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\* For a copy of the entire annual report visit the downloads section of our website at [www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com](http://www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com)

## What to look for in 2008

### Family Court Model

A Specialized Docket will strengthen Medina County families and reduce Court intervention. To accomplish this task, we seek to reduce barriers to services. The safety, well being and permanency for each family will increase while the length of court involvement with these families will decrease. The Family Court committee is dedicated to meet and develop a comprehensive family court model.

### Teen Court Program

The Court plans to implement a Teen Court program. Teen Court is an intervention program that offers first-time misdemeanor-offending youth the opportunity to be heard by a jury of their peers. Under the supervision of the Court, local teens serve as judges, attorneys, jury members and bailiffs.

### Drug Court Case Manager

The Drug Court Case Manager position is being implemented to improve home-based services.



### Public Defenders

The Court, in cooperation with the County will begin using appointed attorneys from the Public Defender's office to represent juveniles in Court proceedings beginning in 2008.

### Juvenile Court Imaging

In 2008 the Juvenile Court will proceed with its digital imaging integration. Every document filed in the Juvenile Court will be scanned into our digital image repository. Although court documents are not available to the public, this process is our first step to one day becoming a "paperless" Court. Instituting this technology will increase productivity and reduce costs related to paper consumption and the use of many other resources. We anticipate integrating the Probate Court in 2009.

### New LISW-S

The Juvenile Detention Center has hired an LISW-S (Licensed Independent Social Worker) to work closely with the Juvenile Court and detained youth. This essential resource will also assist in providing appropriate services upon release from detainment.

# Medina County Juvenile Court 2007 Annual Report

Judge John J. Lohn is one of four judges of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lohn began his term in February 2003. The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as delinquent, traffic offenders, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. In addition to serving as our County's Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Lohn is also the Medina County Probate Judge.



Judge John J. Lohn

## Greetings From Judge Lohn

I am pleased to present the 2007 Annual Report of the Medina County Juvenile Court. The Court, its staff and our service providers are committed to protecting helpless children, correcting delinquent juveniles and directing parents to their responsibilities.

This report documents the Court's efforts to enhance services and programs for the youth and families of Medina County in 2007. The Court is grateful to the many members of the law enforcement community, the schools, social service agencies and parents who have assisted the Court in its important mission.

## Juvenile Court Programming

### Drug Court

The mission of the Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordination of efforts between alcohol and drug counseling and court services. For addicted children, Drug Court is the last and best hope for sobriety and a productive life. Drug Court includes 2 Probation Officers, home-based therapy and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (see EAP). 44 youngsters graduated from the program in 2007.

### Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP)

EAP is a rapidly growing field where horses are utilized as therapy partners to improve the emotional, behavioral and mental lives of families. In 2007, 29 youth participated in the EAP program.

### Community Service

Nearly 8,848 hours were donated by 334 youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities. The Build-A-Bear project, for example, benefited children in foster care.



Build-A-Bear

### COPPER Program

Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Reimbursement) program to recoup part of the costs of court services. In 2007, this program collected nearly \$102,000.

### Juvenile Traffic Night Court

By hearing cases in the evening it becomes more convenient for both parents and teens to attend court. Students avoid absence from classes and extra-curricular activities by coming to Juvenile Traffic Night Court. There were 1,259 Juvenile traffic cases handled in 2007.

### Truancy Program

To encourage consistent policies throughout the County and reduce truancy the court hosts an annual truancy meeting. Present are representatives from all eight school districts as well as the Prosecutor's Office, Job and Family Services, and the Ohio State University Extension Office. During the 2006-2007 school year, 74 truancy cases were handled.

## Probation Department

Probation officers investigate all aspects of the Juvenile's case and make recommendations to the court to protect public safety and to achieve a permanent improvement in a child's behavior. In 2007, 216 youth were placed on probation.

## Risk Screening

A risk screening is conducted on every youth charged with a delinquent or unruly offense. This risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. In 2007, 1,037 risk screenings were completed.

## Community Relations

The Juvenile Court has been recognized by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission and is involved in various boards/groups in Medina County including the Medina County Police Chief's Association, Family First Council, Intersystems Community Assessment Teams (ICAT), Share Cluster, Collaborative Family Treatment Program, Medina City Schools Technology School, Medina PAL and 2-1-1 Call for Help Initiative. The Court has a Drug Court Advisory Board and a Programming Citizens Advisory Board.

## Camp Integrity

Combating the idleness and lack of supervision for court-involved youth during the critical hours of 3pm to 9pm, Camp Integrity consists of academic study, physical activity, group discussions, life skills and social responsibility training. In 2007, 95 youth completed the program.

## ID-21

This 21-hour intensive detention program held at the Juvenile Detention Center targets parental education, drug and alcohol education and improves family relationships. In 2007, 102 juveniles completed this program.

## Supreme Court Statistics

This statistical summary meets all of the requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before the Judge and/or Magistrate in calendar year 2007. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court.

|                         | Delinquency | Traffic | Dependency, Neglect, or Abuse | Unruly | Adult Cases | Motion For Permanent Custody | Custody or Visitation | Support | Parentage | U.F.S.A | All Others | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|------------|-------|
| <b>New Cases Filed</b>  | 1004        | 1259    | 45                            | 191    | 4           | 1                            | 17                    | 31      | 13        | -       | -          | 2565  |
| <b>Cases Terminated</b> | 997         | 1240    | 51                            | 196    | 6           | 1                            | 116                   | 330     | 40        | 0       | 8          | 2985  |

## Court Collections

The Juvenile Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against juveniles found to be delinquent, truant, traffic offenders, or unruly. The fines and costs collected by the Court are distributed to state, county, and local governments.

|              | Judge Lohn's COPPER Program | Court Costs  | Fines       | Total        |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Total</b> | \$101,698                   | \$255,300.06 | \$51,274.35 | \$408,272.41 |

## Juvenile Detention Center



**Ronald V. Stollar**  
Superintendent

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center is a maximum-security, 30 bed facility. The 26,000 square foot facility is comprised of 30 individual detention cells, two holding cells, three classrooms, dining hall, medical office with attached examination room, gymnasium, library, a multi-purpose room and a secured outdoor recreation area. Residents are required to attend school daily, year round.

Detention is used as a last resort for youth who have committed serious offenses and/or are a risk to themselves or the community. 596 youth were admitted to the Juvenile Detention Center in 2007.

Upon admission, all residents receive a mental health screening which is critical to their own safety, court staff and other juveniles. The Detention Center is not a treatment facility, but it is our philosophy that everyone coming in contact with our residents should do the most that they can to make a positive impact on the youth in hopes of diverting them from further trouble.

While at the JDC, youth are provided with programming and voluntary participation in pro-social activities. Speakers from various county agencies provide education and informative information to the residents. Programming and services include: Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Social Services and Recreation.

## Ohio Department of Youth Service...

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the state agency responsible for youth incarcerated by local juvenile courts. Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DHS for the local treatment of youthful felony offenders. 10 boys and 2 girls were placed at DHS.

125 felony cases were handled in 2007. Felony offenses are displayed to the right. F-1 is the most serious level of felony.

| Level | Number | Percent |
|-------|--------|---------|
| F-1   | 4      | 3%      |
| F-2   | 11     | 8%      |
| F-3   | 27     | 22%     |
| F-4   | 32     | 26%     |
| F-5   | 51     | 41%     |

## Probate Court Update

### Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP)

In 2005, Judge Lohn initiated the VGP to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians for our elderly. Since the inception of the program 29 trained volunteer guardians have served a total of 29 indigent wards.

### Probate Court Collections

The Probate Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against all Probate cases, which include estates, guardianships, adoptions and trusts. Costs collected by the Court are distributed to the state, county, and to local government. In 2007, the Probate Court collected nearly \$174,000.



**VGP Board**

Top left to bottom right: Kathe Shook, Karen Bennet, Laura Toth, Judge John Lohn, Sharon Danko, Michelle Hearn, Joyce Giles  
Not pictured: Gail Carmon, Lori Betz

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

- Lynn M. Stover
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- Medina County JDC



**Sharon M. Danko**  
Court Administrator