
THE AKRON
MUNICIPAL
COURT



2002 ANNUAL REPORT



THE JUDGES

The Court's six judges are attorneys and are required by Ohio law to have practiced law at least six years prior to becoming a judge. The judges are elected on a nonpartisan basis and serve six-year

terms. Their role is to supervise the administration of justice in their respective courts and insure that all trials, court hearings, and administrative procedures are fair and just.



JUDGE LYNNE S. CALLAHAN is a graduate of University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. She has served as an Akron police officer, an Assistant Director of Law and an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor. She was appointed Judge in May 1997, and elected to the bench in November 1997.



JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Akron School of Law. In the past, Judge Holcomb served as Director of Law for the City of Akron and also served as a member of the Ohio State Board of Education as well as the Akron Board of Education.



JUDGE ALISON McCARTY graduated from Wheaton College and Wake Forest University School of Law. She served as an Assistant Summit County prosecutor handling felony criminal cases. She was appointed Judge in May, 1999, and elected to the bench in November, 1999.



JUDGE CARLA D. MOORE, an Akron native, earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law. She has served as Municipal Court Judge since her appointment in June of 1989.



JUDGE MARVIN A. SHAPIRO, lifetime Akron resident, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Akron in 1960 and his Juris Doctorate degree at the University of Akron in 1965. He has served the Akron Municipal Court since January of 1991.



JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER graduated from Davidson College with an undergraduate degree in history. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron graduating in the top of her class. She was elected to the bench in 1991, re-elected in 1993 and 1999.

FOREWORD



*Judge Carla D. Moore
Presiding /Administrative
Judge for 2002*

The Akron Municipal Court serves the people of Akron, Fairlawn, Bath, Richfield, Springfield, Lakemore, and the Summit County portion of Mogadore. A total of 57,196 new cases were filed in 2002. The total number of criminal cases filed was 14,776. The total number of civil cases filed was 11,165 plus an additional 1,607 cases filed in small claims court. The court disposed of a total of 56,830 cases in 2002.

In its continuing effort to make the court more accessible to the citizens it serves, the Akron Municipal Court introduced its own web site as the year 2001 drew to a close. During its first year of use in 2002 the site drew over 100,000 visitors. User feedback has proved useful to the Court, which made changes to the site throughout the year, to better meet our visitor's needs. The web site was created through the joint and cooperative efforts of the Court, the City of Akron Clerk of Courts, and City Hall. Currently, the web site provides useful information about the court, services and programs operated by the court, as well links to other important web sites. The site also allows citizens to access certain court records. The 2002 annual report can be viewed for the first time on the site, by going to the annual report section of the menu.

The Court worked throughout the year with the other occupants of the Harold K. Stubbs Building, to address areas

of concern related to the safety of our staff and the safety of the citizens who visit our court. With the help of City Hall, the Akron Police Department, and the Clerk of Courts, the Court was able to address areas of concern that related to access to the building, evacuation procedures, screening equipment, and other sensitive areas that directly impact the operation of the court. Most importantly, was the commitment from all of the occupants of the Justice Center to periodically review safety and security issues, so that the Court can maintain its high level of safety, without unduly impacting on the citizens using the Harold K. Stubbs Building.

The court saw the retirement of two long-term and dedicated employees in 2002. Jim Ward, Chief Probation Officer, announced his departure after 33 years of service to the Court. Anne Wilhite, Systems Operator within the Data Processing Department retired after 24 years of service.

Akron Municipal Court continues to be a national leader in providing cost effective, quality alternatives to incarceration and litigation. In addition to Drug Court, Family Violence Court, and the Mental Health Court, the court also runs a Mediation Program, a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP), and a License Intervention Program (LIP). The Municipal Court has been able to provide this wide variety of dispositional alternatives without increasing staffing levels or programmatic costs.

In 1910 the legislature established a police court in Akron vested with jurisdiction over offenses under the ordinances of the city and all misdemeanors committed within the limits of Summit County. It was made a court of record and was presided over by an attorney duly admitted to practice in this state.

In 1919 the legislature established the Akron Municipal Court with three sitting judges elected for four-year terms. In 1930 two judgeships were added to the court. In 1939 the legislature reduced the number of judges from five to four. A fifth judge was again made a member of the court in 1967 and the sixth judgeship was created in 1975. The judges now serve six-year terms.

The court now serves a jurisdiction which includes the cities of Akron and Fairlawn; the townships of Bath, Richfield, and Springfield; the villages of Lakemore and Richfield; and that part of Mogadore in Summit County.

In 1966 the court moved into the City-County Safety Building which was renamed the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center in 1991 located in downtown Akron. The sitting judges are Judge Carla D. Moore the Presiding /Administrative Judge for 2002, Lynne S. Callahan, Elinore Marsh Stormer, Alison McCarty, Carla D. Moore, Marvin A. Shapiro, and John E. Holcomb.

The following is a list of all the judges who have served on the Akron Municipal Court bench since its beginning:

Pardee, L.S.	1920 - 1923	Reed, E.J.	1964 - 1967
Marsh, F.G.	1920 - 1923	VanBerg, H.N.	1964 - 1975
O'Neil, A.F.	1920 - 1925	Roulhac, J.D.	1968 - 1987
Zesiger, E.E.	1924 - 1927	Hartnett, R.B.	1970 - 1981
Underwood, A.B.	1924 - 1925	McFadden, D.B.	1970 - 1978
Davies, G.	1926 - 1931	Colopy, R.H.	1972 - 1995
Hoyt, C.C.	1926 - 1931	Winter, J.P.	1976 - 1983
Cox, J.E.	1928 - 1931	George, J.J.	1976 - 1983
Emmons, C.V.D.	1931 - 1942	Spicer, W.F.	1979 - 1981
Roderick, O.M.	1931 - 1961	Murphy, J.E.	1980 - 1982
Colopy, S.	1932 - 1937	Schneiderman, T.	1981 - 1991
Werner, H.	1932 - 1935	Mack, M.	1983 - 1997
Harvey, F.H.	1932 - 1935	Williams, J.R.	1983 - 1989
Isham, D.P.	1935 - 1943	Maxson, R.	1983 - 1993
Watters, R.B.	1936 - 1937	Stubbs, H.K.	1987 - 1989
Davies, G.	1938 - 1939	Bond, J.	1989 - 1991
Kelly, C.M.	1938 - 1950	Moore, C.D.	1989 - present
Powers, T.M.	1939 - 1971	Shapiro, M.A.	1991 - present
Sacks, C.	1943 - 1949	Bayer, E.	1991 - 1991
Zook, A.D.	1944 - 1959	Stormer, E.M.	1991 - present
McRae, C.B.	1951 - 1963	Callahan, M.	1993 - 1995
Victor, W.H.	1950 - 1959	Carr, D.	1995 - 1998
Price, T.R.	1960 - 1969	Holcomb, J.E.	1996 - present
Koplin, N.	1960 - 1963	Callahan, L.S.	1997 - present
Riddle, J.P.	1962 - 1969	Unruh, B.	1998 - 1999
McCarty, A.	1998 - present		



*Jim Ward,
Chief Probation Officer*

JIM WARD Announced that he would be retiring from the Probation Department at the end of the year. Jim began his career with the Municipal Court in 1968 and served the court for 33 years. Jim's dedication to his work and the judges of the court will be missed.

The court began a search for a new Chief of Probation as the year drew to a close.



*Tiara,
Probation Secretary*

Tiara Young joined the Probation Department as a part-time secretary this year. Her depth of job skills and her dedication to her work became immediately apparent. Welcome Tiara!

Below are listed some important departmental statistics for 2002:

5228 offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.

212 Presentence Investigations referrals were received.

323 Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

461 persons were placed on traditional probation...

361 (70%) were placed on Direct Probation without a Presentence Investigation.

\$42,104.69 was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.

2682 community service placements were made.

142 defendants entered the Family Violence Court, with a retention rate of 86%.

95 defendants entered the Drug Court with a retention rate of 83%.

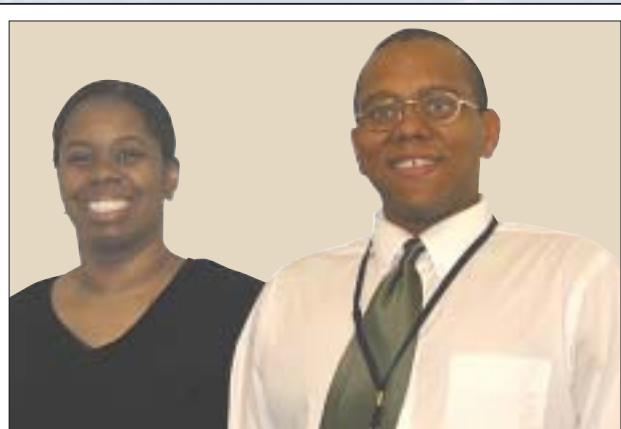
60 defendants entered the Mental Health Court for screening, 94 were admitted into the program with a retention rate of 72%.

680 defendants were screened for the Discretionary Rehabilitation Program...

583 were found to be eligible and approved, with a retention rate of 70%.



Probation Department Staff.



Congratulations to Probation Officers Lisa Streeter and Tony Ingram, who both received their Master's Degrees this year.

Family Violence Court



Judge Callahn speaks with program participant.

It has been twenty years since the Ohio General Assembly first enacted the Ohio Domestic Violence Act. In the ensuing years, domestic violence arrests have been one of the fastest growing cases on court dockets throughout Ohio. Summit County, including the Akron Municipal Court district, has been no exception. In 1996, there were 1,536 filings and in 2000, 2,125 filings under a domestic violence statute in the Akron Municipal Court.

The Family Violence Court was implemented in April, 1998 in response to the growing number of domestic violence cases, the need to provide a sanctioning option to reduce jail crowding, the desire to address both victim and offender needs, and the desire to enhance probation supervision and to protect the public safety.

Akron's Family Violence Court is a domestic violence diversion program, the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of very few throughout the country. The Family Violence Court was made possible from a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services. The actual program is the combined brain-child of the Oriana House, Inc., the Akron Municipal Court and its probation department, Akron's prosecutor's office and police department, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Assistance, the Battered Women's Shelter, and the Public Defender's Office. The program provides increased supervision of the offender as well as increased coordination of services. Judge Lynne S. Callahan presides over the Family Violence Court.

Under the terms of the grant, the program is currently open to 250 qualified participants. Offenders who enter the

Family Violence Court program are required to complete a twenty-six week violence cessation program, as well as case management, one year of probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling, when needed, and employment counseling, when needed. Victims are urged to attend the Early Intervention Program and Stop the Cycle at the Battered Women's Shelter and have access to a victim advocate through every step of the proceedings.

Participants are closely monitored throughout the one year term of the program. Rewards or sanctions are handed out by Judge Callahan, as required. Participants who comply with all of the program requirements and successfully complete the program are eligible to have their cases dismissed at the end of the year. 600 people have been admitted to the program since April, 1998.

Drug Court



Judge Shapiro overseeing Drug Court as Chief Jim Ward looks on.

The Akron Municipal Court Drug Court Program, begun in 1995, reflects the collaboration of the municipal and common pleas judges, the city and county prosecutors, the defense bar, Oriana House and the treatment community. This program targets Felony-5 cocaine offenders who meet certain screening criteria. The offender pleads no contest to attempted drug abuse, a misdemeanor, and enters a year-long program of treatment and case management. Treatment may be outpatient or residential. Case management may include education, training and employment. Frequent drug testing is an integral component of the program.

Judge Marvin A. Shapiro presides in Drug Court, holding weekly hearings to oversee client progress and to impose sanctions and positive reinforcement as warranted. The offender who commits a new felony is terminated from the program and incarcerated. If the offender successfully completes treatment and case management, his or her case is dismissed.

Since 1995, more than 880 offenders have been diverted from Common Pleas Court, resulting in accelerated prosecution, as well as cost reduction in the form of reduced police, grand jury and adjudication time. In 2000, 133 offenders were admitted to Drug Court. 130 continue in treatment, a retention rate of 76%.

Mental Health Court

Akron Municipal Court Mental Health Court began operation on 1/2/01, the first in the State of Ohio and 5th in the United States. The Mental Health Court (MHC) was the product of the observations of Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer in Drug Court, where she saw many defendants with co-occurring disorders of drug abuse and mental illness. The court is a 2 year voluntary program, using the Drug Court model. The Court is a cooperative arrangement with Akron Municipal Court, the Akron Police Department, City of Akron Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender, Veterans Addiction Recovery Center, and the Alcohol Drug and

Mental Health Board and its affiliate agencies: Community Support Services, Portage Path Behavioral Health, Oriana House, Community Health Center, Psycho Diagnostic Clinic, and Summit Psychological Associates. The Court began with 3 clients and 1 case manager and, over the next 12 months, helped identify and divert 147 persons with mental illness who were involved in the criminal justice system. Mental Health Court has provided treatment to 94 persons and, at the end of the year 2002, had 68 active clients and 6 case managers. Tony Ingram is the coordinator of the Court.



Judge Stormer speaks with program participant.

The Service Bailiffs' Office is comprised of 6 Service Bailiffs, 2 Court Secretary/Court Records Officers, an Office Manager, and the Chief Bailiff. This office is charged with the responsibility to perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct



Doug Frase, Dave Soder, Jim Flynn, Mike Musitano, Kelly Warner, Kim Hubbard, Chanin Holland and Cheryl Price. (Not pictured Todd Spicer and Vivian Tomko)

Bailiff Sales, remove clubs, and provide personal service of all court documents generated by The Akron Municipal Court that require individual service. Unlike the courtroom bailiffs who

perform their duties in the courtroom, the Service Bailiffs go out into the community to do their job.

The Outside Bailiffs travel throughout Summit County, into virtually every segment of society to serve Bank Aids, F&D's, Garnishments, Mandatory Orders, Show Causes, Small Claims, Subpoenas, and Summons. They also perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, and remove clubs from vehicles immobilized by Akron, Richfield, Bath, Fairlawn, Lakemore, Springfield and Cuyahoga Falls Police Departments.

The Bailiffs traveled 71,645 miles to 26,263 locations, served 15,124 papers, conducted 1,971 evictions, 235 emergency replevins, 114 forced entry replevins, performed 378 levies, and removed 169 clubs, on behalf of the Akron Municipal Court in 2002.

The Service Bailiffs are continually cross trained in various judicial assignments, since they are called upon to substitute for absent Personal Bailiffs and other court personnel on a daily basis. Service Bailiffs provide personnel to the county jail to staff the video arraignment department weekly, Monday through Saturday.

Court Secretary Relief Bailiffs

Vivian Tomko and Kelly Warner are the Court Secretary/Relief Bailiffs who are charged with the primary function to provide secretarial assistance for the judges, law clerks, and the Probation Department. They also provide

duplicate court record audio tapes when requested, and perform transcription work involving the preparation of verbatim testimony.

Vivian and Kelly also serve as the Municipal Court wedding coordinators. This is a service our court provides to area residents for a nominal fee. Weddings are scheduled in person here throughout the week, and Friday mornings are always busy preparing the licenses, notifying the judge, and escorting the eight or more couples, often accompanied by family and friends, to the courtroom to exchange their vows. Akron Municipal Judges performed a total 405 wedding ceremonies in 2002.

Both the Municipal Court and the Clerk of Courts depend upon Court Secretary/Relief Bailiffs to supervise the random lot assignment and any subsequent transfers of all cases to individual courts. The judges rely upon this office for accurate data entry in managing their dockets. At the end of the month, this information is used to compile the Ohio Supreme Court Individual Judge Reports, which is then generated through this office.

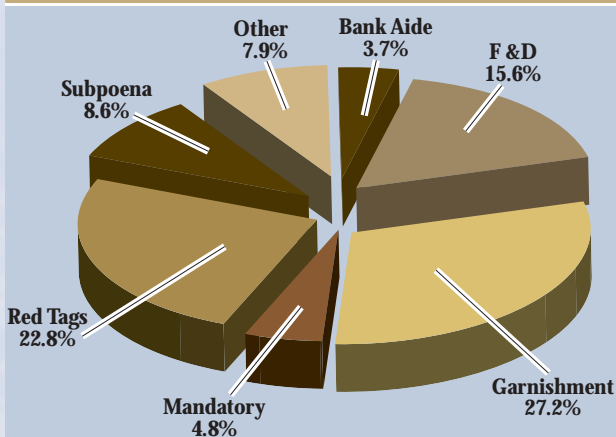
This office is also responsible for the entry of civil court date information and the subsequent mailing of notices to all parties. The information is then forwarded to the Akron Legal News for publishing. On the average, 200-300 notices are mailed weekly.

Like the Service Bailiffs, the Court Secretary/Relief Bailiffs are qualified to replace personal bailiffs, as well as personnel in felony, traffic, family violence, drug, mental health, and small claims courts on a scheduled or emergency basis for vacations or personal leave. In the year 2002 the Service Bailiffs teamed up with the Court Secretary/Relief Bailiffs to provide a total of 3,090 other duty or substitute hours to Akron Municipal Court. This averages out to 1.5 Employees per day.

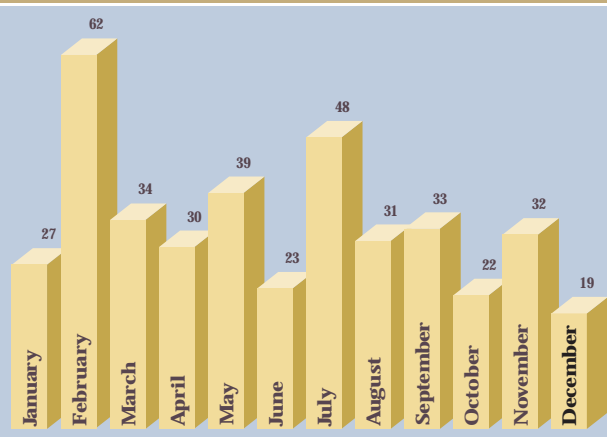


Wedding ceremony performed in courtroom.

2002 Court Papers Served



2002 Weddings





JIM LARIA, has been Clerk of Courts since January 1, 1997. Laria is a graduate of The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Education and the National Judicial College with certification in Court Administration. Jim was an elected member of the Akron School Board and has worked in our court systems for more than 24-years, serving as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Akron Municipal Courts and Court Administrator for the Summit County Probate Court. Jim Laria was elected by his peers as the President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association.

JIM LARIA AND JUDGES LAUNCH INTERACTIVE COURT WEBSITE

Jim Laria in conjunction with the Judges of the Akron Municipal Court created a joint website that allows the public greater access to court information. The establishment of the interactive court website allows citizens access to court information on a timely basis. The computerization of the Akron Municipal Court since 1987

exceeds 1,300,000 cases on line for public review. The success of the project can be measured by the more than 12,000 visits our court website receives each month. Citizens can access the court website at <http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us>

The Clerk's Office total gross receipts for fiscal year 2002 were \$9,607,477.82. Case filings for the Clerk of Courts Office for 2002 include: 29,648 traffic cases; 14,776

criminal cases; 12,772 civil cases and 20,709 parking cases.

Clerk of Courts Jim Laria was elected by his peers as the President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association for 2003 after serving during the past several years as Vice- President, Secretary and Treasurer. Laria continues to serve as a Trustee and Chair of the important Education Committee of the statewide organization of the Ohio Association of Municipal Court Clerks (OAMCC). As OAMCC Education Chair, Jim Laria is responsible for the educational programming and training of Clerks and deputy Clerks, including sessions on ethics and improving customer service. Laria has introduced innovative approaches to court management, record retention and collection of outstanding fines to more than 150 court leaders from around the state of Ohio.

Visit our web site at:
<http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us>

ARRAIGNMENT ROOM



Arraignment Room

Arraignments of misdemeanor and felony prisoners are heard in the mornings in the Arraignment Room. Thanks to interdepartmental cooperation between the Akron Municipal Court, Summit County Sheriff's Office and the Akron Police Department, the video arraignment runs very smoothly and effectively. State-of-the-art equipment allows the Judge to see and hear the defendant while the defendant monitors activity in the courtroom, eliminating the costs and manpower to transport those prisoners to the Court.

The Direct Indictment Program (DIP) began November 1, 1996 and is a cooperative effort between the Akron Police Department, Akron City Prosecutor's Office and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office to present criminal cases to the Grand Jury within the 10 day period allowed to hold a preliminary hearing in Municipal Court. By the Grand Jury acting on the case promptly, the preliminary hearing is eliminated. This process cuts the delay in transferring cases between the Courts.

Misdemeanor arraignment are held in the Arraignment Room in the afternoons. All misdemeanor summons, early releases from Summit County Jail and bond outs are scheduled for appearance in the afternoon. If the defendant pleads not guilty, they are then lotted out to one of our six Judges for future hearings. If the defendant enters a no contest or guilty plea, the Judge proceeds with sentencing.

The Court instituted a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP), an alternative program for first time misdemeanants. The program is intended for first time offenders charged with a non-violent criminal offense. After a check for any past record, the Prosecutor makes a recommendation to the Judge of the applicant's suitability for admission to the program. The program fee of \$175 includes the cost of sealing the record and court appearances. The applicant must complete five treatment sessions of 1-1/2 hours each. These sessions provide information regarding the court system, general principals of problem solving, review of chemical dependency/abuse issues, anger management and establishing ethical values and individual responsibility. The sessions must be completed within 90 days. Upon the successful completion of the program the charge is dismissed and the record is ordered sealed.

The Data Processing Department is made up of the Data Processing Manager and the Assistant Data Processing Manager. The Clerk's Office also has a full time employee working in Data Processing. Our long-time secretary/system operator retired at the end of August. In support of the "doing more with less" theme of the Court, the work of the secretary/system operator is being done by the remaining staff or is being automated where possible.

Our most significant project of the year was launching our Internet web site (<http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us>). This project was started in 2001. The site was publicly launched in April 2002. The site has received well over 120,000 visits since the launch. We are always looking for ways to improve the site

and welcome any feedback the public may have.

We upgraded PC's for the judges. Where practical, the replaced PC's were moved to other court personnel.

Data Processing's primary mission is to maintain the Municipal Court's Information System, support all attached computer equipment, and support the employees of the Court.

The system is available 24 hours a day and we are therefore on call 24 hours a day. We receive many requests throughout the year for service from users of the system. These requests include reports, queries, data entry questions, PC/printer support, and program change requests. As always, we are looking at new technologies that can enhance the operations of the court.



Larry Lee and Peter Spearing loading new software.

Visit our web site at: <http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us/>

The Akron Municipal Court has added a web site as another means of providing additional information for the people it serves.





Magistrates Thomas L. Lynett, Suzanne L. Stephens, James K. Reed

Small Claims Magistrates handle many types of cases. They hear evictions, small claim, rent deposits, garnishments/execution hearings, mandatory orders, contempt/show cause, replevin and revivors. The magistrates also heard traffic arraignments.

The office is staffed by three part-time magistrates and two full-time employees as support staff. The magistrates are Suzanne Stephens, Thomas F. Lynett and James Reed. The support staff are Melissa Briggs and Barbara List.

The magistrates office handled over 7,000 civil cases along with traffic arraignments twice a week.

The following are the totals of cases scheduled before the Magistrates in 2002:

3,880 – Evictions
1,606 – Small Claims
283 – Second Cause
384 – Garnishments
30 – Rent Deposits
459 – Mandatory Orders
47 – Contempt/Show Cause
4 – Replevin
42 – Revivors

TRAFFIC COURT



Jim Conti and Kathy Wheeler in the Traffic Court.

In 2002, the staff in Traffic Court personally handled and completed a total of 9,106 cases, (down from 9,139 cases in 2001.) Of those cases 310 were DUI cases (up from 237 cases in 2001); 2,524 were DUS cases (up from 2,238 cases in 2001); 1,767 were other M-1 to M-4 cases (slightly down from 1,785

cases in 2001); and 4,504 were minor misdemeanor cases (down from 4,879 cases in 2001.)

The License Intervention Program (LIP) continues to help individuals obtain their license and avoid an additional six points on their driving record. This program is an extension of the work that Mick Williams was completing as the Traffic Safety Officer. The LIP program allows a defendant, with a Driving Under Suspension (DUS) citation, who has valid FRA insurance at the time of the new citation, and who qualifies under the terms of the program, 120 days to clear all the problems with his/her Ohio Operator's License. If the Defendant is successful in clearing his/her license, the DUS is amended down to a No Operator's cite with no points placed on his/her driving record. A portion of the fine is also reduced. From January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002, 304 individuals, out of the 538 individuals who qualified for the program, or 57% of the Defendants cleared all of their problems with their driving record and obtained a new license or reinstated their old operator's license. These 538 individuals did not have to be assigned to the Judges' dockets. Individuals who have corrected their license problems before making their initial appearance in Traffic Court can plead to the reduced charge, if they qualify, and not have to return to court for a pre-trial conference saving both the court and the defendant time.

THE AKRON
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COURT



Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center
217 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
(7th, 8th and 9th Floors)