initiation Comparison

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Code Enforcement	49,978	39,346	35,305	38,846
Landlord/Tenant	25,280	24,391	24,466	24,856
Small Claims	21,572	21,874	17,465	26,895
Private Criminal	1,002	356	291	275
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>97,832</b>	<b>85,967</b>	<b>77,527</b>	<b>90,872</b>

### 2014-2017 Case Initiation Comparison



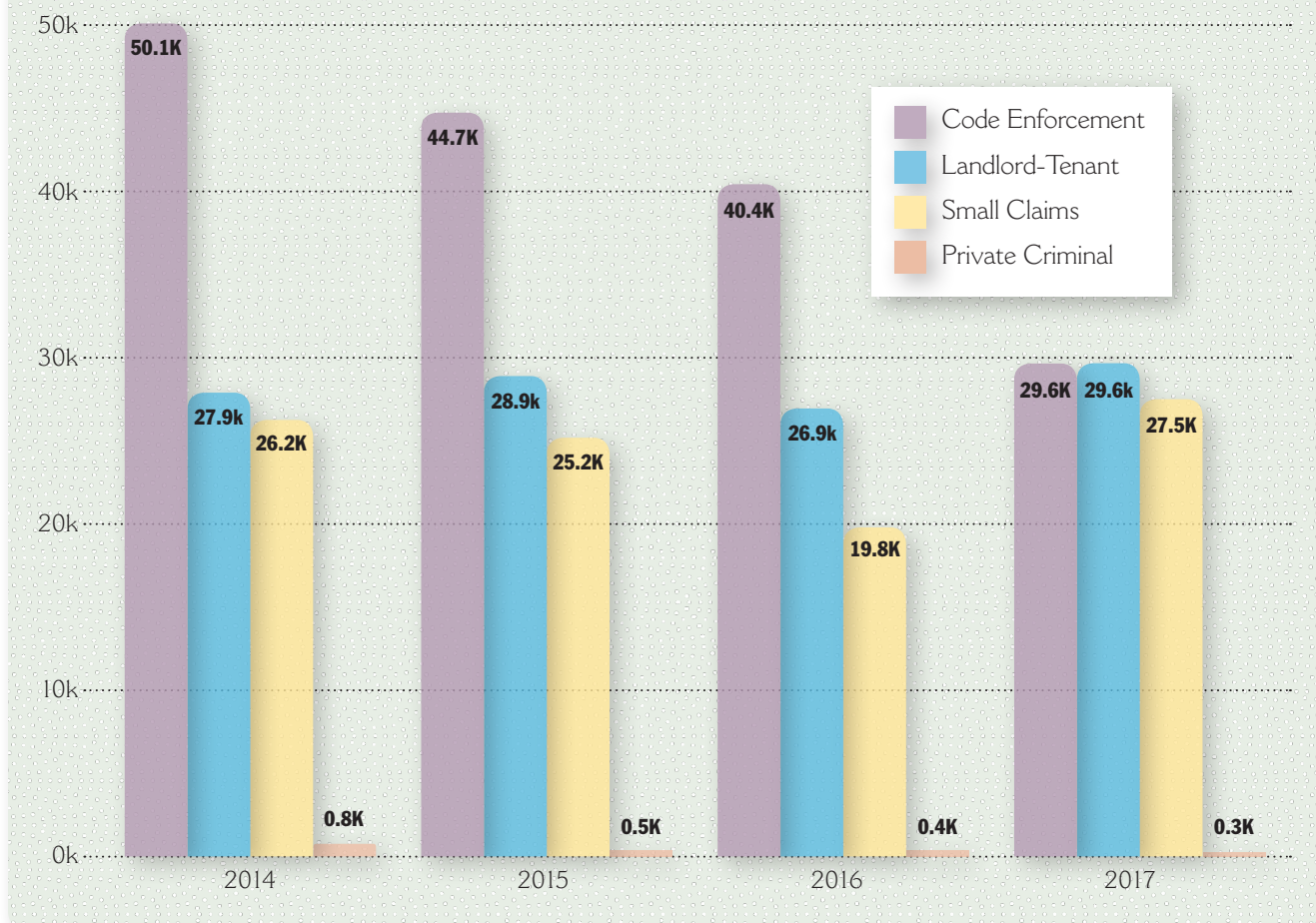




### 2014-2017 Disposition Comparison

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Code Enforcement	50,995	44,734	40,431	29,647
Landlord/Tenant	27,894	28,892	26,943	29,666
Small Claims	26,255	25,185	19,795	27,500
Private Criminal	761	465	374	276
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>105,905</b>	<b>99,276</b>	<b>87,543</b>	<b>87,089</b>

### 2014-2017 Disposition Comparison

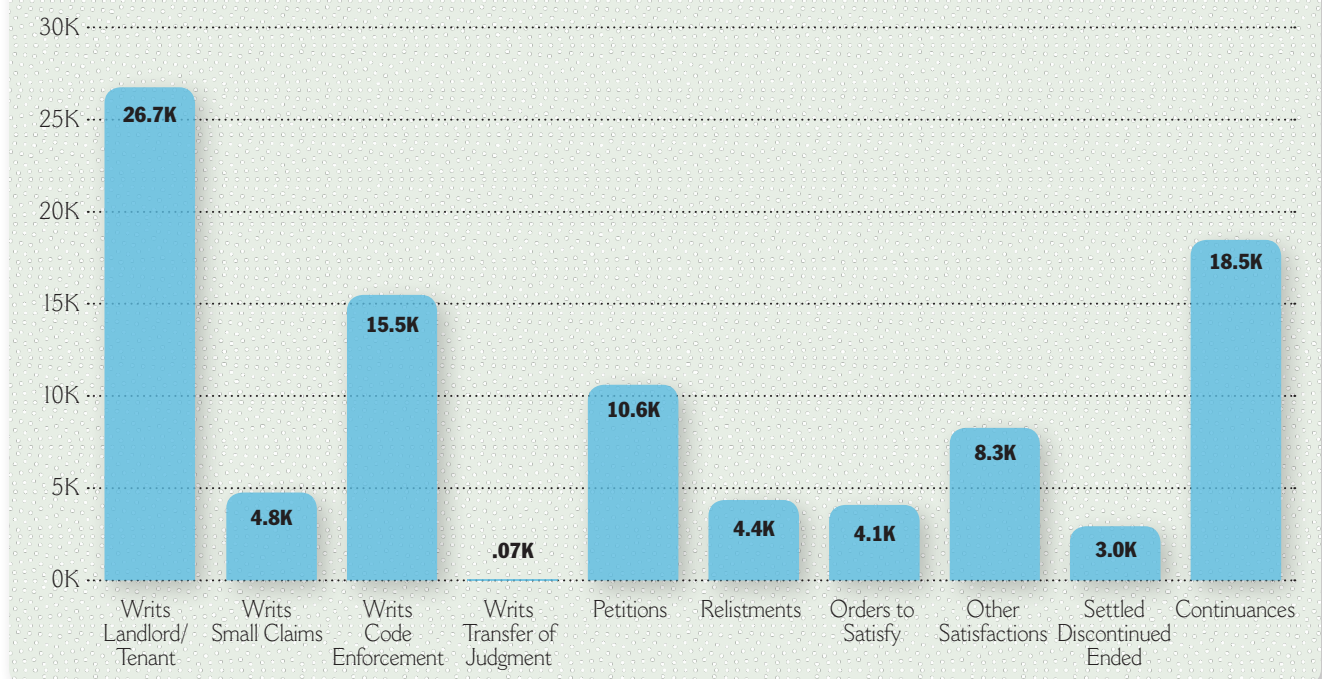




## 2017 Second Filing Statistics

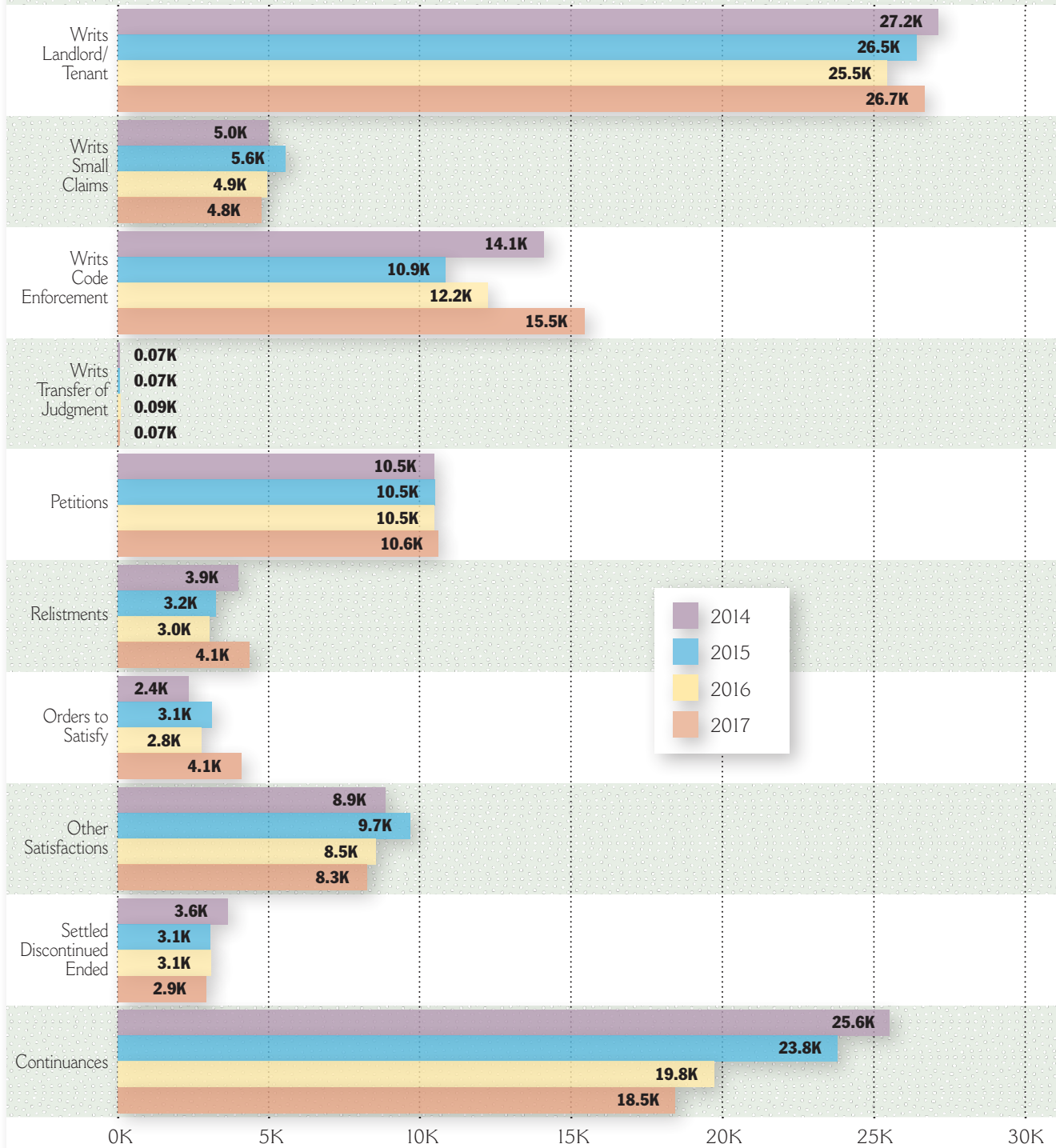
	2017
Writs (Landlord/Tenant)	26,732
Writs (Small Claims)	4,763
Writs (Code Enforcement)	15,477
Writs (Transfers of Judgment)	67
Petitions	10,605
Relistments	4,359
Orders to Satisfy	4,091
Other Satisfactions	8,269
Settled Discontinued & Ended	2,936
Continuances	18,460
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>95,759</b>

## 2017 Second Filing Statistics





## 2014-2017 Second Filings Comparison







### 2014-2017 Second Filing Statistics Comparison

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Writs (Landlord/Tenant)	27,188	26,475	25,500	26,732
Writs (Small Claims)	4,996	5,564	4,957	4,763
Writs (Code Enforcement	14,112	10,869	12,249	15,477
Writs (Transfers Of Judgment)	67	73	87	67
Petitions	10,455	10,523	10,475	10,605
Relistments	3,944	3,260	3,036	4,359
Orders To Satisfy	2,353	3,120	2,781	4,091
Other Satisfactions	8,857	9,682	8,552	8,269
Settled Discontinued &- Ended	3,638	3,058	3,083	2,936
Continuances	25,574	23,838	19,752	18,460
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>101,184</b>	<b>96,462</b>	<b>90,472</b>	<b>95,759</b>

### 2010-2017 Landlord Tenant/Eviction Data Comparison

	LT Cases Filed	Petitions to Open Judgment Filed	Hearings Granted on Petitions to Open	Appeals to CP Court from Judgments in LT Cases*	Alias Writs Issued	Alias Writs Executed by LT Officer	Evictions by Sheriff**
<b>2010</b>	29,891			200		5,455	No Data
<b>2011</b>	30,939			265		5,567	No Data
<b>2012</b>	31,632			252		5,666	No Data
<b>2013</b>	26,081			297		6,109	No data
<b>2014</b>	25,280			275		6,109	455
<b>2015</b>	24,391			332		5,853	172
<b>2016</b>	24,466	961	764	279	13,809	5,878	508
<b>2017</b>	24,856	1,177	751	258	8,497	6,062	10

\* This data comes from the Court of Common Pleas Banner System.

\*\* This data comes from the Sheriff. Of the 455 evictions completed 2014 and the 172 evictions completed 2015, none involved an alias writ issued by the Philadelphia Municipal Court. Of the 508 evictions completed 2016, four were the service of alias writs issued by the Philadelphia Municipal Court. The remaining 504 evictions in 2016 and the evictions in 2014 and 2015 were from judgments in Court of Common Pleas landlord-tenant and ejectment cases. The Sheriff does not have a breakdown between landlord-tenant and ejectment cases.



## CRIMINAL DIVISION

**T**he Philadelphia Municipal Court continues to be visionary in its approach to handle cases and social issues. We continue to establish diversion programs and work closely with external agencies in expanding initiatives. Our primary focus and goal continues to be one which strives to enhance

and provide fair and efficient access to justice for the public we serve. We have been successful in implementing numerous initiatives which continue to improve the operational efficiency of Municipal Court within the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. We continue to collaborate with our criminal justice partners to bring about additional criminal justice reforms and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

### Philadelphia Municipal Court Filings and Adjudications

#### Felony Statistics 2008-2017

A comparison of ten years of data shows a decrease in criminal cases charged. Progress remains evident in annual clearance rates for felonies which have consistently reached or exceeded 100% since 2008.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Filings	32,067	28,674	25,825	26,012	26,065	23,666	21,215	20,157	18,617	18,871
Adjudications	34,378	31,685	29,636	26,004	27,011	26,512	22,924	20,951	19,347	18,890
Clearance Rate	107%	111%	115%	100%	104%	112%	108%	104%	104%	100%

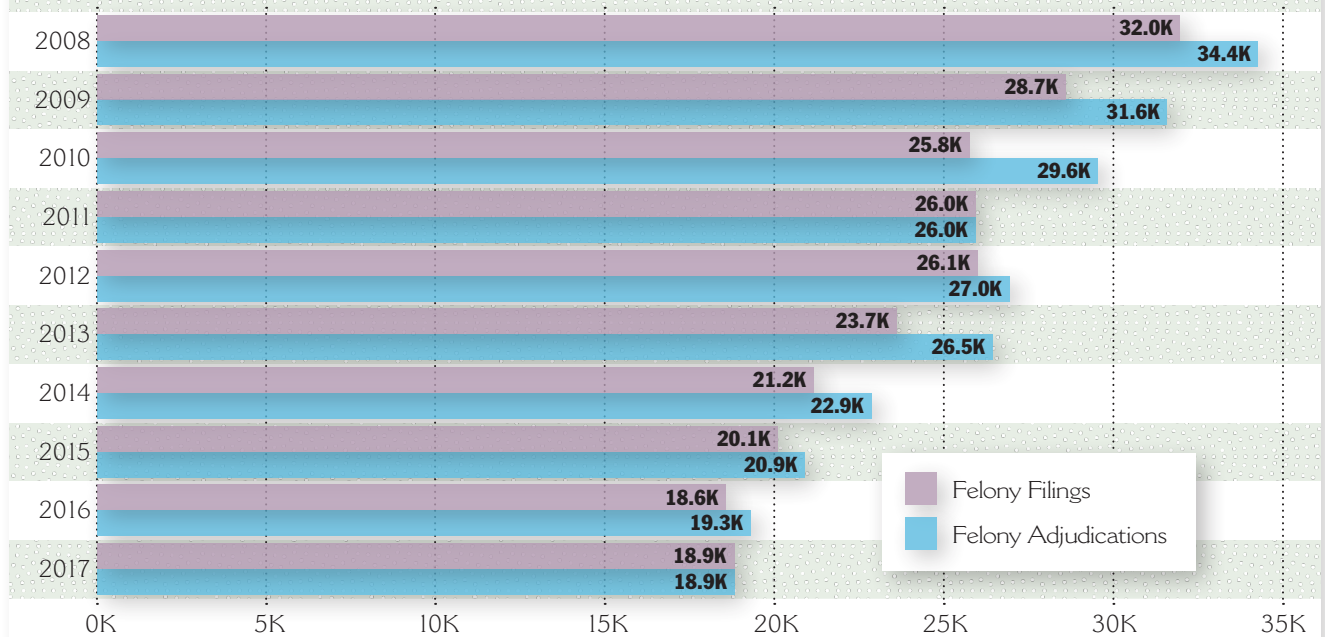
#### Misdemeanor Statistics 2008-2017

With the introduction of many successful diversion programs, the percentage of cases diverted has more than doubled since 2007. The annual clearance rate for misdemeanor cases in 2017 was 100%. Misdemeanor diversion adjudications resulted in fewer pretrial, non-violent incarcerations. Public safety concerns and prison overcrowding remain topics of discussion with the criminal justice partners participating in the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) and MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge.

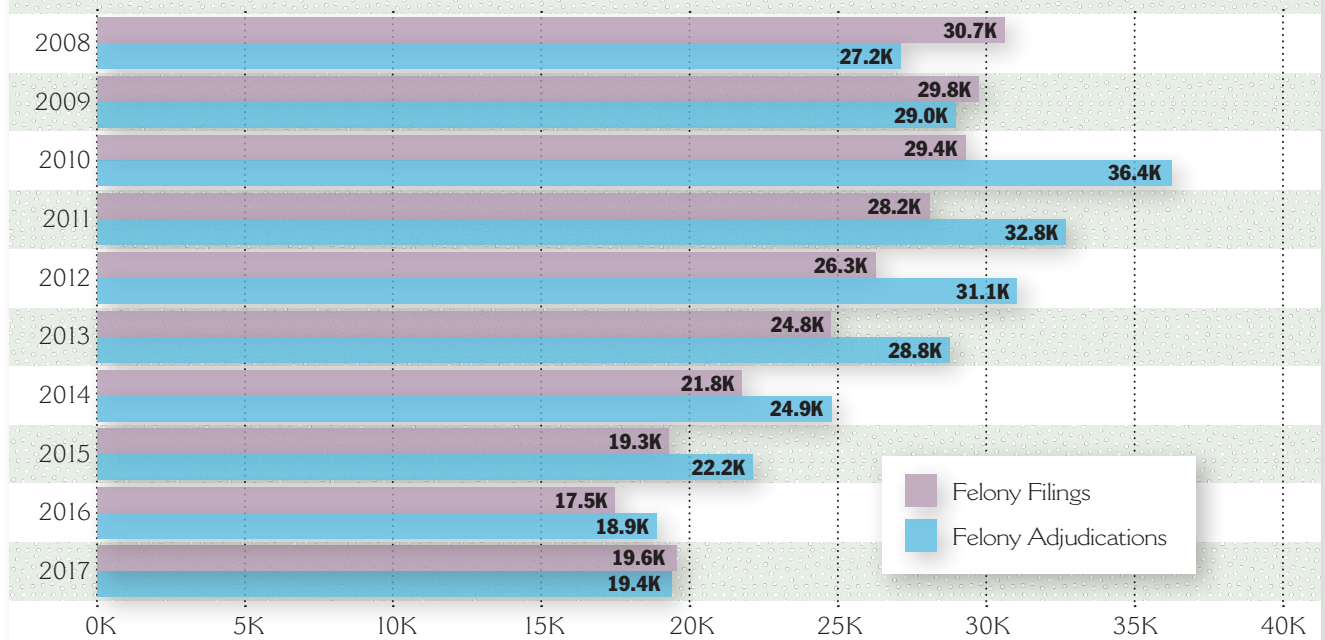
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Filings	30,707	29,841	29,385	28,184	26,331	24,839	21,800	19,342	17,521	19,609
Adjudications	27,180	29,051	36,365	32,783	31,136	28,846	24,864	22,194	18,932	19,439
Clearance Rate	89%	97%	124%	116%	118%	116%	114%	115%	108%	99%



### 2008-2017 Felony Filings & Adjudications



### 2008-2017 Misdemeanor Filings & Adjudications







## 2017 Criminal Division Highlights

### Early Bail Review

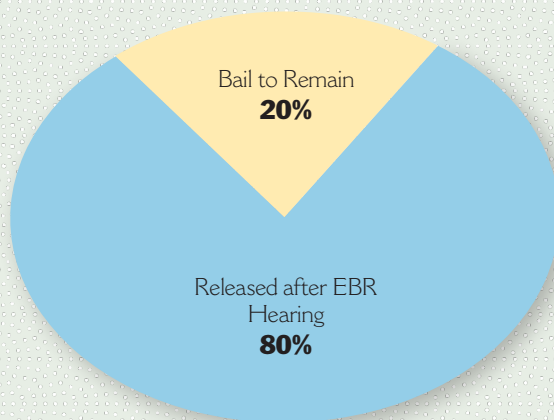
Early Bail Review, one of the first major initiatives in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, remains a cornerstone of pretrial reform efforts in Municipal Court.

- Individuals who are in jail on bail of \$50,000 or less and charged with non-violent misdemeanor or felony charges (with no other holding matters) are added to an early bail

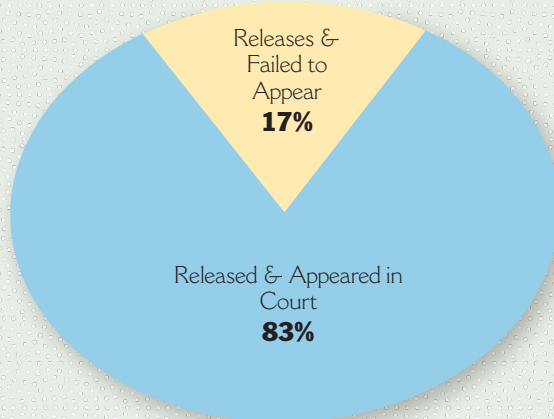
review list and scheduled for a hearing within five business days of the preliminary arraignment.

- Prior to their hearing, defendants are interviewed by the Public Defender, who communicate with family members, community contacts, and employers in preparation for the hearing. Private Counsel also arrange bail related interviews with their clients.
- The EBR hearing is scheduled via video hearing and a determination is made whether the defendant should be released.
- Those released from custody are provided detailed instructions from the judge, the assistant district attorney, the public defender and the pretrial service representative to ensure that they satisfy the conditions of their release and appear for the next court date.
- As needed, defendants are instructed to report to Pretrial Services within two business days of the hearing and are connected with appropriate services.
- The Public Defender Social Service Unit has been actively involved making treatment referrals at this early stage of the proceedings.

#### Early Bail Release Hearings 2017



#### Court Appearances After EBR Release



### Early Bail Release Outcomes in 2017:

- 83% of defendants released after an EBR hearing appeared at their next court date.
- 84% of defendants ordered to Pretrial Services after an EBR hearing appeared for the pretrial orientation session.

### Incarceration Days Saved

- The average length of stay is 147 days.
- As a result of EBR, 616 defendants were released within an average of six days.
- The average length of stay for these defendants was reduced by approximately 141 days for a total savings of over 86,000 days.



## Project Dawn Court - Prostitution Initiative

The “Project Dawn” initiative is for women who are in custody on detainers or open prostitution cases. Municipal Court continues to work with the Commonwealth and Defender Association to streamline prostitution cases by centralizing treatment, housing and ancillary services. The project includes a component of therapy for survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Project Dawn operates with the dual goals of: 1) decreasing the number of non-violent offenders in Philadelphia county jails and 2) reducing recidivism for this population of women. Project Dawn strives to provide holistic and evidence based treatment options to its participants, supporting them through their recovery journeys by addressing mental health, substance abuse and significant trauma histories. In 2017, Project Dawn admitted 19 individuals, 36 cases and 43 probation matters and recognized 10 individuals, who successfully completed the program.

Joseph J. Peters Institute (JJPI) joined the program in the summer of 2012 and has been a valued partner in effectively treating trauma among these women through both group and individual therapy tailored to their needs. Project Dawn has also partnered with the outside group working with women in transition from abuse, addiction or incarceration in the early part of recovery and re-entry into society. JJPI did a sample of the active Project Dawn participants in 2017 and found the following statistics:

**FUN FACT:** In 2017, a play was released loosely based on Project Dawn Court called “Project Dawn”. It was well received and approved to be part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premier. Partnering theaters are People’s Light, Malvern PA, as well as a theater in Atlanta, GA and Kansas City, MO.

**60% experienced child abuse**

**92% were sexually assaulted**

**84% suffered trauma from physical abuse**

**96% have a substance use diagnosis**

**96% suffer from co-occurring issues (substance use & mental Health)**

**60% suffer from SMI (severe mental illness)**

## Domestic Violence

The President Judge, court staff and criminal justice stakeholders worked to refine a Batterers’ Intervention Program for referrals by the District Attorney’s Office of eligible domestic violence cases. This formalized Domestic Violence Court commenced operations in 2014 as a collaborative, two-tiered program to address anger management, underlying substance abuse and mental health related issues. Batterers’ Intervention Treatment is provided at various partner agencies, including Menergy, Men’s Resource Center and Joseph J. Peters Institute (JJPI). In 2017, 85 individuals accepted the DV Diversion Program and 105 successfully completed the program.

## Veterans Court

Municipal Court, in conjunction with the District Attorney’s Office, the Defender Association and veterans’ agencies, continues its successful problem solving endeavor to divert front end cases involving veterans. The program assists justice-involved veterans struggling with mental health, substance abuse or other reintegration issues. The presiding judge of Veterans Court is a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Building on the success of established programs, Veterans



Court oversees a range of services offered to qualified veterans involved in the criminal justice system. The judicial branch recognizes the tremendous service veterans provided to our country and believes it is the court's duty to offer programs and services to overcome challenges that are unique to their experiences.

Veterans Court provides immediate access to representatives from the Veterans Administration (VA) to determine benefits eligibility and to perform an assessment to settle on the appropriate level of care. The assessment determines each veteran's suitability for an array of VA programs, including alcohol, substance abuse, mental health or medical treatment, as well as housing, job training, job referrals and other ancillary services. In 2017, Veterans Court had a total of 127 active participants and 55 individuals (multiple cases) successfully graduated.

### AMP (Accelerated Misdemeanor Program)

The Accelerated Misdemeanor Program (AMP) is an alternative to traditional prosecution methods that diverts offenders with low level misdemeanor arrests. AMP hearings are scheduled to district courtroom locations throughout the City. The cases are heard and disposed expeditiously with sentencing options of community service to be completed in the neighborhood where the crime occurred. The expansion of this program (AMP 2) has resulted in increased sentencing options including guilty pleas, Section 17 and Section 18 adjudications. Alternative sentencing also addresses underlying behavior issues through court-ordered social service assessment and treatment.

The AMP unit has a community service representative in the courtroom to provide direction to offenders on completing their service hours, along with a list of court approved sites

**In 2017, 4,573 cases were diverted to AMP and 19,974 community service hours were successfully completed.**

and contact information to report compliance. To assist with this task, the court has partnered with over 120 non-profit organizations within the City including Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. The AMP staff works closely with these organizations to track offender progress and report updates

to the AMP assigned District Attorney and Public Defender. All sentence information is entered into a Community Service database to ensure accurate reporting of offender compliance. In addition, courtroom statistics are tracked and entered daily for proper case management. Staff members also assist with offenders and various criminal justice

agencies through telephone contact, managing AMP dockets and maintaining a precise filing system. In 2017, 4,573 cases were diverted to AMP and 19,974 community service hours were successfully completed.

### SER (Sexual Education Responsibility) Class

Recognizing the need for sound strategies to address sexual exploitation by criminal offenders, the Court, the District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association partnered with representatives from JJPI to develop a diversion class for defendants charged with solicitation. The evaluation and treatment of individuals arrested for solicitation of a prostitute includes participation in a one day, four-hour group therapy experience. The aim of the SER class is to diminish the demand for prostitution within Philadelphia, to provide high quality, professional clinical intervention, and to provide accurate information to individuals regarding the impact on the sex worker, the community and on the individual soliciting sex.

The District Attorney's Charging Unit flags eligible solicitation cases for AMP. In lieu of community service, defendants are required to complete the four-hour SER class





held at JJPI, and pay a mandatory program fee (to JJPI) and court costs. Attorneys and court staff assigned to AMP are prepared to assist defendants who accept the offer. If a defendant chooses not to participate in the SER class, the case is scheduled for trial and defendants who are convicted of solicitation at trial are ordered to complete the SER class. Participation in the SER class is mandated as part of any Commonwealth negotiation for solicitation offenses.

In 2017, a total of 187 defendants were scheduled to take the class, and 141 defendants successfully completed the program.

### The Choice is Yours (TCY)

The Choice is Yours (TCY) is an innovative alternative to incarceration program that diverts non-violent felony drug offenders away from prison and toward positive social services and support. TCY strives to reduce recidivism rates and address the problem of prison overcrowding without compromising public safety. In partnership with Jewish Employment and Vocational Services (JEVS), TCY's goals are to: (1) reduce the likelihood of recidivism among TCY participants; (2) reduce state and city costs by cutting the number of trials among the TCY target population; (3) reduce costs associated with pre-trial and post-trial incarceration; and (4) provide participants with the skills and training necessary to become productive, employable individuals without the stigma of a criminal conviction.

The program primarily targets first-time felony drug offenders charged with Possession with Intent to Deliver (PWID). The District Attorney's Office has sole discretion in approving or rejecting a defendant's participation in TCY. Participants engage in a variety of activities, including: job readiness training (resume preparation, networking skills, interviewing and job search),

computer classes, education and skills training (GED, college and technical classes), community service, job placement and advancement, mentoring from community members, and regular progress listings with the TCY judge.

TCY received a funding bridge donation from JEVS in early 2014, which enabled new participants to begin enrolling in the orientation phase. Recognizing its success, additional funding was secured through MacArthur SJC enabling new enrollments. In 2017, 62 cases were accepted into the TCY program.

### Video Crash Court

Municipal Court continues its use of expanded video technology with the prison to conduct expedited misdemeanor trials, thereby eliminating the need to transport defendants to the courthouse for negotiated pleas and stipulated trials.

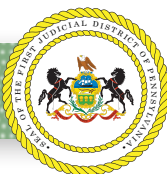
Video Crash Court hearings are typically scheduled three weeks post arrest. Through the cooperation of the District Attorney's Office, judges are also able to immediately address many Municipal Court probation/parole issues that in the past resulted in longer lengths of incarceration pending judicial review. In

2017, 326 cases were adjudicated through Video Crash Court, which was a slight increase over 2016.

### DUI Treatment Court

DUI Treatment Court continues to promote public safety, to hold offenders accountable for their actions, and to help offenders maintain sobriety and be responsible and productive members of the community. The target group for DUI Treatment Court includes DUI offenders who qualify for Levels 3 or 4 of the Sentencing Guidelines promulgated by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and who are in need of drug and/

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or alcohol treatment. DUI Treatment Court is dedicated to the treatment and adjudication of individuals with multiple DUI offenses who have no related history of violent crime or other legal complications. These individuals serve reduced jail time by attending extensive treatment. For example, a defendant who is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 90 days in prison will serve 10 days in prison, followed by treatment. A defendant who is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of one year in prison will serve six months followed by treatment. In all, 89% of the participants have successfully completed the program. To date, there have been 545 graduates (81 in 2017); of those, 92% were not convicted of a new crime and 86% remained arrest free.

## Philadelphia Drug Treatment Court

2017 witnessed the 20th Anniversary of Philadelphia's Drug Treatment Court. The Philadelphia Drug Treatment Court, the first drug court in Pennsylvania, was established in response to the dramatic growth in drug related criminal activity occurring in Philadelphia. Recognizing that sound strategies to address the drug involvement of criminal offenders must be a fundamental priority of the criminal justice system, the Court represents an effort to establish a new working relationship between the Court and the substance abuse treatment system.

There are 3,203 successful graduates of the program (139 in 2017); of those, 92% were not convicted of a new crime within one year of graduation and 84% remained arrest free during that same time period.

## Mental Health Initiative

Many of the mental health challenges brought before the Municipal Court have been streamlined. Operationally, the ability to centralize mental health cases for criminal

defendants has proven beneficial in dealing with questions of competency and coordinating orders for mental health evaluations. At subsequent status hearings, the judge monitors defendants returned to the community. Through the collaborative efforts of the District Attorney and defense counsel, hundreds of cases have been monitored for treatment with prosecution eventually withdrawn. Other cases have had non-trial dispositions requiring mental health supervision and treatment.

## Emergency Protection from Abuse

The Emergency Protection from Abuse (EPFA) unit operates during non-traditional hours for emergency petitions only. The unit is staffed by law-trained masters who, in accordance with the Protection from Abuse Act, conduct ex-parte hearings and review facts to determine if a petition should be granted. The current complement of staff includes one supervisory master, ten per diem masters and ten clerical assistants (on rotating shifts). The unit approved 2,068 petitions in calendar year 2017 and provided referrals for victim services and emergency referral sites throughout Philadelphia to several thousand non-qualifying petitioners. The EPFA unit is available to petitioners when many other service agencies are closed. Despite funding cuts, the court continued operation of this critical service in Municipal Court. The EPFA unit maintains a close collaborative working relationship with the Domestic Violence Unit of the Court of Common Pleas.

## Non-Traffic Summary Citations

Over the last year we have seen a further decrease in the number of non-traffic summary citations filed in Municipal

**92% of Drug Treatment Court graduates were not convicted of a new crime within one year of graduation.**

**2014-2017 Non-Traffic Summary Citations Comparison**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Filings	28,556	27,054	12,569	9,307
Adjudications	31,111	29,773	14,309	9,895
Clearance Rate	109%	110%	113%	106%

Court. The MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge and the planning for large events in the City resulted in the decriminalization of local ordinances with many cases being filed separately as civil violations.

In 2017, 2,109 individuals successfully completed the Quality of Life Summary Diversion Program resulting in automatic expungements, and collections for the Victim Compensation Fund amounted to \$123,360.



Photo by Theresa Cannon





## Conclusion

The Civil Division continues to provide for mediation and dispute resolution in civil actions and to adjudicate thousands of cases annually while maintaining and enhancing the original e-filing system in Philadelphia. The Division continues to provide access to justice by making CLAIMS available to pro se litigants and providing them with a comprehensive training session and training materials. The Division's state-of-the-art conference center is used regularly by the Bar Association, the AOPC and the FJD for continuing legal education and training. The Civil Division continues to work with other interested parties including the Eviction Task Force and the Philadelphia Bar Association's Municipal Court Committee to provide a judicial system where cases are timely heard providing a forum where litigants have the option to proceed pro se. During 2017, the division's most significant changes were with landlord-tenant cases. The Civil Division made improvements to ensure pro se litigants are better informed of court options and processes. Lastly, the division's long standing Deputy Court Administrator retired, passing the torch to the former director of the Division. Although a difficult transition, the court operations were not adversely impacted.

2017 witnessed the continuation of positive reform initiatives in the Court's Criminal Division. Felony and misdemeanor cases were diverted from the Court's standard calendars, resulting in cost-savings associated with formal trials, hearings,

court-related police overtime and lengthy prison stays for non-violent offenders. The Division continues to actively participate in resolving the delayed software upgrade for the arrest to arraignment process and expects proactive movement with vendors to commence with a renewed collaborative project in 2018. We anticipate the commencement of additional initiatives brought about by the MacArthur Challenge including, but not limited to: implicit and explicit bias training, the improvement of case processing, bail reform, and a comprehensive review to enhance case management practices. We expanded the use of

**The Court will continue to work collaboratively with its justice partners to provide access to justice to all parties requiring services in Municipal Court.**

video conferencing after an elevator tragedy in the Stout Center impacted direct access to custody defendants by defense counsel. Attorneys can now communicate remotely via video from privately designated video conferencing rooms in the courthouse. We began collaborating with various agencies to conduct a Safe Return operation at an off-site church so that individuals with bench

warrants can surrender and be afforded favorable consideration for the removal of warrants and possible resolution of some underlying criminal cases. We will incorporate many community and behavioral resource groups for treatment and ancillary service referrals where needed. We expect this to commence in the spring of 2018. With the Opioid epidemic escalating, MC Judges and staff attended Narcan training to assist in life-saving intervention in overdose scenarios.

The Court will continue to work collaboratively with its justice partners to provide access to justice to all parties requiring services in Municipal Court.





MUNICIPAL COURT - TRAFFIC DIVISION ■







## SUMMARY

Aside from the privilege of serving as a juror, the Traffic Division of Municipal Court, which is located at 800 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19123, is generally the first, if not only, encounter that one has with the justice system in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. In 2017, **323,750 private citizens entered the courthouse** in an effort to address their driving license issues or respond to a moving citation, appear for trial, establish an installment payment plan, seek a relistment of a trial date, retrieve an impounded vehicle, appeal a conviction to the higher court, or respond to a warrant for arrest.

In addition, **186,490 members of the public contacted the Traffic Division** through its interactive voice response system, and 43.5% of those cases (**i.e., 81,209 people**) were directly serviced by one of the five service representatives

assigned to the Call Center. Those operators answered queries and provided direction regarding court procedures to approximately 1,650 individuals on a weekly basis.

Under the leadership of Administrative/Common Pleas Court Judge Gary S. Glazer and with a complement of one hundred employees, five hearing officers, and one member of the judiciary, the Traffic Division collected over \$20,000,000 in outstanding fines and costs during calendar year 2017. For the convenience of the public and to ensure accessibility to court procedures for all citizenry, the Traffic Division is open from 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two **trial courtrooms**, one of which is divided into six individual **hearing rooms**, as well as a **motion court**, an **impoundment courtroom**, and a **night court** are in session five days per week. In addition, an **Appeals Court** is in session three days per week to address matters on appeal. Moreover,

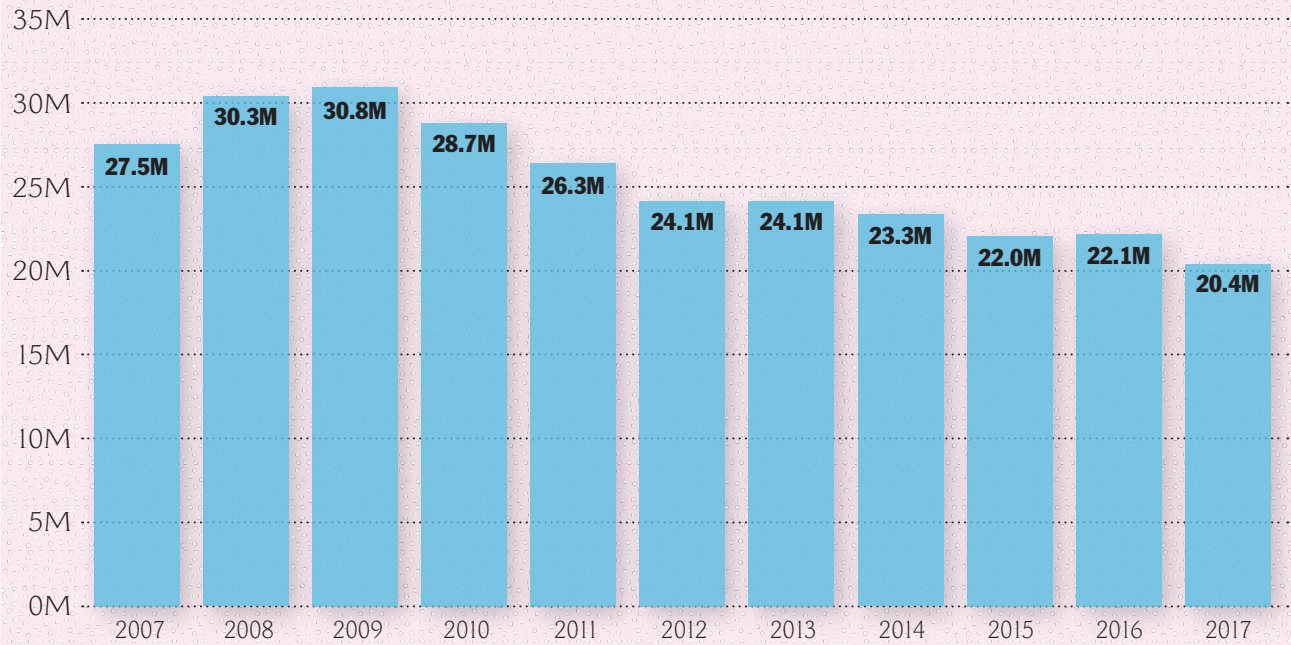
### Traffic Court Breakdown in Distribution by Fiscal Year

Year	State	City	Xerox Fee	Warrant Fee	PPA	2360 Fee	Total	Issuance
2007	12,139,700	8,763,254	2,524,201	1,594,888	1,202,606	1,201,707	<b>27,426,354</b>	239,270
2008	13,292,209	9,494,434	2,150,604	2,487,406	1,404,227	1,433,975	<b>30,262,854</b>	270,355
2009	13,495,067	9,638,205	2,468,126	2,402,614	1,446,101	1,362,113	<b>30,812,225</b>	228,119
2010	12,378,431	8,893,519	2,276,439	2,391,113	1,323,407	1,453,954	<b>28,716,863</b>	186,998
2011	11,147,069	8,134,053	2,042,594	2,279,687	1,169,857	1,542,577	<b>26,315,838</b>	160,556
2012	9,926,046	7,392,848	1,824,722	2,096,983	1,062,323	1,785,723	<b>24,088,646</b>	163,328
2013	9,791,973	7,355,330	1,848,321	2,235,477	1,064,316	1,792,921	<b>24,088,338</b>	157,142
2014	9,378,693	7,056,760	1,804,114	2,373,110	981,956	1,674,869	<b>23,269,501</b>	135,580
2015	9,291,555	6,435,217	1,635,931	2,368,717	755,748	1,509,052	<b>21,996,220</b>	126,147
2016	9,755,052	5,995,332	1,630,642	2,561,679	712,555	1,432,466	<b>22,087,726</b>	105,026
2017	9,003,161	5,213,845	1,451,990	2,742,466	622,109	1,329,895	<b>20,363,465</b>	102,414
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$119,598,955</b>	<b>\$84,372,796</b>	<b>\$21,657,683</b>	<b>\$25,534,140</b>	<b>\$11,475,205</b>	<b>\$16,519,250</b>	<b>\$279,428,029</b>	<b>\$1,874,935</b>

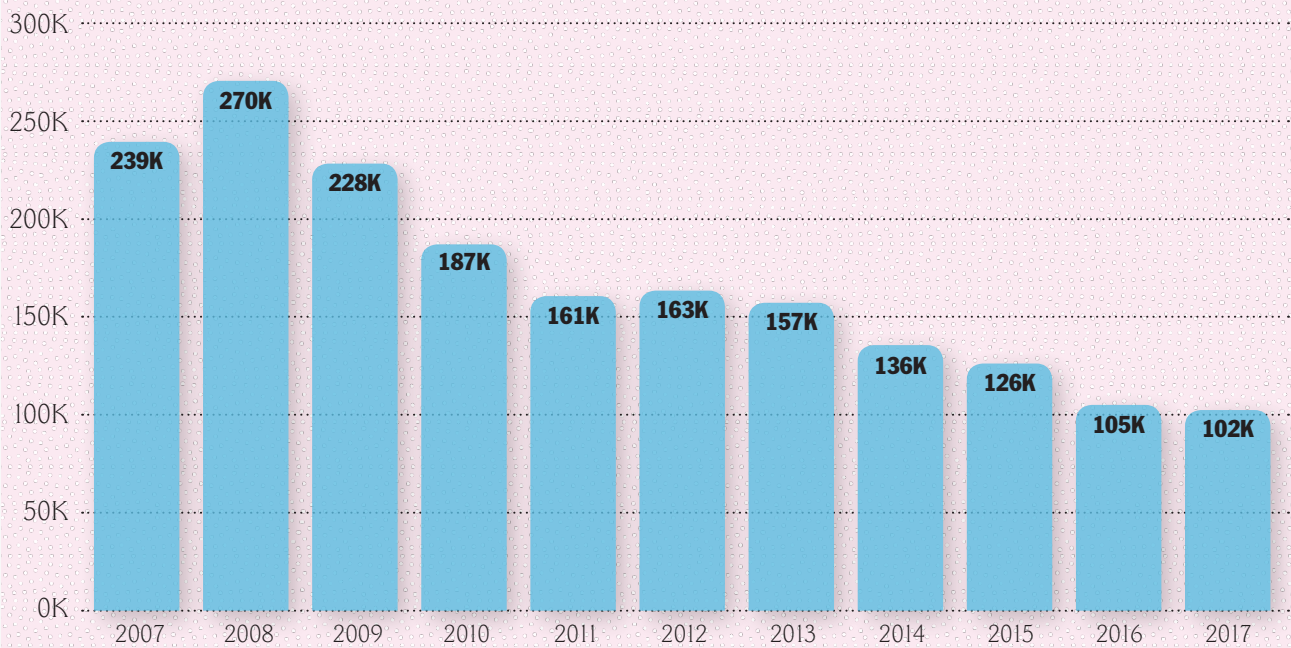


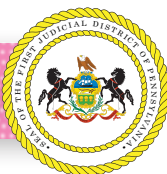


### Traffic Court Total Distribution



### Traffic Court Total Citation Issuance





approximately one day per month, **red-light camera appeals** to convictions rendered at the Office of Administrative Review are scheduled and adjudicated at the Traffic Division; in 2017, the court processed sixty (60) red-light camera appeal matters. (As a point of reference, the Philadelphia Parking Authority issues violations for disregarding steady red indicators at historically dangerous intersections. Points are not assigned to the driving record of the offender upon a plea or finding of guilt in those matters.)

## Technology

For the last ten years, the court has relentlessly directed its energy and attention to the **electronic citation project**, as an electronic version of the antiquated, manually written citation will provide for more expedient, safer, and accurate processes at the time a driver is stopped by a police officer in violation of Title 75 of the *Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code*. The Court is confident that full implementation of the city-wide electronic citation process will come to fruition in 2018. Significant progress was made in 2017, beginning with an updated Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in May, 2017, regarding the Implementation of TrACS's PA Crash and eCitation between the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation and Technology, the Philadelphia Police Department, and the Philadelphia Municipal Court, Traffic Division. The updated Memorandum of Understanding detailed, inter alia, the in-car technology and its implementation by the police department.

By virtue of that Memorandum of Understanding, the parties agreed to begin the phase of purchasing the necessary software and hardware for the project, with all parties contributing towards their respective apportionment of the purchase price. The Traffic

While public safety and access to justice remain essential to the Traffic Division's mission statement, the court also focused its attention in 2017 on many other areas of its internal operation, including technological innovations, training of staff, courthouse security, case-flow management, and finance. The following report provides an overview of the salient aspects of the Court's undertakings, initiatives, and accomplishments over the past year.

Division has encumbered \$1.2 million from its budget for its portion of the expenditures, which includes the printers, scanners, mounts, and the installation expenses in the cars and cruisers. In addition,

the parties further agreed to a phased roll-out implementation of approximately 707 days from the date of equipment delivery, but, by year end, all parties realized the practicality of accelerating the implementation process, and, therefore, **it is anticipated that every vehicle in the police fleet will be equipped to issue electronic citations**

**The Court is confident that full implementation of the city-wide electronic citation process will come to fruition in 2018.**

**for Title 75 violations by early fall, 2018.** The initial rollout phase will occur within several key police districts, including the Traffic Enforcement Unit and Accident Investigation Division of the Philadelphia Police Department.

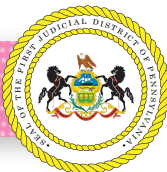
In its endeavors to finalize the eCitation project, the court participated in bi-weekly conference-call meetings with the Philadelphia Police Department and the Office of Information and Technology. The highlights of the court's accomplishments in 2017 in the eCitation project are as follows:

- Purchased thirty bar-code readers, which will be connected to the mobile data computers inside the police academy, to allow the trainers, at this juncture, to scan driver licenses and registration cards to auto populate electronic ticketing.



- Reviewed and evaluated all citation processes to address user concerns in the training phase with police officers.
  - Developed a process to update and synchronize the court hearing calendars for date certain and truck enforcement citations with the TrACS system so that the hearing date can be automatically populated on the electronic citation.
  - Developed a support plan to address user issues, such as inputting the rank and last name of the issuing officer, during the rollout phase.
  - Uncovered a printer connectivity issue which would have had a long-term and deleterious effect on the project were it not addressed prior to implementation.
  - Resolved server issues between the Philadelphia Police Department and the Traffic Division, which precluded the Traffic Division from receiving the transmitted citations.
  - Developed a process to handle system updates and new TrACS versions.
  - Tested eCitation hardware and software within designated police vehicles to ensure proper functioning of all processes within the Traffic Division. During the process, the court discovered a problem with the mapping tool (which is used to set the location of the stop/violation on the traffic citation) which related to a setting on the City's firewall. City programmers worked with TrACS programmers to resolve the issue, thereby facilitating the ability to go live with the project.
  - Determined the type of equipment (i.e., printer, mount and barcode reader) to be purchased for installation in the police vehicles. Upon consideration, all parties agreed on a cage-mounted printer, as opposed to one positioned between the driver and passenger seats, as it will be more durable, with no impact on the budget.
  - Updated the TrACS system to account for the state-wide, statutory increase of the judicial computer program/access to justice account fee (JCP/ATJ) that became effective October 30, 2017, upon signing into law by the Governor of Pennsylvania.
- Moreover, the court continued to work with representatives from Conduent (which provides contractual services for ticket processing) to ensure compliance with system enhancements and upgrades and to assess and address production problems. The following changes were implemented to the Court's *ticket-processing database*:
- Enhanced our e-TIMS system to enable users to mark an entity with an interpreter indicator/status via the customer detail screen, in accord with the requirements of the AOPC Language Access Plan.
  - Improved quality control and audit processes within the e-TIMS case management system by developing several new status reports to monitor the Traffic Division's warrant issuance and case expungement actions.
- Upgraded our database to ensure that warrants are properly lifted upon the entry of a scheduling order...**
- Upgraded our database to ensure that warrants are properly lifted upon the entry of a scheduling order or appropriately applied if the defendant failed to appeal or report on the date of his or her Order. In that regard, Conduent created three reports which are reviewed daily by the Court's Pre-Trial Services Unit to closely monitor the status of warrants to ensure the integrity of operations and determine the need for further manual action with regard to releasing or reapplying warrants. A cumulative report lists the citations of any individual who has been committed for more than 120 days to enable court personnel to verify the status of incarceration.





Beyond the enhancements to the eTIMS (ticket-processing system), the Court addressed the following issues:

- Coordinated with the AOPC and the Philadelphia Police Department to promptly implement a \$12 JCP/ATJ fee increase per motor vehicle citation.
- Implemented, in conjunction with the Office of Judicial Records, a procedure to process Common Pleas Court *Nunc Pro Tunc* Motions for appeals to the Superior Court filed under the Traffic Division Appeal Program.
- Upgraded our videoconferencing equipment to improve communication between the court and the inmates at the time of arraignment.
- Strengthened the Division's internal accounting processes and controls by procuring and installing an electronic safe within our Financial Control Unit to automate cash handling. The addition of the "E-safe" has enabled the Traffic Division to remotely deposit all cash receipts directly to its banking institution, on the same day as collected, as

required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Prior to the E-safe, there were times when the daily cash payments were not picked up timely by the armored car service, which delayed deposits and resulted in past state audit findings. The E-safe addresses those findings, and its purchase was cost neutral for the FJD. In essence, the E-safe combines armored transportation with the processing of deposits. In addition, the E-safe will confirm the authenticity of all currency and reject any monies that may be deemed questionable, providing yet another safeguard against counterfeit bills.

Finally, in November, 2017, the Management Information Department assigned one of its technicians to the Traffic Division two days per week to assist the court's Director of Facilities with upgrading hardware and resolving software issues with several of its courthouse services, including the security/ alarm system and the Blackbox/IVR program, as well as internal databases, such as PennDoT and the TAB filing system.

## Case Management / Statistics

The Traffic Division is committed to moving cases expeditiously from filing to closure to ensure that justice is neither delayed nor denied. Through its date-certain program, the court is ensured that the first listing of trial is approximately sixty days from the date on which the citation was issued.

During calendar year 2017, **one hundred two thousand, four hundred fourteen (102,414) citations were issued throughout the City of Philadelphia** by local police and its sub-agencies, university/campus police, Pennsylvania State Police; Truck Enforcement; Highway Patrol; Housing Authority Police; SEPTA Police; Pennsylvania Fuel Tax; Delaware River Port Authority; and AMTRAK Police. The attached graph compares

citation issuance by all police agencies for calendar years 1999 through 2017. Law enforcement, in general, issued 2,612 fewer citations over calendar year 2016. Those 102,414 citations passed through multiple departments of the Traffic Division, in some facet, from the beginning stages of batching, stripping, and data entry, through the filing and case preparation aspects, before the defendant's payment could be appropriately applied or a trial could be conducted. Court staff recognize the time sensitivity of the processes in place to prevent delays in service.

To ensure **the timely filing of motor vehicle citations**, in compliance with Rule 406 of the *Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure*, and in an effort to ensure the integrity of court orders, the Court continued to work with the commanding officers of the Philadelphia Police Liaison Office to reduce the



number of days between the date on which citations were issued and the date on which the citations were transmitted to the court for data entry. Through due diligence, by year end, the court witnessed a three day reduction in the gap between issuance and filing of citations.

Moreover, the Traffic Division **adjudicated 107,185 citations** in 2017, as compared to 131,350 cases that were disposed of in 2016. A comparative overview of case statistics for calendar years 2016 and 2017 follows. We correlate the reduction in number of cases disposed to the court's vigilance in identifying, and resolving in prior years, the older, unadjudicated matters.

Of equal importance are the following hearings that were conducted at the Traffic Division for defendants who were attempting to resolve their driver license issues. The court remains cognizant of the constitutional concerns of the United States Department of Justice regarding the imposition of fines and fees upon poor defendants in low-level matters and strives to meet the needs of the public through its efforts to promote public safety. In that regard,

- 48,460 defendants entered into payment plan agreements with the Court after a financial determination hearing was conducted;
- 11,881 defendants appeared before the Impoundment Court judge or hearing officer in an effort to effectuate a release of their vehicle which had been impounded by the Police or the Parking Authority;
- 1,758 defendants were transported by the prisons to the Traffic Division for immediate warrant hearings; and
- 62 inmates participated in hearings through the closed-circuit television process.

Effective case flow management is also achieved through the court's expeditious review and processing of the following procedures:

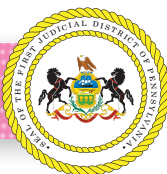
- 84 bankruptcy cases were filed in 2017. Debtors who list

<b>Citations Disposed:</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Trial: Guilty	69,106	66,662
Trial: Not Guilty	8,818	5,599
Guilty Plea	16,181	14,068
Dismissal	1,514	1,521
Pros. Withdrawn	15,487	15,596
<b>Total Disposed:</b>	<b>131,350</b>	<b>107,185</b>

Disposed citations also include voided tickets and those that were administratively adjudicated as deceased.

the Traffic Division as a creditor can be assured that notification to the United States Bankruptcy Court and the Department of Transportation is processed timely in order to protect their rights and ensure that their driving privileges are not suspended for failure to maintain payments.

- 2,799 interpreter requests were processed through the Traffic Division's Language Interpreter Services Department, consistent with the Rules of Judicial Administration. The court's Spanish interpreter trainee schedules all requests for interpreter services and provides interpretation for all Spanish-speaking defendants. In 2017, working in the trial, motion, hearing, and impoundment courtrooms of the Traffic Division, he provided Spanish interpretation for 2,261 cases, not including walk-in requests. In addition, there were 20 requests for sign language and 518 requests for other foreign-language interpretations. The court remains sensitive to the needs of the hearing impaired and non-English speaking individuals. Through on-site interpreter services, the court has witnessed a reduction in continuances of first-time listings.
- 2,893 emails were routed to the Traffic Division in 2017 for reply by court personnel relative to general driver license inquiries and court procedures. The public has access to the court personally, telephonically, and electronically.



## Security

With the vast number of people transacting court business daily at the Traffic Division, it is incumbent upon the court to continually assess its security protocol and monitor employee access to secure, confidential areas of the courthouse.

The six hearing rooms at the Traffic Division were intentionally constructed to provide an informal setting in which defendants could present their defense to the hearing officers regarding the citations on which they were being tried. A sheriff is stationed in the General Assembly Room at all times. However, to allay the concerns of our hearing officers and

enhance courtroom and building security, the court installed and implemented an early-warning notification strobe-light system which allows the court's hearing officers to **discreetly alert** the sheriffs of developing security issues. The process has allowed the sheriffs to directly monitor the individualized hearing rooms without activating a full distress alarm.

Moreover, for security purposes and to eliminate unnecessary disruption and distraction in Courtroom "B" where mandatory/subsequent offense proceedings are heard, the court installed a swipe pass system between the Assembly Room and Courtroom B which limits ingress to authorized personnel only.

## Personnel /Training

The court faced significant turnover of its personnel in 2017. Thirteen employees, ranging from clerical assistants, custodial workers, and a cashier were hired at the Traffic Division to strengthen its workforce but, by year end, through retirements, terminations, and those who left the court's employ to pursue other opportunities, the Traffic Division's complement of personnel was reduced by 21 individuals.

As a result, the court is developing a strategic approach towards managing human resources. Employee retention is often an arduous task. Our approach is to assign newly hired clerical assistants to a central training area, i.e., the Customer Service Department, where they are integrated among knowledgeable, seasoned employees who have initial contact with the public, and they are quickly exposed to the day-to-day problems beleaguering the defendants. It is through this "ground zero" that they foster a greater understanding of our ticket processing system and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to propel



them through the orientation period. With proper exposure and training, the rank and file employees of today can be tomorrow's supervisors. Moreover, we strive to promote from within and endeavor to extend every opportunity to all qualified personnel.

In accordance with our objective to work more efficiently with the current complement of staff, administration honored the request of District Council 33, Local 696, to consider a job audit of certain groups of clerical assistants assigned to the Traffic Division. The study was conducted by representatives of the Office of Human Resources for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and their findings revealed that

some of the court's employees were working under a title that was not commensurate with their responsibilities. Accordingly, the personnel assigned to the Court Listings Unit were reclassified to legal clerks, and the operators in the Call Center were reclassified as service representatives, a newly created working title.

In addition, in the spring of 2017, Joseph L. Hassett, Esquire, Deputy Court Administrator, and Margaret Fenerty, Director of





Personnel, conducted informal workshops for all employees of the Traffic Division. Discussion in those classes emphasized ethical behavior, reinforced the need to be governed by sound, moral principles, and addressed various scenarios focusing on such basic standards as not accessing court records for family and friends and professional conduct while representing the Traffic Division and the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

In the fall of 2017, Traffic Division employees underwent mandatory, in-house training conducted by Martha Fisher, Esquire, Counsel for Human Resources, and Valerie Jowett, Manager for Human Resources, which focused on overall workplace conduct and the non-discrimination/harassment policies of the FJD under which all District employees are governed.

Management meets monthly with the hearing officers to review their disposition statistics and address relevant legal and procedural matters, as well security protocols. In the early part of the year, the court created a scheduled hearing docket worksheet on which the district attorneys or paralegals assigned to the case notate the amended violation and the amended fines that are proposed. Inasmuch as the amount of the fine is not recorded on the back of the citation or the plea form, this form serves as a means of ensuring the integrity of the plea bargain process. Similarly, the worksheet provides the means by which the hearing officer can record the terms of the payment plan agreement into which the defendant entered with the court at the time of adjudication. This worksheet has greatly enhanced communication between the District Attorney's Office and the hearing officers.

In March, Municipal Court Supervising Judge Bradley K. Moss met with the court's hearing officers to discuss Rule 590 of the *Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure* governing pleas and plea agreements. Extensive discussion focused on the appropriate use of Section 3111(a) of the *Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code* (disregarding

traffic devices) to amend violations during the trial process.

In the summer of 2017, the court prepared a curriculum for a legal education training program for the hearing officers for which six hours of CLE credit was earned. Topics included implicit and procedural bias in decision making, as well as updates to the *Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code*.

The Traffic Division will continue to provide the employees with any and all resources to strengthen their skills and bolster their confidence.

**The Traffic Division  
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## Operations

The Traffic Division is comprised of fifteen key departments through which all phases of ticket issuance and adjudication are filtered. The following narrative succinctly captures the basic responsibilities of those departments.

- **Boot & Tow** – The employees assigned to this department process all matters relative to the impoundment and release of defendants' vehicles.
- **Call Center** – The employees of the central telephone center respond to telephonic inquiries relative to driver license issues.
- **Central Records** – The employees of this central filing room prepare case folders for trial.
- **Citation Control** – This department provides the point of entry for motor vehicle citations; employees assigned to the Unit are responsible for batching, stripping, and preparing citations for data entry.
- **Court Listings** – This department is responsible for dispositioning cases and reviewing and processing continuances in accord with the Continuance Policy.
- **Courtroom Operations** – This department is staffed by



court officers who maintain courtroom decorum and assist the judge or hearing officer during the legal proceedings.

- **Customer Service** – This department provides the initial contact with defendants; cashiers apply payments and provide general direction and information relative to one’s motor vehicle citations.
- **Financial Control** – This department is the court’s internal accounting department.
- **Lockbox** – This department receives and processes all incoming mail, which includes the application of payments and collateral towards defendants’ accounts. In 2017, 73,020 pieces of mail were processed by this Unit, which included 41,301 pieces that were returned to the court by the United States Postal Office as undeliverable. This represents approximately 8% of all of the court notices that were mailed in 2017. The court continues its efforts to ensure the accuracy of its addresses on file by coordinating with other agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- **Mail Room** – This Unit prepares all out-bound mail for processing and delivery by the United States Postal Office. Records reflect that court staff handled 601,691 pieces of mail in 2017; approximately 50,000 notices were metered

per month by the Department of Revenue’s Outgoing Mail Center for the City of Philadelphia in 2017.

- **Payment Adjustment** – The employees in this department process refunds, provide information to banks and abstract companies relative to payoff amounts, and modify records relative to the incorrect application of monies and/or dispositioning errors.
- **Pre-Trial Services**– This enforcement department is responsible for all cases on which a defendant is facing the possibility of incarceration for motor vehicle issues. In 2017, this unit sent 567 scofflaw warrants to the Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office for service.
- **Processing Edits** – This unit provides quality control services to ensure the integrity of dispositioning and courtroom operations.
- **Record Retention** – This department serves as the file room and provides security for all cases on which an adjudication has been rendered.
- **Appeals/Attorney Listings Department** – This department is responsible for processing all appeals to convictions rendered at the Traffic Division, as well as attorneys’ requests for relistments.





Since the court inaugurated the summary trial appeal program at the Traffic Division in 2015, the court has continued to file, schedule, process and hear all aspects of the appeals de novo, nunc pro tunc appeals, and Informa Pauperis Petitions that were previously handled by the Criminal Trial Division at the Criminal Justice Center. Those matters are heard on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays by Municipal Court judges designated as Common Pleas Court judges. Statistics support a decrease in nunc pro tunc petitions filed and granted in 2017 over 2016, as reflected in the following chart; 1,207 of those granted petitions were unopposed by the Commonwealth.

In addition, in 2017, approximately 72 payment plan orders issued at the Traffic Division were appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, as compared to fifty (50) in 2016. Data relative to the payment order is entered into CPCMS; all activity on

<b>Traffic Division Appeals</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Appeals De Novo	6,282	5,932
Nunc Pro Tunc Petitions (filed)	2,540	2,334
Nunc Pro Tunc Petitions (granted)	1,649	1,593
<b>Appeal Adjudications</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Appeals Withdrawn	159	116
Guilty	4,045	3,614
Not Guilty	2,078	2,202

the affected citations is suspended for the protection of the defendant, pending the appeal date. The action is recorded in CPCMS as “motion hearing for failure to pay/contempt”.

## Financial

The Court collected a total of \$20,363,465.36 in revenue in 2017. In accordance with the disbursement schedule, the Commonwealth received \$9,003,161.02; the City received \$5,213,845.12; Xerox received \$1,451,989.83; and the Philadelphia Parking Authority received \$622,108.51. In addition, the Court disbursed over \$2.7 million to the FJD. See attached graph comparing revenue received versus citation issuance.

Moreover, the court continued to be proactive in attempting to collect on outstanding arrearage by working with its ticket-processing vendor to encourage individuals whose accounts were in default to make a fresh start to afford them with the opportunity to regain their driving privileges. In that regard, the court generated two one-time only reminder notices, the first of which, captioned “Use Your Tax Refund Wisely”, was sent between January 24, 2017 and February 15, 2017 to 16,500 individuals who were in default by \$25.00 or more. The bulk mailing excluded those

entities with nixed addresses and those citations, such as appeals, which had a future suspend date. The response was significant; over 12,000 individuals responded to the Tax Refund Notice, and \$1,116,519.01 was paid as a result thereof. In fact, over a two-day period of February 23, 2017 through February 24, 2017, this initiative resulted in collections of \$340,000.

The second notice, captioned “Care Free Driving”, was mailed to over 42,000 individuals, with some exclusions based upon appeal status or outdated addresses, from May 22, 2017 through June 22, 2017, to a population of defendants who had three or fewer citations in default status for more than thirty (30) days totaling \$25.00. Over 8,000 individuals either satisfied their debt in its entirety or established a monthly payment agreement, and the associated revenue generated as a result of that notice was \$676,087.95.

Through the court’s Interactive Voice Response system (“IVR”), \$1,057,769.20 was paid by defendants who were attempting to satisfy their total debt or comply with their





***Other collections were garnered in the form of:***

<b>Payments in Cash</b>	<b>\$ 6,834,901.30</b>
<b>Pay by Web .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,928,603.52</b>
<b>Check .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,588,764.79</b>
<b>Front Counter (Credit Cards).....</b>	<b>\$ 4,002,403.70</b>
<b>Recurring Payment Plans .....</b>	<b>\$ 507,532.33</b>

monthly payment obligation. (The IVR allows a defendant to retrieve information pertaining to his or her case file, obtain general information, or pay a citation via a telephone call to the Traffic Division.) Through interaction with the Court's database, the defendant can retrieve the amount due on the record, the case status, and the due date. The Customer Service Department has witnessed a significant reduction in the number of individuals who appear for immediate service,

as the IVR has provided the general public with a mechanism for easier access to court operations and more expedient response time.

With regard to electrical providers, the Traffic Division authorized the AOPC's Procurement Department to extend the court's contract with Horizon Energy for electrical services through November, 2018 to secure the current rate. By switching electric providers from PECO to Horizon, the court saved approximately \$29,339.40 in 2017.

Moreover, with no labor expenditure to be absorbed by the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, the maintenance mechanics of the court's Facilities Department refurbished its employee cafeteria in 2017, through fresh paint and the installation of new counter tops, a sink, and recessed lighting. Similarly, at no expense to the FJD, the landlord of 800 Spring Garden Street agreed to completely mill and repave the dilapidated and deteriorated parking lot on court premises and repaint the lines demarcating the private parking spots.

## Legal

Having identified a problem that was preventing the liens from being released after full payment was received on a citation, the court worked with Conduent and the Office of Judicial Records to establish protocol and facilitate the exchange of data between the two entities, thereby reducing the number of rejected lien files.

In 2017, the Auditor General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conducted a comprehensive financial audit of the Traffic Division for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2016. With the exception of one recurring finding regarding an inherent system reporting imbalance, which the court is in the process of resolving, the

Traffic Division's internal financial controls were determined to be fiscally sound.

The Traffic Division entered the exploratory phase of establishing a community service program for its most impoverished defendants who have defaulted on their fines and costs due on motor vehicle violations. As an alternative to paying said fines, the defendants would be resentenced to perform community service with a non-profit agency. The court is discussing the initiative

with Legal Services. The establishment of a community service program within the Traffic Division will be consistent with the recommendation of the Department of Justice.

Efforts are underway to inaugurate the Safe Surrender Program in the City of Philadelphia through which individuals

**Traffic Division's  
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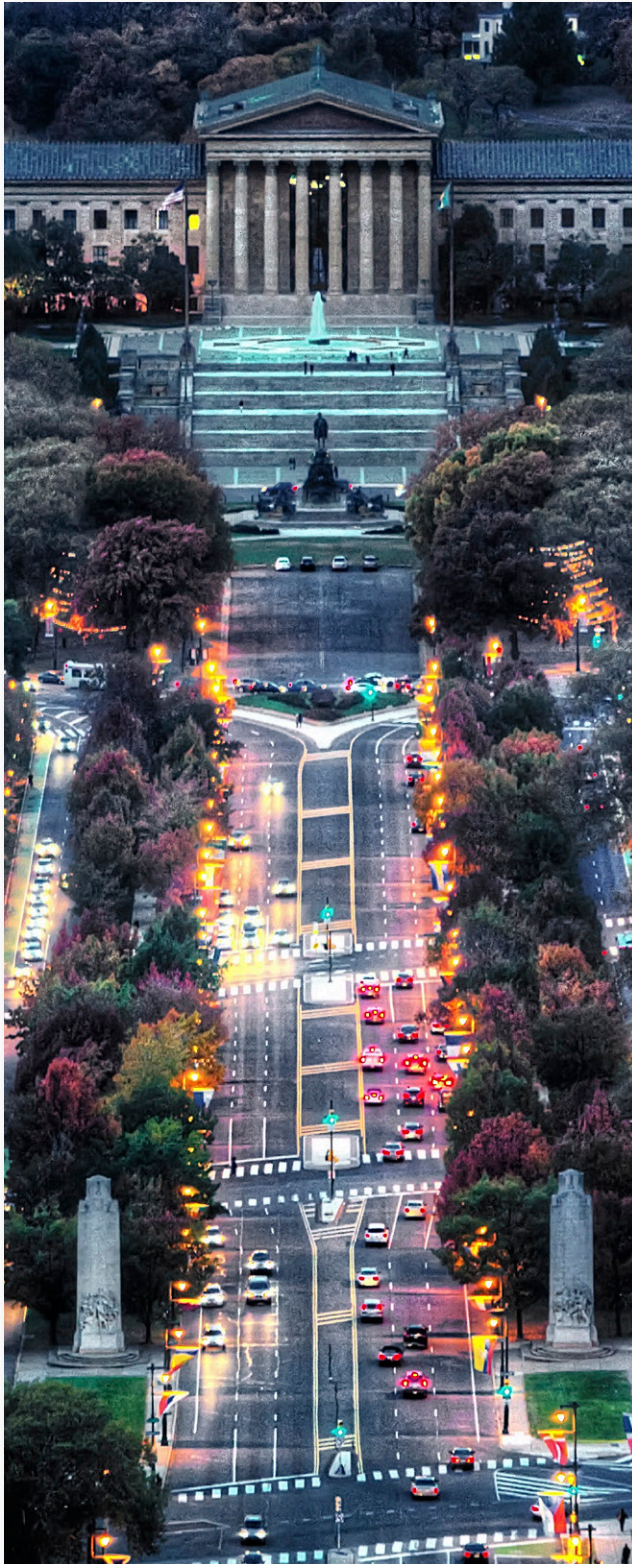


Photo by Theresa Cannon

with outstanding bench warrants can seek resolution to their driver licensing issues, in a neutral haven, without fear of arrest. With the cooperation of law enforcement, the community in general, and the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, this program will provide relief for a myriad of people who cannot legally drive. In 2017, court managers met monthly with core representatives to coordinate the logistics of this court-wide program.

### Community Out-Reach Programs

- **The Re-Entry Program** - The Court continued to work with United States Magistrate Judge Timothy Rice and his team of mentoring attorneys and law students from the University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, Drexel, Temple, and Rutgers on the Re-Entry Program, which provides a course of action to assist federal probationers to transition from incarceration into the private sector. The Court hosted two separate groups of law students in 2017, both of which met with Municipal Court Judge Francis Shields and hearing officer Demetrios Semos, Esquire, both of whom provided discourse on the court's legal processes and procedures involving convictions on motor vehicle violations at the Traffic Division and nunc pro tunc appeals to the Court of Common Pleas. As advocates for the probationers, the law students stress the importance of a valid driver license for the newly integrated members of society without which future employment opportunities may be precluded.
- **The Public Safety Out-Reach Program** - It has been reported that approximately nine people are killed in the United States daily, and more than 1,000 are injured, in automobile crashes involving a visually, manually, or cognitively distracted driver. Nevertheless, it is revealed through statistics attained from the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania



Courts that a mere 216 citations were issued in the City of Philadelphia between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 for the offenses of (1) using a hand-held mobile device while operating a vehicle; (2) using headphones while driving an automobile; and (3) texting while driving. With such disquieting information, the Traffic Division assigned its Public Relations Manager, Carlos Jackson, to attend a professional development workshop at Lincoln High School in September, 2017, through the intercession of the Philadelphia School Board, where he interacted with faculty members from various City schools to discuss the court's presentation on safe driving. Subsequently, our Public Relations Manager met with students from Lankenau High School; Motivation High School; Mastbaum High School; Overbrook High School; Central High School; Engineering Science High School; and Edison High School. The public-service message was delivered to hundreds of students, who were receptive to the presentation and interested

in learning about vehicle safety and the perils of distracted and aggressive driving. The court is committed to the welfare of the students in Philadelphia and endeavors to broaden the audience to include other areas of the City.

## Summation

Despite the challenges and obstacles over the last year, the Traffic Division remains proud of its undertakings and accomplishments in 2017. In fact, the revenue disbursed to the Commonwealth and the City was quadruple to that of the court's annual budgetary allocation. The court remains committed to the many positive reform measures initiated over the past few years and will continue to promote public safety, provide access to justice for all defendants regardless of their economic station, adjudicate cases with integrity, and maximize its staff to ensure the efficacy of operations.

Facing Page Photo by Theresa Cannon









## SUMMARY

The Judicial Education Committee brings new ideas and best practices to Philadelphia's judiciary. The Committee dedicates hundreds of volunteer hours to improving the administration of justice through education and candid discussion.

Our judges staff nearly a dozen subcommittees year-round to present seminars led by experts who generally teach pro bono. Programs usually take place during the lunch hour or on weekday afternoons between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Judges are offered programs covering topics within and outside of their respective court assignments. The Pa. Supreme Court's Judicial Education Board approved the FJD Education Committee as an

Accredited Provider to offer and present courses for Continuing Judicial Education credit to judges in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas.

The Judicial Education Committee has a dedicated Education section on the Court's website which is accessible to all judges and First Judicial District (FJD) staff. The website contains a variety of material including jury instructions, selected program materials, and Civil, Criminal, and Family court manuals.

Many judges active on the Judicial Education Committee serve as panelists on CLE and CJE programs and teach in a variety of other settings. In 2017, judges also mentored over sixty students through summer internships, and law school graduates through the Judicial Fellowship Program.

### *President:*

**Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper**

### *Judicial Education Committee Co-Chairs:*

**Judges Idee Fox and Lisette Shirdan-Harris**

### *Immediate Past Co-Chairs:*

**Judges Ramy Djerassi and Rosalyn K. Robinson**

### *Chairs of Judicial Education Subcommittees:*

#### *Civil Conversations:*

**Judges Denis P. Cohen and Teresa Sarmina**

#### *Criminal Conversations:*

**Judges Gwendolyn N. Bright and Charles Ehrlich**

#### *All in the Family:*

**Judges Holly J. Ford and Doris A. Pechkurow**

*Law Clerks:* **Judges Diana Anhalt and Mia Perez**

*Brown Bag Luncheon:* **Judge Linda Carpenter**

*Ethics:* **Judges Patricia A. McNerney and Michael Fanning**

*FYI:* **Judges Lori A. Dumas and Maria McLaughlin**

*\*Judges Ann Butchart and Lucretia Clemons began their terms in May 2017*

*Conversations at Sidebar:* **Judge Kai Scott**

#### *New & Transferring*

*Judges Training:* **Judges Marlene F. Lachman**

**(Judge Charles A. Ehrlich: Criminal)**

*Perspectives:* **Judge Rosalyn K. Robinson**

*State Judicial Education Committee Liaisons:*

**Judges Jacqueline F. Allen; Jose Fernandes;**

**Shelley Robins New**

### *2017 Committee Members*

**Judge Diana Anhalt**

**Judge Gwendolyn N. Bright**

**Judge Denis P. Cohen**

**Judge Charles A. Ehrlich**

**Judge Angelo Foglietta**

**Judge Idee C. Fox, Co-Chair**

**Judge Patricia A. McNerney**

**Judge Walter Olszewski**

**Judge Doris A. Pechkurow**

**Judge Lisette Shirdan-Harris, Co-Chair**

**Judge Kai Scott**

**Judge Linda Carpenter**

**Judge Lori A. Dumas**

**Judge Joseph Fernandes**

**Judge Holly J. Ford**

**Judge Maria McLaughlin**

*(\*Superior Court as of January 2018)*

**Judge George Overton**

**Judge Rosalyn K. Robinson**

**Judge Karen Shreeves-Johns**

**Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge**



## Program Series

### Civil Conversations:

Civil Conversations meets monthly over lunch to discuss civil litigation issues, new case law, and court administration. Civil Conversations typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. Discussions are led by judges, court administrators, and outside guests. The programs are open to all members of the bench. Civil Conversations is co-chaired by Judges Denis P. Cohen and M. Teresa Sarmina.

#### Civil Conversations Programs Presented in 2017:

<b>January 26</b> Presenter:	<b>A Discussion of Zoning ABC's</b> <i>Cheryl L. Gaston, Esquire</i>
<b>March 23</b> Presenters:	<b>Hot Topics in Medical Malpractice</b> <i>Andrew S. Youman, Esquire; Daniel F. Ryan, III, Esquire</i>
<b>April 27</b> Presenters:	<b>2017 FELA Update</b> <i>Richard K. Hohn, Esquire; James J. McEldrew, III, Esquire</i>
<b>May 25</b> Presenter:	<b>Changes in Appellate Rules and Procedures that Impact Civil and Criminal Cases: The Latest in Jury Instruction Techniques</b> <i>D. Alicia Hickok, Esquire</i>
<b>June 22</b> Presenter:	<b>Lawyer Disbarments and Suspensions: Everything a Judge Needs to Know</b> <i>Paul Burgoyne, Esquire</i>
<b>September 28</b> Presenters:	<b>Dialogue on Civil Bench Trials: Best Practices</b> <i>Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson, Judge Ann Butchart, Judge Marlene F. Lachman, Judge Shelley Robins New, and Judge Victor J. DiNubile, Jr.</i>
<b>November 2</b> Presenter:	<b>The Attorney-Client Privilege and Work Product Doctrine in PA</b> <i>Kevin P. Allen, Esquire</i>

### Criminal Conversations

Criminal Conversations generally meets at lunchtime the third Wednesday of each month at the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice. Handouts from the various presentations were available upon request.

#### Criminal Conversations Programs Presented in 2017:

<b>January 18</b> Presenters:	<b>CRIMIGRATION – Immigration Issues and Consequences of Criminal Cases</b> <i>Ira Mazer, a veteran attorney at ICE, and Wayne Sachs, a long-time criminal defense attorney who also specializes in immigration cases. Both Mazer and Sachs discussed how a defendant's criminal case affects their immigration status and removal proceedings.</i>
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**Criminal Conversations Programs Presented in 2017:** (cont.)

<b>February 15</b>	<b>Appellate Update with a Focus on Search and Seizure Law</b>
Presenters:	<i>Assistant Defender Aaron Marcus (Appeals Unit), and Assistant District Attorney Michael Erlich (Appeals Unit)</i>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Civil Protests – How the Philadelphia Police Department Handles Civil Protests and Legal Issues Involved When Arrests Are Made</b>
Presenters:	<i>Philadelphia Police Department Inspector, Joseph Sullivan; Mary Catherine Roper, PA Deputy Director, ACLU; and Mike Barry, Deputy District Attorney, Pretrial Division, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.</i>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Diversion and Rehabilitation Programs: Programs That are Successful, and New Initiatives for Success</b>
Presenters:	<i>Chief Probation Officer Charles Hoyt and other representatives from the FJD Probation/Parole Department; Assistant Defender Byron Cotter, Defender' Association; Director of Alternative Sentencing; Nicole Buck, Defender Association Social Services; and Assistant District Attorney Derek Ricker, Chief of Diversion Court, District Attorney's Office.</i>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>New Strategies to Combat Domestic Violence in Philadelphia</b>
Presenter:	<i>Azucena Ugarte, the newly appointed Director of Domestic Violence Strategies for the City of Philadelphia. She discussed the developing city-wide program to reduce domestic violence and provide for more effective early intervention.</i>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>Current Trends and Issues in Forensic Sciences</b>
Presenter:	<i>Michael Garvey, Director, Office of Forensic Science, Philadelphia Police Department presented on the capabilities and limitations of various forensic disciplines. From advancements in DNA technology, firearms examinations, and latent to the challenges associated with trends in controlled substances and the limits of historical forensic tests, such as bite marks and hair examinations, Director Garvey addressed how these topics are important for investigations, current criminal proceedings and post-conviction reviews</i>
<b>July 19</b>	<b>Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB): What is it? Who's involved?</b>
Presenters:	<i>Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper – President Judge, Chair CJAB Julie Wertheimer – Chief of Staff, Managing Director's Office of Criminal Justice Rachael Frumin Eisenberg, Esq. – Project Manager, Managing Director's Office of Criminal Justice The presentation was on learning about the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant Initiative, a collaborative effort overseen by CJAB. Information was provided on how its implementation is impacting criminal justice reform and the progress being made towards the goals of reducing prison population, engaging the community, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities.</i>
<b>October 18</b>	<b>Reentry Programs Created and/or Supervised by Judges</b>
Presenters:	<i>Judicial colleagues discussed their respective programs such as MENTOR; Fresh Start; Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI); and Court Sponsored Job Fair. The Probation/Parole Department also provided input.</i>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Cases: Trial Practice and Update on the Law</b>
Presenters:	<i>Aaron Marcus, Defender's Association; James Carpenter, District Attorney's Office; and Denise Wilson, MSW, LSW, Manager of Forensic Services, Philadelphia Children's Alliance. Course planners were the Honorable Susan Schulman, Honorable Donna Woelpper, and Honorable Gwendolyn Bright.</i>



**Criminal Conversations Programs Presented in 2017:** (cont.)

<b>December 20</b>	<b>Use of Police Body and Vehicle Video Recording Cameras</b>
Presenters:	<i>Representatives from the Philadelphia Police Department, SEPTA and the PA State Police discussed the operation and by their respective law enforcement agencies.</i>

## All in The Family

All in The Family is generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Family Court Building, 1501 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, and centers around issues in Domestic Relations, and Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency.

**All in The Family Programs Presented in 2017:**

<b>January 3</b>	<b>Programs for Court-Involved Youth</b>
Presenters:	<i>Deana Ramsey, Principal of the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center School, and Christina Grant, Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity Network/Innovation Network, The School District of Philadelphia. This program focused on the School District of Philadelphia Programs designed to serve court-involved youth, ages 16-21 year old, at the Pennypack House School for juveniles being charged as adults and at the Juvenile Justice Services Center for all other court-involved youth.</i>
<b>February 7</b>	<b>Common Issues in Child Custody and Dependency Cases</b>
Presenters:	<i>The Honorable Margaret T. Murphy, Administrative Judge of the Family Court Division, and The Honorable Walter Olszewski, Supervising Judge, Family Court,</i>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Titled, Diminished Capacity Parties – The Challenges for Family Court Judges</b>
Presenters:	<i>The Honorable Matthew Carrafiello, Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court, Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. John Sebastian O'Brien II, M.D., J.D., Staff Psychiatrist, Forensic Mental Health Clinic. M.K. Feeney, Esquire, a former Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia County, currently in private practice in Orphans' Court litigation and family law matters. The panel discussed the meaning of capacity and how it differs from competency, what causes the condition, whether it is fluid, what affects the condition and the tests available to determine if a party lacks capacity. The panel further discussed guardianship, as distinguished from guardian ad litem, and how and where appointments for guardian are made, and how cases are handled after an appointment of a guardian. Written materials were available.</i>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Early Childhood Education Opportunities for Philadelphia Families and What Judges Should Know</b>
Presenters:	<i>Diane Castelbuono, Deputy for Early Learning PreK to Grade 3, School District of Philadelphia and Julie Beamon, Provider Engagement Coordinator for the PHL PreK program. The program focused on the PreK programs offered by the Philadelphia School District at no charge to families. Information included details about the programs, duration, how families can apply, how attendees are selected and the benefits provided to families whose children attend such programs.</i>
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Administrative Issues in the Family Court</b>
Presenters:	<i>Administrative Judge Margaret T. Murphy and Supervising Judge Walter Olszewski This program focused on matters such as scheduling, third party filings in custody; procedure on motions for Semi-Protracted, Protracted or DeNovo hearings; docketing and other issues unique to Family Court.</i>



### Law Clerk Committee

The Law Clerk Committee is chaired by Judges Diana Anhalt and Mia R. Perez. The Committee organizes and presents relevant CLE course for the Court's Judicial Law Clerks and Judicial Fellows. The Programs are usually offered at the end of the work day and are open to the public, as required by PACLE. The cost to FJD Law Clerk's and Judicial Fellows is de minimis.

### FYI Committee

The FYI (For Your Information) Committee was chaired by Judges Lori A. Dumas and Maria McLaughlin for part of 2017. Judges Ann Butchart and Lucretia Clemmons stepped in as co-chairs for the latter part of the year. This Committee is composed of a group of judges who annually arrange and discuss topics that affect all judges, regardless of division. These discussions are meant to inform and/or broaden the horizons of the judges. Chosen topics have included dealing with stress, human resources, cultural diversity, IT, etc. The FYI Judges get together every year during the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges to decide on the topics for the next year.

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the judges.**

### Brown Bag Luncheon

The Brown Bag Committee Chair is Judge Linda Carpenter. Founded by Judge Flora Wolf (ret.), this Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. Judges break bread together and discuss issues they face on the bench in a relaxed setting among colleagues. The conversations have no set format or topic, although on occasion a colleague may suggest a topic. Additionally, the monthly meeting is occasionally used to invite a speaker to present on a particular topic of interest to members of the bench. An ethics topic is included annually. Generally, twelve to fifteen judges attend each session bringing experiences from the various divisions of our Court.

### Conversations on Ethics

The Ethics Committee is chaired by Judge Patricia A. McNerney. Joining Judge McNerney this year is Judge Michael Fanning. The Committee is responsible for providing three sessions each year devoted to ethical issues involving judicial conduct. In addition to the annual presentation, the Committee participates in separate presentations to all newly elected and appointed judges.

#### Conversations on Ethics Programs Presented in 2017:

##### March 3, 2017 Ethical Obligations and Attorney Discipline

Presenter: *Harriet Brumberg, Esquire, Disciplinary Counsel, The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court. The program was moderated by Judge McNerney and Disciplinary Counsel Brumberg focused on the workings of the Disciplinary Board and the responsibilities required of judges under the Code of Judicial Conduct*

##### May 10, 2017 The Court of Judicial Discipline

Presenters: *Honorable Jeffrey Minehart, Judge, Court of Common Pleas and a Judge of the Court of Judicial Discipline. Joseph Metz, Esquire, Counsel to the Court. A discussion regarding the workings of the Court, how cases are received, how they are presented, and the range of discipline that may be imposed. Materials included relevant Sections of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules of the Court.*



**Conversations on Ethics Programs Presented in 2017:** (cont.)**Sept. 11, 2017**

Presenters:

**Ethical Issues When Dealing with Self-Represented Litigants**

*Honorable Lori Dumas, Honorable Michael Fanning, Honorable Leon Tucker. This program was held at the Family Court Training Room as part of the "All in the Family" series and as an interactive discussion of common issues that arise with self-represented litigants and how those issues intersect with the Code of Judicial Conduct.*

**Oct. 12, 2017**

Presenter:

**Ethical Issues in Chambers**

*Larry Fox, Esquire, Crawford Visiting Lecturer in Law Yale Law School  
Alicia Hickock, Esquire, Partner, Drinker Biddle. This was an encore presentation lead by Larry Fox, Esquire, a pre-eminent practitioner in the field of Judicial Ethics and Professional Responsibility in association with Alicia Hickock, Esquire. Judges were encouraged to bring their law clerks and this was a highly interactive session discussing a number of ethical dilemmas that arise in chambers.*

## New Judges' Training

The New Judges Committee is co-chaired by Judges Marlene Lachman and Christopher Mallios. Orientation for the new judges elected in November 2017, took place on the afternoons of December 6 and 7, 2017. Following our traditional format the program consisted of informal discussions of the following topics:

- Court reporters and interpreters
- Judicial Ethics
- Mandatory reports
- Setting up chambers
- Law clerks and judicial fellows
- A judge's relationship with AOPC
- PA Conference of State Trial Judges
- Courtroom management
- Time management
- Decision making
- Stress management

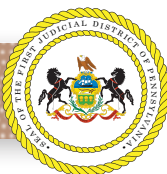
Each judge was provided a binder of materials on each topic. Judges and Court Administrators presented on each topic. In addition over a dozen judges dropped by to extend a welcome and participate in the program. In 2018 Judge Charles Ehrlich will provide additional training to the judges newly assigned to the Criminal Division.

## Conversations @ Sidebar

Judge Rosalyn K. Robinson is the outgoing chair of this committee and is also the founder of this special initiative launched in 2008. Her idea was to provide a relaxed setting for comradery among judges after the Quarterly Board of Judges Meetings. Judge Kai Scott was appointed Chair in October of 2016 and is continuing the tradition.

## Judicial Education Library

The Judicial Education Committee maintains a dedicated space in the Alex Bonavitacola Library, located at Room 600 City Hall. In addition to hard copy materials, the Judicial Education Committee saves selected CDs and DVDs from various sources, including programs conducted by the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.



## Special Programs

In addition to our regularly scheduled programs, the Education Committee sponsored three special programs in 2017:

Special Programs presented in 2017:	
Presenters:	<b>Recognizing and Dealing with Incapacity in the Court Room</b> <i>Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello, Administrative Judge, Orphan's Court Division</i> <i>Sanford Pfefer, Esquire, Phila Corporation for the Aging, General Counsel</i> <i>Dr. Joel Striem, Geriatric Psychiatrist</i>
Course Planner: Presenters:	<b>Emergency Judge Duty and DHS</b> <i>Judge Christopher Mallios</i> <i>Judge Walter Olsewski, Supervising Judge Family Court</i> <i>Representatives from DHS, City Solicitor's Office and Family Court Personnel</i>
Course Planner: Presenter:	<b>Attorney Work Product and Attorney Client Privilege</b> <i>Judge Denis Cohen</i> <i>Kevin P. Allen, Esquire, Eckert Seamans Cherin &amp; Mellott, LLC</i>

## Perspectives Committee

The Perspectives Committee is now chaired by Judge Rosalyn K. Robinson. The goal of the Perspectives is to confront core values and ingrained thought patterns that may develop and go unrecognized and unchallenged when one wears a robe. The Programs are designed to expose us to the social and cultural differences and the rich history of our City.

## Judicial Education Website

The First Judicial District's website includes a link to the Judicial Education Committee site. The site offers a links to the most current Code of Judicial Conduct, calendar of upcoming education programs, practice manuals and standard suggested Civil and Criminal jury instructions. A link to the Prisoner Resource Network is also available along with documents and interactive testing used by

Professor Rachel Godsil during her Implicit Bias presentations sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. The website is updated with new material as programs are presented.

## Other Contributions To Legal Education

The FJD Education Committee strongly supports the educational programming of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. In 2017, Judges Jacqueline F. Allen, Ida K. Chen, Rosalyn K. Robinson, Shelley Robins New and Lisette Shirdan-Harris served as members on the Conference Educational Committee. Additionally, many members of the FJD bench take advantage of the multiple educational lectures and seminars offered at the Annual and Mid-year Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Conferences. Our judges are also active attendees

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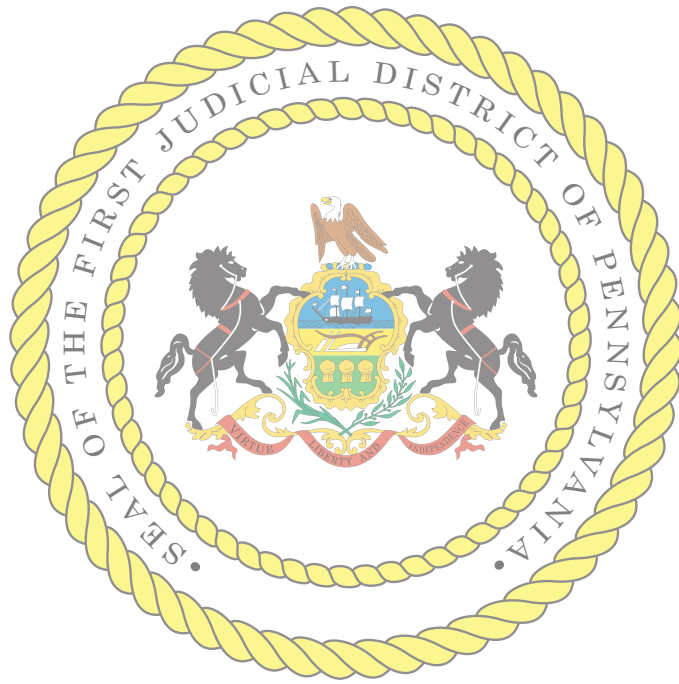
and presenters at the Annual Bench-Bar Conference of the Philadelphia Bar Association held in October at Atlantic City. Judges also participate in many other educational programs at law schools, bar associations, and other venues. Many judges also earn certificates each year from the National Judicial College, taking courses with other judges from around the country. Courses include advanced evidence, capital litigation, general jurisdiction, mediation and logic, and opinion writing.

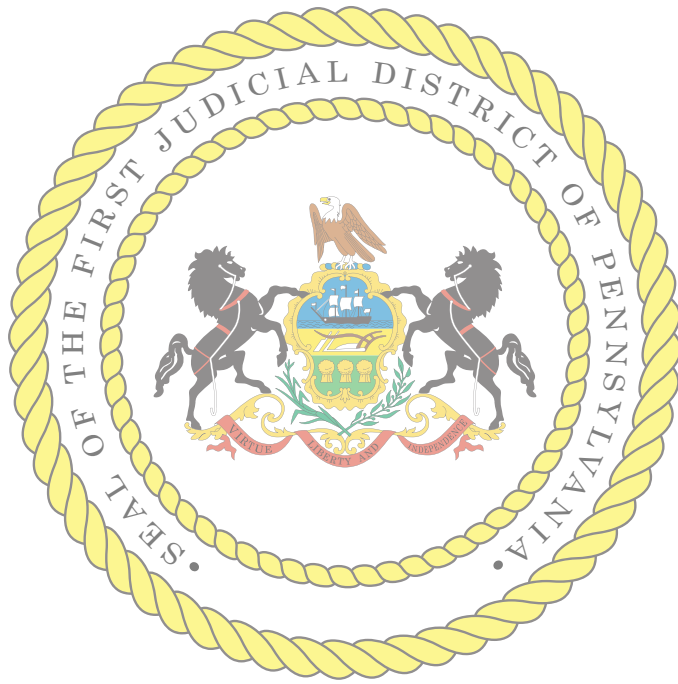
In sum, the FJD Judicial Education Committee through its volunteers has continued the tradition of offering judicial education programs as well a means for judges to interact and share their experiences off and on

**FJD Judicial Education Committee... has continued the tradition of offering judicial education programs as well a means for judges to interact and share their experiences...**

the Bench. This year, the Pennsylvania Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges (PACJEB) named the Committee as an Accredited Provider of Continuing Judicial Education. As a result, in 2017 the Committee offered CJE credit to our judges for a number of programs. This accomplishment is only possible through the efforts of our Committee members and their continued dedication to judicial education. The Committee also thanks President Judge Sheila Woods- Skipper for her continued support in the tradition of former President Judges Frederica Massiah- Jackson, C. Darnell Jones, II, and Pamela Pryor Dembe, as well as that of our Administrative and Supervising Judges, in encouraging ongoing judicial education.









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*2017 Annual Report*

**The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania**

The Philadelphia Courts

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