



UNION COUNTY, OHIO

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

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Pursuant to R.C. 2151.18 and R.C. 2152.71(D), this annual report shall be filed with the Union County, Ohio Board of County Commissioners and the Supreme Court of Ohio. A digital copy will be posted on this Court’s website. No additional printed copies will be generated or distributed by the Court.

Cover photos by Julie Harvey.

FROM THE DESK OF THE JUDGE

As Judge of the Union County Probate and Juvenile Court, I am pleased to present the Court's Annual Report for 2018. This is my sixteenth year as Union County's Probate and Juvenile Court Judge, and I am proud of the good work the Court has accomplished.

The Probate and Juvenile Court has a defined mission to provide services for persons who come into the jurisdiction of this Court.

I have been very pleased to have built upon the tradition of service and competency established by my predecessor, Judge Gary F. McKinley, who served this office for 24 years. It saddens me to report his passing on October 2, 2018, and I have included in this report the eulogy presented by the Union County Bar Association at a special Court session honoring his service. Judge McKinley was a great friend, confidant and mentor for me and I honor his memory and will greatly miss him.

In the Probate Division, the Court provides for the orderly administration of the estates of our deceased citizens; the protection of persons and their assets who are determined to be incompetent; the issuance of marriage licenses; adoptions; and legal name changes.

For abused, neglected or dependent children, the Juvenile Division must consider and order provisions for the immediate and long-term care, protection, and mental and physical development of children, as well as for the growth, improvement and healing of their families.

For unruly or delinquent children, the Juvenile Division's duties are to protect the public interest and safety, to hold the offender accountable for the offender's actions, to respect and to restore victims and to rehabilitate the offender. The Court continues to offer a diversion program as an alternative to formal prosecution for qualified first-time offenders.

The Juvenile Division maintains two specialized dockets (colloquially known as "drug courts"), both certified by the Ohio Supreme Court. The Family Treatment Court serves parents with drug or alcohol abuse issues. The Juvenile Treatment Court serves delinquent youth for whom drug or alcohol abuse is a significant problem.

The Court's Probation Department officers monitor the progress of unruly and delinquent children, and individualized responses to that child and his or her family. The Court offers The Parent Project[®], a 30-hour, 12-week, evidence-based parenting program for the parents of high-risk, delinquent children.

The Court's mediation program assists families and local schools to address truancy and behavioral issues. Mediation also assists parents with custody or parenting time and visitation issues by providing a structure for the parents to discuss their concerns and disagreements and to arrive at agreement regarding their child's care.

The Union County Probate and Juvenile Court remains dedicated to maintaining effective, efficient and caring services to the citizens of Union County. The Court is greatly aided in the successful performance of its duties by the many citizens who volunteer services through the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) and the Union County Guardianship Services Program. I am pleased to recognize their services to our community in aiding our children and disabled to have better and safer lives.

I am honored to serve as Judge of our Court, and I am grateful for the support our courts receive from our community agencies, office holders, law enforcement, schools and from you, our residents.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Coleman Eufinger, Judge
Union County Probate & Juvenile Court

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

On February 9, 2003, the Honorable Charlotte Coleman Eufinger became Judge of the Union County Probate and Juvenile Court. Judge Eufinger is the seventeenth Judge of the Union County Probate Court and the tenth to serve as Judge of both the Probate and Juvenile Courts. She is currently serving her third term.

Judge Eufinger is actively involved in a variety of professional boards, agencies, and activities. She is a member of the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets, and previously served on the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence, the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts, and the Subcommittees of Legal Representation, Family Law Reform Implementation and Adult Guardianships.



Judge Eufinger is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference, and serves on the Probate Law and Procedure Committee, the Juvenile Law and Procedure Committee, and the Specialized Dockets Committee. She has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges and as a member and chair of the Ohio University Board of Trustees and of the Ohio University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Prior to taking office, Judge Eufinger was a partner in the Marysville, Ohio law firm of Coleman, Eufinger & Aslaner, and she practiced law with her father, William L. Coleman (1914-1981), her husband John M. Eufinger, her brother, Stephen G. Coleman and Tim M. Aslaner.

Judge Eufinger is a life-long resident of Union County and graduated from Marysville High School. She graduated with an A.B. in history from Miami University in 1969, where she also obtained a teaching certificate in history for grades 7-12. Judge Eufinger attended The Ohio State University College of Law, where she received her J.D. in 1972. Judge Eufinger has been married for 47 years to John M. Eufinger, and has a daughter, Mary; a son, Tony, daughter-in-law, Megan, and a granddaughter, Kate.

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISION STAFF

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER, JUDGE

MAGISTRATES

Sharon Robinson-Walls
Chief Magistrate

Louis P. Endres, III
Magistrate

Victoria L. Stone-Moledor
Staff Attorney/Magistrate

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Robert W. Ahern, Ph.D., L.I.S.W.-S.
*Treatment Court Coordinator &
Chief of Staff*

Jennifer N. Griffith
*Court Administrator &
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer*

Julie Harvey
Administrative Assistant to the Judge

Nicole Gardner
Chief Financial Officer

DEPUTY CLERKS OF COURT

Leigh Ann Moots
Chief Deputy Clerk

Colleen Cohn
Kayla Conley
Jackie Dillahunt
Sarah Johnson
Jennifer LaFayette
Pamela O'Brien

Aaron Orr
Lorli Patterson
Jerika Risner
Christine Schalip
Pam Vance
Abby Wight

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Joshua Levingston
*Senior Juvenile
Probation Officer*

Darby Hoseus
Lindsey Keller
David Larson

Kyle Poling
Abby Post

JUVENILE DIVISION MEDIATOR*

Nicole R. McDonald, JD

PROBATE COURT INVESTIGATOR*

Jon Kleiber

PROBATE COURT ADOPTION ASSESSOR*

Marilyn Davis

**Services provided pursuant to contract.*

HISTORY OF OHIO PROBATE & JUVENILE COURTS

Courtesy of **Stephen Badenhop**, *Union County Record Center & Archives Coordinator* & **The Ohio Historical Society**

PROBATE COURT

Probate courts existed in the Northwest Territory prior to Ohio's statehood, with authority in probate, testamentary and guardianship cases. In 1802, Ohio's first constitution abolished separate probate courts and transferred their authority to the common pleas courts. Separate probate courts reappeared in 1851, when Ohio drafted a new constitution, giving probate court jurisdiction to grant marriage licenses and control land sales by appointed executors, administrators, and guardians. As a result of a 1912 constitutional amendment, voters could decide by referendum to combine the probate court with the court of common pleas, which voters decided not to do in Union County.

The probate court has original jurisdiction in the settlement of estates. The court held limited jurisdiction in minor criminal offenses from 1851 to 1932. The probate judge maintained a permanent record of births and deaths from 1867 to 1908. Since the 1850s, the court has had jurisdiction over the appointment of guardians for minors and the mentally ill; the judge can also commit the mentally ill to institutional care. The probate court exercised jurisdiction in naturalization proceedings from 1860 until 1906, when the federal government assumed this power.

JUVENILE COURT

The origins of the juvenile court system trace back to the reform spirit of the Progressive Era. Prior to the establishment of the juvenile court system, juvenile offenders were tried with adults and imprisoned with them. On April 25, 1904, the Ohio General Assembly passed an act to "regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent children" through the establishment of a juvenile court. The law focused on the reformation and rehabilitation of minors, rather than punishment. The law applied only to children under the age of sixteen. The law provided for juvenile probation officers and prohibited sending children under the age of twelve to jail, while allowing those children twelve to sixteen years of age to be sentenced to jail, industrial schools, other state institutions or into the homes of responsible individuals, but provided that those sentenced to jail could not be confined with adult prisoners. Jurisdiction was originally given to the court of common pleas or the probate court.

In 1906, the juvenile court act was extensively amended. The revised law extended the court's jurisdiction to punish any person or parent responsible for the delinquency or dependency of any child, while also raising the age of a minor to seventeen years. The law also provided that the probate court judge in all counties, except those otherwise provided for, serve as ex-officio judge of the juvenile court.

By the approval of voters, the juvenile court can be placed under the jurisdiction of an independent juvenile court, or as a division of the common pleas, probate or domestic relations courts. In Union County, the juvenile court has been under the jurisdiction of the probate court judge since the juvenile court's creation in 1906. Originally in Union County the cases were kept with the probate court, but beginning in 1910 they were stored and filed separately.

JUDGES OF THE PROBATE & JUVENILE COURT

Union County was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1820 by uniting portions of Delaware, Franklin, Madison and Logan counties.

The Union County Probate Court was established in 1852. Prior to 1852, probate matters in Union County were heard and decided by a judge of the Union County Common Pleas Court. The Union County Juvenile Court was established in 1906. They were two separate courts until the Juvenile Court was combined with the Probate Court pursuant to an act passed on April 29, 1937, which reorganized and recodified the existing juvenile laws. With the passage of the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution in May 1968, Ohio's Probate Courts became divisions of the Courts of Common Pleas.

JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT

HON. THOMAS BROWN (1852-1855 AND 1859-1861)

HON. JAMES TURNER (1855-1859)

HON. JAMES R. SMITH (1861-1870)

HON. JOHN B. COATS (1870-1888)

HON. LEONIDAS PIPER (1888-1894)

HON. JAMES McCAMPBELL (1894-1900)

HON. JOHN M. BRODRICK (1900-1906)

JUDGES OF BOTH THE PROBATE COURT AND THE JUVENILE COURT

HON. DUDLEY E. THORNTON (1906 – 1913)

HON. EDWARD W. PORTER (1913 – 1921)

HON. WILLIAM H. HUSTED (1921 – 1932)

HON. CARRIE HORNBECK (1932 – 1933)*

JUDGES OF THE COMBINED PROBATE & JUVENILE COURT

HON. L. W. HAZEN (1933 – 1941)

HON. JOHN W. DAILEY, SR. (1941 – 1955)

HON. LUTHER L. LIGGETT (1955 – 1960)

HON. ROBERT F. ALLEN (1960 – 1979)

HON. GARY F. MCKINLEY (1979 – 2003)

HON. CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER (2003 – PRESENT)

* Ms. Hornbeck, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court, was appointed by Governor George White to serve the unexpired term of Judge Husted, who unexpectedly passed away.

HON. GARY F. MCKINLEY, JUDGE, RET.

Judge of the Common Pleas Court of Union County, Ohio, Probate & Juvenile Divisions, 1979-2003

Courtesy of **David F. Allen, Esq., Robert W. Parrott, Esq., Richard S. Mickley, Esq.**
and the Union Co. Bar Association

Gary Franklin McKinley was born April 1, 1940 at Columbus, Ohio. He was the first child of Franklin Thomas McKinley and Pauline Florence Jerew of Richwood, Union County, Ohio. His mother was a store clerk. His father was a railroad trackman.

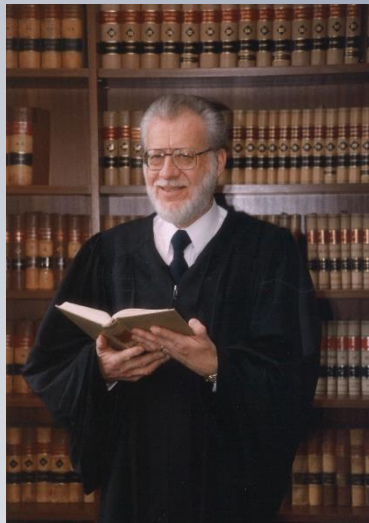
Judge McKinley grew up in Richwood, Ohio, and graduated from Richwood High School in 1958 as an honor student. He entered Otterbein College, was active in debate and a Dean's List scholar, and graduated with honors on June 4, 1962, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in comprehensive social studies.

Judge McKinley enrolled in graduate school at The Ohio State University in the fall of 1962, where he was a graduate assistant in the Department of Economics. Although he completed the course, he did not write a thesis. Instead, he decided to become an attorney.

In the fall of 1963, he enrolled at Ohio Northern College of Law at Ada, Ohio on an academic scholarship. Judge McKinley graduated from Ohio Northern College of Law in June 1966. He was second in his class.

Judge McKinley was the first graduate of Ohio Northern Law School to be appointed through the Federal Department of Justice Honors Program to

In Memoriam



Hon. Gary F. McKinley

(April 1, 1940 – October 2, 2018)

serve as an attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and he went to Washington D.C. immediately after graduation. Judge McKinley stated that he “lived out of a suitcase, travelling to Mississippi and Louisiana to assist school boards and boards of election with integration.”

Judge McKinley was admitted to the practice of law before the Ohio Supreme Court on October 19, 1966. He would later also be admitted to practice before the Northern and Southern District Federal Courts and the United States Supreme Court.

In December 1966, Judge McKinley joined the Kerns Law Office in Richwood and served as the Richwood Village Solicitor, but resigned his appointment on June 1, 1967, when he left Richwood and moved to Marysville.

Judge McKinley entered the practice of law with William L. Coleman, Esq., in the Coleman Law Office. In 1972, Judge McKinley opened his own office at 129 South Main Street in Marysville. He was widely respected in the community as a capable lawyer and trial attorney representing a wide variety of legal matters. In 1977, he formed a partnership with Richard S. Mickley, Esq. known as McKinley & Mickley Law Office at 128 North Main Street.

Judge McKinley was appointed as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in 1971 by Richard E. Parrott, Esq. He succeeded Parrott and served as Union County Prosecutor from January 1, 1973 until February 2, 1979.

Judge McKinley ran unopposed for Probate and Juvenile Court Judge in 1978, replacing his mentor, Judge Robert F. Allen. Judge McKinley was sworn into office on February 9, 1979 and served until he retired on February 8, 2003. He was elected three times and was the longest serving Probate and Juvenile Judge in the history of Union County.

In 1979, the Probate and Juvenile Divisions occupied one small section of the first floor of the Union County Courthouse and employed just five staff persons. As the caseload increased and the role of the Court was expanded under the law, the need arose for additional space and updated facilities. From 1991 to 1994, the Courthouse was renovated with the plan that the entire Courthouse would be used exclusively for the Courts and their related offices. During renovation, court was temporarily held in an old school building.

Judge McKinley helped to design the new Probate and Juvenile Courtroom, as well as the Court's offices, which greatly improved the facilities and operations of the Court. When he retired, the Probate and Juvenile Court occupied all of the first floor of the Courthouse and shared the basement, and Judge McKinley had 15 employees.

Judge McKinley was proud to have presided over 513 adoptions during his tenure. He told each child that most

people have one birthday, they get to have two – the day they were born and the day they were adopted. He took a leading role in the establishment of a multisystemic therapy program for troubled juveniles, which introduced therapists into a youth's home to work with the youth, family members, peers and neighbors.

Judge McKinley said his greatest reward was to meet people years after they were in his juvenile court and learn how well they were doing.

After he retired, Judge McKinley took assignments around the state and also filled in at his old post for the Union County Probate and Juvenile Court.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Union County Bar Association, American Judges Association, Ohio Judicial Conference and Common Pleas Judges Association of Ohio. In 2016, he was honored by the Ohio Bar Association and Union County Bar Association for 50 years in the practice of law.

Over the years, he served on countless boards and committees, donating many hours to his community. He was chairman of the United Appeals and a member of the Jaycees, Lions Club, Palestine #158, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine. In addition, he enjoyed fishing, motorcycles and had a life-long passion for playing the guitar.

At his retirement he said: "I thank the people of Union County for giving me the opportunity to have a job I love and enjoy doing so much. It has been my honor and my privilege to serve as the Judge of the Probate and Juvenile Court."

Judge McKinley was sworn into office February 9, 1979 and served until he retired February 8, 2003. Elected three times, he was the longest serving Probate and Juvenile Judge in the history of Union County.

PROBATE DIVISION

JURISDICTION OF THE PROBATE DIVISION

The Probate Division is one of the divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. The Probate Court of Union County assists the public through the legal necessities of life, which includes matters from Correction of Birth Records to Marriage Licenses to the filing of Estates. The staff of the Probate Court participate in annual Probate Court Clerks conferences, roundtables, and webinars to learn updates from the Ohio Supreme Court and maintain positive customer service policies.

Packets of forms for many of the matters under the jurisdiction of the Probate Court are available in the clerks' office.

The types of matters addressed in the Probate Court include, but are not limited to, the following:

Adoptions
 Adult Paternity
 Birth Certificate Correction
 Change of Name
 Civil Commitment of the Mentally Ill
 Conservatorships
 Delayed Registration of Birth
 Determination of Death
 Disinterment
 Guardianship
 Land Sales by Executors, Administrators and Guardians

Marriage Licenses
 Settlement of Claims for Minor
 Trusts
 Wills & Estates
 Accounts of Estates
 Deposit of Wills
 Determination of Heirship
 Distribution of Estates
 Release from Administration
 Will Construction & Contest
 Wrongful Death Settlement

Probate Division					
New Matters Filed, Concluded by Court (2014-2018)					
<i>New Matters</i>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Estates	167	186	158	172	165
Adoptions	3	18	22	33	19
Guardianships & Trusteeships	26	33	20	36	29
Civil Actions	5	9	5	1	1
Civil Commitment/ Mental Illness	3	2	2	2	0
Delayed Registrations & Corrections of Birth	1	2	6	8	7
Minor's Settlements	3	10	5	2	5
Wrongful Deaths	2	3	3	2	1
Changes of Name	19	22	29	25	22
Other	6	1	7	1	2
New Matters Filed	235	290	266	281	244
Matters Pending at Close of Year	362	409	356	367	385
Marriage Licenses	314	293	316	309	319

PROBATE DIVISION: GUARDIANSHIPS & ADOPTIONS

In 2015, Ohio law regarding **Guardianships** changed to require background checks and education requirements for guardians, which provide additional protections for the adult wards of the Court. In 2018, the Union County Probate Court continued to track and ensure the compliance of guardians with these requirements.

The Court is supported in its efforts by the Union County Guardianship Services (UCGS). The UCGS not only employs staff guardians to apply for appointment and to serve as guardians for adult wards, it also serves as a valuable resource of information and guidance to other guardians throughout the county. Further, UCGS offers guardianship education courses that comply with Ohio Rules of Superintendence guidelines in the form of both Supreme Court of Ohio video presentations and locally-held live courses.

The Probate Court is also assisted with guardianship cases by court-appointed investigators who aid in

personal service and investigation of prospective and current adult wards. Investigators participate in annual training conferences to fulfill their education requirements.

Families are often formed through **Adoptions**, which are processed through the Probate Court. However, not all adoptions look the same. The Probate Court may hear petitions for Placements, Private Adoptions, Step-Parent or Grandparent Adoptions, Re-finalization of Foreign Adoptions, and Adult Adoptions.

Adoption assessors are appointed by the Court to meet with prospective adoptive families and file a report. Assessors must meet the certification requirements relative to their field to be eligible for court-appointment.

As part of the celebration of granted adoptions, the Probate Court provides adopted children with a personalized certificate of adoption and a miniature gavel or a hand-made fabric animal. The animals are donated to the Court by the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE PROBATE COURT

More than 30,000 Union County Probate Court historical and closed records are available for review at the Union County Records Center and Archives (128 S. Main St., Marysville). Records may be viewed with the assistance of an archivist. Many historical records have been microfilmed and digitally indexed.

A computer terminal is available for public use at both the Records Center and the Union County Recorder's Office (233 W. Sixth St.). The computerized, searchable index references all Probate matters from 1820 to the present.

The following records are also available: Birth and Death Records from 1867 to 1909; Marriage records 1820 to present (May 28, 1996 and after on the computer); and Delayed Registration and Correction of Birth records from 1941 to the present. Mental illness and mental retardation cases are confidential. Adoption records are confidential; however, limited access may be granted according to the controlling provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

Copies are available for a fee.

Open matters are held in the Probate Clerk's Office, located at the Union County Courthouse (215 W. Fifth St.), and may be viewed with the assistance of a deputy clerk.

JUVENILE DIVISION

JURISDICTION OF THE JUVENILE DIVISION

The Juvenile Division is one of the divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. The jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court includes the following matters:

Unruly Children – children who will not subject themselves to the reasonable control of their parents, guardians, teachers or custodians, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient. Includes children who are truant from school or violate curfew.

Delinquent Children – children who violate any federal, state or local law or ordinance that would be an offense if committed by an adult; violate a lawful order of the court; and attempt or complete acts forbidden to those less than 18 years of age.

Dependent, Neglected and Abused Children – children who are dependent on the state for their care because of homelessness, lack of parental adequate care, or actual or imminent abuse or neglect.

Juvenile Traffic Offenders – children who violate a federal, state or local traffic law, or traffic ordinance or regulation, other than parking violations.

Juvenile Tobacco Offenders – children who have purchased, attempted to purchase, used, consumed or possessed cigarettes, tobacco products, or papers used to roll cigarettes.

Custody – matters in which the Court determines paternity and parental rights and responsibilities of children born to unwed parents.

Child Support – matters regarding the establishment, modification or enforcement of court or administrative orders for the financial support of children.

Adult (Criminal) – includes matters in which adults are charged with misdemeanor violations of nonsupport or contributing to nonsupport of dependents; parental educational neglect; and contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child.

Juvenile Division					
New Matters Filed, Concluded by Court (2014-2018)					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Delinquency	145	173	161	270	152
<i>Individual Youth Adjudicated of Felony*</i>	12	7	11	18	19
Committed to DYS	0	0	0	0	1
Committed to CCF	0	2	1	2	1
Unruly	35	48	47	50	48
Juvenile Traffic	279	286	325	260	191
Diversions	39	22	0	0	26
Abuse/Neglect/Dependency	46	59	61	41	47
Permanent Custody	4	4	7	5	2
Custody/Visitation	91	86	84	73	46
Parentage	0	0	7	5	4
Child Support Enforcement/Modification	487	574	349	266	455
UIFSA	11	7	16	5	2
Adult**	23	39	23	8	13
Other***	81	70	40	29	27
All New Matters Filed	1,467	1,346	1,113	1,008	1,047
Matters Terminated	1,344	1,318	1,182	1,003	1,086

* Per Union Co. DYS Fiscal Year reports.

** Including Failure to Send matters and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

*** Other: Applications to Seal and Expunge Records; Petitions for Juvenile Civil Protection Orders, Grandparent Powers of Attorney; Motions to Show Cause that reactivate matters (not including child support).

MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court's Mediation Program has served the families and local school districts of Union County for more than 20 years.

The mediator serves all schools in Union County in responding to truancy-related issues. Mediation also assists parents whose cases are before the Court as the result of paternity, legal custody, decision-making and visitation issues. Meeting with the mediator provides a structure for the parents to discuss their concerns and disagreements and arrive at agreement regarding their child's care. Some parents require the assistance of the mediator when an Abuse, Neglect or Dependency matter has come before the Court.

The mediator will also assist with crafting agreements for custody and visitation. All agreements in such matters are subject to the approval of the Court.

Mediations					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unruly – Truancy	188	171	180	150	18
Unruly – Disobedience	7	6	0	1	0
Custody – Private	32	32	2	1	4
Custody – A/N/D	2	8	0	0	0
Total Mediations	229	223	161	152	22

DIVERSION PROGRAM

Juvenile delinquency or unruly behavior cases originate by the filing of a complaint by the Union County Prosecuting Attorney. The Prosecuting Attorney may append to the complaint a notice that the Prosecuting Attorney endorses the juvenile's participation in diversion program together with a statement of the victim of the offense, if any.

Complaints are reviewed and selected if they appear appropriate for diversion based upon criteria established by the Court. Typically, youth who have no prior official or unofficial record (first-time offenders) who are alleged to have

Youth in Diversion

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All Delinquency & Unruly Complaints Filed	180	221	208	320	200
Entered Diversion	39	22	0	0	25
Successful Completion	**	**	0	0	20
Unsuccessful Completion	**	**	0	0	5
Diversion of Truancy Matters [R.C. 2151.18]					
All Unruly-Truancy Complaints Filed	15*	6*	3	3	6
Entered Diversion	**	**	**	0	0
Successful Completions	**	**	**	0	0
Unsuccessful Completions	**	**	**	0	0

*Includes matters charged as Habitual Truancy per R.C. 2151.022(B) and Chronic Truancy per R.C. 2152.02(F)(5).

** Data unavailable.

committed status (unruly, truancy, or curfew violations) or misdemeanor-level, non-violent offenses are eligible for diversion.

The Probation Department conducts an eligibility screening of the youth and

parent/guardian. If the youth is determined eligible for diversion, the youth and family must acknowledge the youth committed the offense described in the complaint and a Diversion Program fee must be paid. Depending on individualized programming needs, additional fees may apply. All the terms, plus a deadline to complete them, will be included in the youth's Diversion Contract.

The Diversion Contract includes tasks and requirements designed to remediate the offense, to provide a learning opportunity for the youth and to serve as a consequence or deterrent for further illegal behavior. Possible terms could include: appropriate skills-building instruction; letters of apology to any victims; restitution; community service

hours; a written essay on a subject related to the offense or to the youth's future goals; mental health screenings and full participation in recommended services; drug screening; and other terms that the officer believes are appropriate that relate to the youth's needs and/or the offense.

If appropriate, parenting skills instruction will be required for the parent/guardian.

If the youth successfully completes diversion, the Court will order the sealing of the entire matter, and there shall be no official record of the matter. If the terms of the Diversion Contract are not fulfilled, diversion will cease, the original complaint will be filed and the matter will proceed formally.

DIVERSION OF TRUANCY MATTERS

The Union County Juvenile Court began aggressively targeting truancy more than 20 years ago with the implementation of its Mediation Program. Mediation successfully aids many families in correcting truancy issues that would otherwise have been filed in the court.

With the implementation of changes to Ohio truancy law in 2017, the Court's mediators are available to the school districts after their Absence Intervention Teams recognize that a Written Intervention Plan put in place by the school is likely to fail.

Mediation takes place before the matter is submitted to the Court for filing as a complaint. Like all Unruly and Delinquency matters, truancy complaints are considered for diversion

if diversion is in the best interests of the child.

In the last five years alone, the Court estimates that hundreds of children and their families have been diverted from Juvenile Court because of the Court's Mediation Program. During the more than 20 years the Court's Mediation Program has been in operation, thousands of children and families have been diverted from the court system.

The result: truancy matters filed with the Union County Juvenile Court are few in number, but are routinely so serious in their scope that post-filing diversion of the matter is not in the best interest of the child.

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The officers of the Juvenile Probation Department dedicate their time, effort, and resources to improve the lives of youth under the jurisdiction of the Court due to delinquent or unruly behavior.

Through the Probation Department, the Court utilizes a proactive approach to support family enrichment, by invoking various resources to strengthen parent and child relationships to promote unity and family stability. Probation officers support a youth's academic growth by facilitating communication and interaction between schools and families.

Juvenile are also required to engage in tasks, such as community service, that hold them accountable for their past actions. Probation officers assist in and promote the development of family-managed responsibility through structured rewards and consequences to promote healthy future decision-making.

In 2018, the probation department supervised a total of 175 youth on probation: 104 were on probation from 2017, and 71 new youth were added to the caseload by the end of 2017. For every youth whose case proceeds to disposition, or sentencing, a probation officer will meet with that child and family to assess them and determine recommendations for the Court. The Court has wide discretion to make orders designed to accomplish the goals of holding the youth accountable and to rehabilitate the offender.

Juvenile Probation Department					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Youth on Probation					
Continuing from preceding year	77	61	60	94	104
New Youth	60	60	84	63	71
Total	137	121	144	157	175
Probation Completions					
Successful Completions	68		47	43	72
Unsuccessful Completions	8		3	10	11
Neutral Completions	0		0	0	2
Total	76	61	50	53	85
Specialized Assessments					
	9		13	14	

*Specialized Assessments: i.e. psychological assessments; competency assessments; specialized offenses assessments.

THE PARENT PROJECT®

Specially trained staff members of the Juvenile Court facilitate The Parent Project, a 40-hour clinical group and parenting course for the families of delinquent and unruly children under the jurisdiction of this Court.

In 2013, several staff members received training that was funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Although most parents feel skeptical that the program will benefit them and their families, the majority conclude the program with a deep appreciation for the positive impact their new, learned skills have benefitted their child.

Parent Project Participants	
	Parents
2013	23
2014	55
2015	49
2016	30
2017	14
2018	20
Total	191

TREATMENT COURTS

Robert W. Ahern, Ph.D., L.I.S.W.-S.
Chief of Staff & Treatment Court Coordinator

Drug addiction is an epidemic with devastating effects on all Americans. Our children, traumatized by their parent or guardian's drug use, are often abused and neglected. Some will be orphaned. Parent addicts have a small window of time under Ohio law to embrace recovery and to heal, or risk losing their children. For juveniles whose drug and alcohol use have brought them into the juvenile justice system, they risk their long-term health and success, and risk becoming legal-system involved as an adult.

Addiction is a disease, and one can recover, but without treatment coupled with accountability, recovery is difficult. Few people have the ability to recover on their own, and addiction is a disease that requires special interventions, such as structure, discipline and accountability. Structure provides the tools and education to achieve sobriety and to address other life

Family Dependency Treatment Court <i>Parent Participants 2014-2018</i>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Parents Referred	*	*	27	14	15
Parents Admitted	7	1	11	6	3
Children of the Parents Admitted	13	1	16	8	20
Parents Graduated	0	5	2	4	4
Parents Terminated as Unsuccessful	1	2	2	3	3
Parents Terminated Neutrally	0	1	0	0	0

* Information not available.

stressors, such as housing, transportation, jobs and health.

The Juvenile Division of this Court maintains two specialized dockets, both certified through the Supreme Court of Ohio: the **Family Dependency Treatment Court** and the **Juvenile Treatment Court**. For those adults and youth who qualify legally and clinically, treatment courts combine treatment with the enforcement power of the court. Treatment courts use positive incentives to reinforce compliant behavior, and sanctions to immediately hold participants accountable for non-compliance.

Both treatment courts have a specialized Treatment Team that consists of a representative from each partner system that provides services to the participant. The team is convened and combined under the umbrella of the treatment courts and can therefore rapidly respond to the treatment needs of substance-abusing juveniles,

Juvenile Treatment Court <i>Juvenile Participants 2014-2018</i>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Referred	*	*	*	24	19
Admitted	6	4	9	14	13
Graduated	4	3	4	9	6
Terminated: Unsuccessful	0	0	2	3	1
Terminated: Neutral	4	0	2	1	3

* Information not available.

recovering addicts, and their families. The team members meet weekly to discuss cases and inform the presiding judicial officer of progress in each matter.

In addition to oversight and support from the Supreme Court of Ohio (Specialized Docket Section), both treatment courts benefit from a constructive and lasting collaboration with several local agencies: the Union County Prosecuting Attorney, the public defenders and defense bar of Union County; the Union County Commissioners; the Union County Department of Job and Family Services; Maryhaven, Inc.; the Union County Mental Health and Recovery Board; the Children and Family First Council of Union County; WINGS Recovery Center; Ohio Guidestone; and the Union County school districts, including primarily Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union.

The **Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC)** was established in November 2007 and manages adult participants whose children have open abuse, neglect or dependency cases before the Court. The FDTC functions as a collaboration of multiple systems: the court, child welfare, substance use disorder and mental health treatment providers, and community partners. No single system has the authority, capacity, resources, or skills to respond to the array of challenges faced by families affected by substance use disorders. Collaboration is required if families are to succeed.

The **Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC)** is designed for legal-system involved youth whose drug and alcohol abuse issues continue without abatement on regular probation. A youth's family is

asked to participate in parenting education and to assist the Court in monitoring and holding the youth accountable. Treatment is provided primarily by therapists from Maryhaven, Inc. and Ohio Guidestone. Case management is provided through the Court. The Court's juvenile probation officers provide supervision of the youth and support for the parents.

The program goals and objectives of both treatment courts are: to establish mental health and addiction treatment services; to create a framework for the participant to live his/her life in recovery from addiction or free from substance abuse; and to provide education and supports for effective and safe parenting. For parent addicts, the FDTC seeks to safely reunify the child with the participant within the time permitted by law; and to prevent future removal due to abuse, neglect and dependency of that child or his/her siblings. For substance-abusing youth, the JTC seeks compliance with the terms of probation and to prevent recidivism.

To successfully complete or "graduate" from treatment court, a participant must: demonstrate sobriety (accumulate clean drug screens and make sober life choices); complete substance abuse treatment (at assessed levels of care); address mental health issues (current and long-term).

For parent participants in FDTC, they must also obtain stable living/housing for themselves and their children; obtain a stable income; and accomplish all the Case Plan objectives as drafted by Children's Protective Services and approved by the Court.

For youth participants in the JTC, the juveniles must complete all terms of their probation successfully.

CASA PROGRAM OF DELAWARE & UNION COUNTIES

Tammy Matias, *Coordinator*
Jonathan Klemanski, *Assistant Coordinator*

On March 21, 2016, the CASA Program was implemented in Union County. Since that time, **15 CASA volunteers** have been sworn in to advocate for abused and neglected children in Union County. This dual-county program is in partnership with Delaware County Juvenile Court under the leadership of Hon. David Hejmanowski, Judge of the Delaware County Probate & Juvenile Court.

All CASA volunteers pass necessary background checks and complete an initial 30-hour pre-service training regarding courtroom procedures, social services, the juvenile justice system and the special needs of abused and neglected children. Continuing education is available at the local, state

and national level. Local CASA administrators are available to continue training and support the local CASA. The time commitment to a case varies depending upon the stage of the case, but on average, a CASA dedicates about 10 hours a month on a case. A CASA stays with a case until it is closed and typically will not have more than one case at a time.

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court and other settings. The primary responsibilities of a CASA volunteer are to:

- **Gather information.** Review documents and records, interview the children, family members and professionals in their lives.
- **Document findings.** Provide written reports at court hearings.
- **Appear in court.** Advocate for the child’s best interests and provide testimony when necessary.
- **Explain.** Help the child understand the court proceedings.
- **“Be the glue.”** Seek cooperative solutions among individuals and organizations involved in the children’s lives.
- **Recommend services.** Ensure that the children and their families are receiving appropriate services and advocate for those that are not immediately available. Bring concerns about the child’s health, education, mental health, etc. to the appropriate professionals.
- **Monitor case plans and court orders.** Check to see that plans are being followed and mandated review hearings are being held.

CASA Program of Delaware & Union Counties: 2018 Statistics	
Total Volunteer CASA Advocates	44 in both counties
Total Volunteer Hours	Almost 5,000 hours
Total Miles driven by Volunteers for casework	More than 20,000 miles
Total Children Served	174
Girls	78
Boys	96
Final Outcomes for Cases Closed in 2018	
Reunification Achieved	38
Long-Term Relative/Kinship Care	25
Long-Term Foster Care or PPLA	0
Adopted	7

- **Keep the court informed.** Update the court on developments with agencies and family members. Ensure that appropriate motions are filed on behalf of the child so the court knows about any changes in the child's situation.

Volunteer interest in the CASA Program remained steady throughout 2018. Ten new CASA Volunteers were sworn in and began serving in both counties to advocate for children's best interests in abuse, neglect and dependency cases. Additionally, four current CASA Volunteers were further trained to become Fostering Futures Mentors, a program within the organization that advocates/mentors teens who will age out of the foster care system and helps them plan/achieve goals for their future.

The expansion project of the CASA Program into Union County continued to grow in 2018. While retaining the original volunteers sworn-in in 2016, the CASA Program added several new volunteers who began advocating for abused children. The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties offers its volunteers the ability to serve in one, or both counties. In 2018, 10 CASA Volunteers served children in both Delaware and Union Counties.

Further, 2018 ended on a very positive note for the CASA Program and CASA Volunteer Christine Bisesi, who was awarded The Rising Star of the Year Award through the Ohio CASA Organization in September at its' annual conference. Christine was selected from numerous individuals across Ohio nominated for this award. She was chosen due to her work with a drug addicted, aging out teen who had no relatives to assist her in emancipating from the child welfare system. Christine worked tirelessly to advocate for this child and assisted her in securing housing, employment, and college entrance along with grants to financial assist her. Without Christine's selfless advocacy, this child may have easily ended up homeless.



Judge Anthony Capizzi, Montgomery County Juvenile Judge, presents the Rising Star of the Year award to CASA Volunteer, Christine Bisesi.



CASA Volunteers at the Third Annual Delaware and Union County Judicial Panel.

The CASA Program hosted another **Judicial Panel Dinner and Question and Answer Session** in 2018. Judge Hejmanowski and Judge Eufinger were present to answer questions and talk about the value CASA Volunteers bring to the Courts and to the families they serve.

The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties had a very successful year in terms of assigning every abuse/neglect/dependent child with a CASA Volunteer to advocate for them through the child welfare and court systems. The Program continues to make a difference in the lives of many children who are court involved through no fault of their own.

CENTRAL OHIO YOUTH CENTER

Located at 18100 State Rt. 4, just north of Marysville, the Central Ohio Youth Center primarily serves detained youth from four counties: Union, Champaign, Madison and Logan. Youth from other counties are often housed in COYC as well. COYC offers programming for chronic juvenile offenders. When juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of the Union County Juvenile Court are sentenced to detention, most youth will be placed in COYC.

The Community Residential Center (CRC) is a secure program for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

Within seven days of admission as a resident in the CRC program, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) residential

Juvenile Division Youth in COYC (2008-2018)			
Year	Youth	Days	CRC*
2008	172	714	
2009	209	1,413	
2010	179	1,270.5	
2011	181	1,059	
2012	206	1,470	
2013	187	945.5	0
2014	154	925.5	0
2015	220	1,227.5	5
2016	287	1,830	3
2017	302	1,789	3
2018	277	1,140	2
2017 Total Percentage of Use: 15.7% 2018 Total Percentage of Use: 11.2%			

* The Community Residential Center (CRC) is a secure program for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

COYC ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Landon

Superintendent

Betsy Hauck

Deputy Operations Administrator

Emily Giametta, MSW, LISW-S

Clinical Administrator

Kathy House, MSED

Education Administrator

Tami Sowder

Business Administrator

Kristin Preston, RN

Health Care Coordinator

Steve Harmon

Intake Manager

interview is completed with each resident youth, as well as a comprehensive psycho-social interview. The information obtained from the interview is utilized to develop an Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) for each resident. The ITP lists objectives to be completed to achieve each goal.

Residents are assigned a therapist upon admission. The therapist develops a case management plan and provides individual and family therapy. The frequency and duration of individual and family therapy sessions are determined on a case-by-case basis, but each CRC resident receives individual therapy at least once per week.

Youth are required to satisfy their current school requirements while they reside in COYC. For those who have dropped out of school, the staff will provide instruction to assist the resident in obtaining his or her GED.

COYC has been recognized by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress for providing the organizational leadership and support necessary for the implementation of Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCTA).