

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT
CARROLL COUNTY, OHIO
GENERAL AND TRIAL DIVISIONS
JUDGE DOMINICK E. OLIVITO, JR.**

COMMON PLEAS COURT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

(January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017)

The Common Pleas Court presided over more than 946 cases and proceedings during 2017. The Court's active caseload for 2017 was 590 cases. The Court impaneled 3 Grand Juries and presided over 7 Grand Jury sessions. The Court impaneled Petit Trial Juries and presided over the Blanchard murder trial. The Court heard numerous judicial release motions, conducted 8 criminal record expungement hearings, and 90 probation violation probable cause and merit hearings. The Court heard more than 155 Child Support Enforcement Agency contempt motion hearings, 5 objection hearings, and 2 Interstate Child Support Registration cases. The Court interviewed and approved 97 Notary Public applicants.

The Court began 2017 with 176 active civil, domestic relations and criminal cases pending. 414 new cases were filed during 2017. 446 cases and motions were completed by the Court. 144 cases remained on the Court's active docket December 31, 2017.

The Common Pleas Court employs and supervises the Carroll County Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department. A total of 223 probationers were supervised and reported to the Adult Probation Department during 2017 entailing 2,369 criminal bond reports and probation contacts being made to the Adult Probation Department. The Adult Probation Department is supervising 144 probationers on December 31, 2017.

During 2017, the Court sentenced 26 defendants to prison and 12 defendants to the Eastern Ohio Community Correction Facility. Adult Probation filed 53 probation violations during 2017. Adult Probation, the Prosecutor's Office and this Court actively prosecuted Common Pleas Court Adult Probation violations resulting in incarceration in the county jail, Eastern Ohio Correction Facility, Electronically Monitored House Arrest, Halfway Houses, and prison for those probation violations. This resulted in 4,830 days of incarceration as punishment imposed upon those individuals collectively sentenced to community control sanctions and probation during 2017.

The Court, through the Adult Probation Department, collected \$49,845.32 in fines and court costs and \$42,435.02 in restitution during 2017.

The operating budget for the Court, Adult Probation Department, and the Jury Commission was \$441,514.00 for 2017. Of this budgeted amount the Court returned \$73,078.71 to the general fund as unspent. The Court's budget for 2018, including Adult Probation Department and the Jury Commission, is \$499,223.00.

The Court experienced increased filings of new domestic violence civil protection petitions. During 2017 grand jury indictments for murder, burglary, breaking and entering, theft, drug, and sexual offenses dominated the Court's criminal docket.

The Court is staffed by Attorney Sue Dostal, Court Administrator, Douglas Bettis, Official Court Reporter and Executive Secretary, and Timothy Patterson, Bailiff, and Judge Dominick E. Olivito, Jr. Jewel Gallon retired January 15, 2018, after serving as Court Administrator for eleven years. Her service to the Court and public is greatly appreciated.

The Carroll County Adult Probation Department is staffed by Byron Fairclough, Chief Probation Officer, Hunter Borland, Assistant Probation Officer and Kelly Strock, Assistant Probation Officer. Randy Smith serves as a part-time Probation Officer when necessary.

The Jury Commission is staffed by Betsy Bair and Mary Sinclair.

The 2018 Veterans Service Commissioners appointed by the Court are Lawrence R. DeDent, Thomas Barnett, and Tom Indorf.

Judge Olivito wishes to recognize the dedicated work and cooperation of the following: the Court's staff, Adult Probation Department, Clerk of Courts, William W. Wohlwend and his staff, Connie Budinsky, Denise Smith, and Jean Javersak, Sheriff's Department, all local Carroll County law enforcement agencies, Court Security, Jury Commissioners, Prosecutor Steven Barnett and his staff, Victim's Assistance, Public Defender's Office, Attorney Steve Kandel, County Commissioners, Court Foreclosure Mediator Attorney Vincent L. Slabaugh, Director Shelly Martin and the CSEA, Veterans Service Commission, all Guardian Ad Litem, appointed counsel, all other County office holders, petit and grand jurors, all attorneys who practice before the Court and the public's support.

Stressful, emotional, and dangerous cases are handled daily by the Common Pleas Court. Security is necessary to prevent weapons and violence from entering and occurring in the Courthouse. Noting the numerous national incidents involving multiple person shootings at or near public buildings, concerns regarding securing the safety of county employees and the public when using the courthouse are real. The Second Street entrance to the Courthouse remains the only reasonable choice to permit unlimited but

secure entrance to the Courthouse for visitors and packages to prevent weapons and violence from entering the Courthouse. The Courthouse Security Committee sets policy regarding access to the courthouse and courthouse security, not the Common Pleas Court.

The Common Pleas Court always attempts to provide a fair, independent, professional and thoughtful environment for individuals and attorneys to resolve pending domestic relations, divorce, child custody, child support, felony criminal prosecutions and civil lawsuits.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Dominick E. Olivito, Jr.
Carroll County Court of Common Pleas
General and Trial Divisions