



COMMON PLEAS COURT  
GENERAL DIVISION

Richard E. Berens, Administrative Judge  
David A. Trimmer, Judge

# 2018 Annual Report



## Common Pleas Court *General Division* *and* Adult Probation

Court of Common Pleas of Fairfield County, Ohio • Hall of Justice • 224 East Main Street • Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Judge Richard E. Berens (740) 652-7422 • Judge David A. Trimmer (740) 652-7423 • [www.fairfieldcountyohio.gov](http://www.fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

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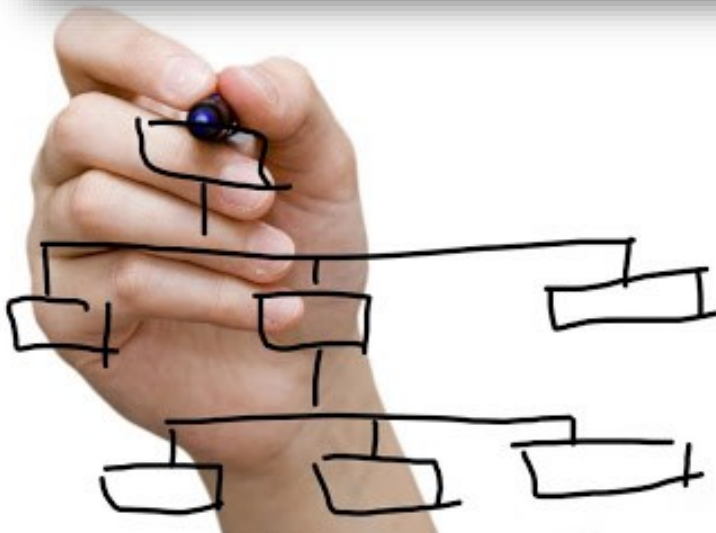
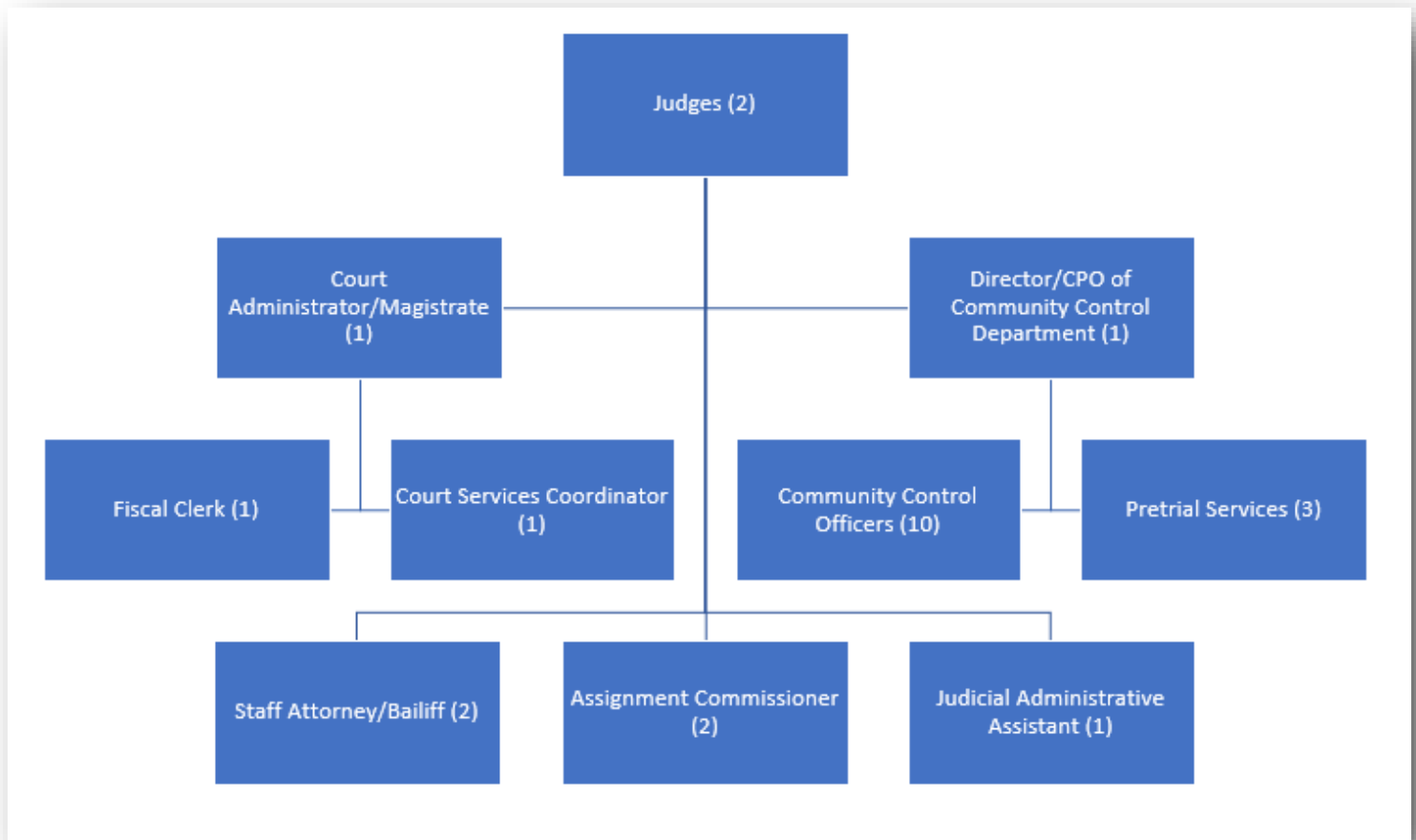
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# ORGANIZATION

## CURRENT TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



### New Hires

Michael Welker, Community Control Officer

Mary Quimby, Bailiff & Staff Attorney

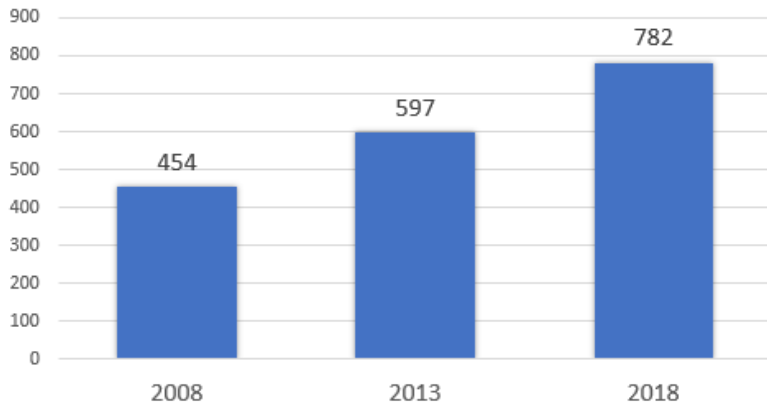
Katie Spires, Pretrial Services Coordinator

Samantha Green, Community Control Officer

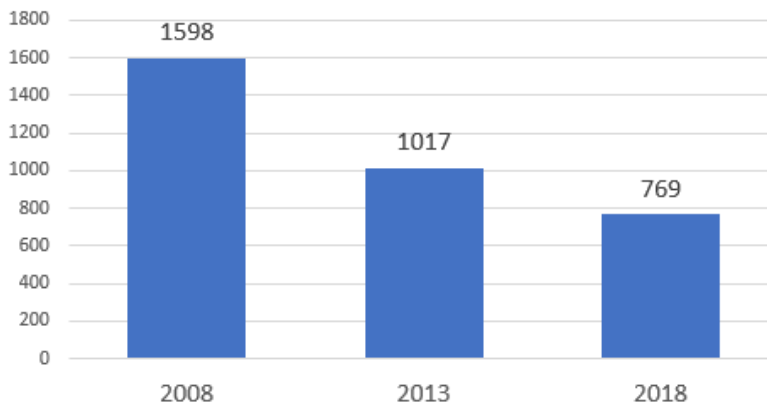
# CASE STATISTICS

\*as of 12/31/2018

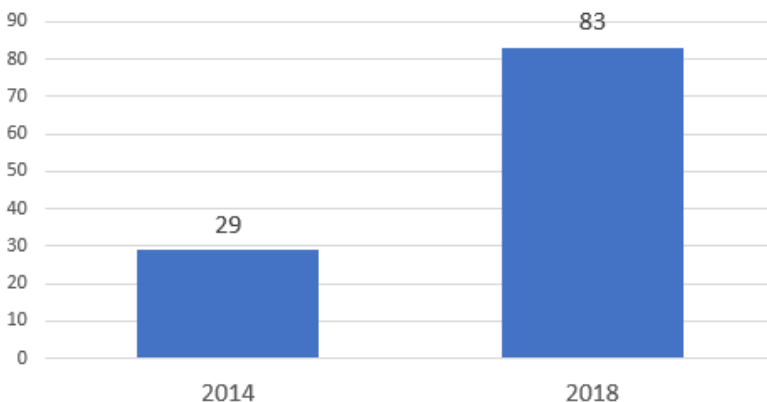
Criminal Cases Filed



Civil Cases Filed



Civil Stalking Protection Order Cases Filed



## Ten Year Trends

2018 was another busy year for the Court, with the filing of 782 criminal cases, 769 civil cases, and 83 civil stalking protection order petitions. The charts to the left provide a historical overview of case filings from 2008.

Over the past 10 years, the number of criminal cases before the Court have risen by over 50%.

Alternatively, civil filings have generally decreased, largely due to the recovery of the housing market from the foreclosure boom in the late 2000s.

However, not all civil cases have experienced a downturn. The filing of civil stalking protection order cases, which were first heard by the Court in 2014, have experienced a 186% increase over the past four years.



# SUPERVISION STATISTICS

Total Number of Individuals under Active Supervision as of December 31, 2018: **1582**

Number of Individuals Placed on Community Control in 2018: **709**

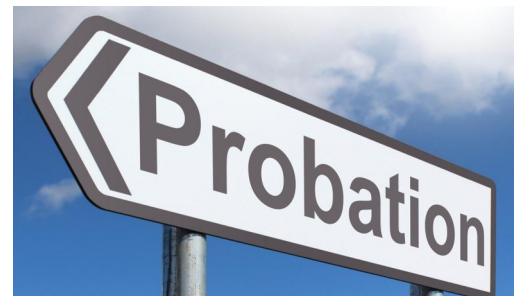
Number of Individuals Who Successfully Completed Supervision: **178**

Number of Individuals Who Successfully Completed Intervention in Lieu of Conviction: **33**

Number of Individuals Whose Supervision Was Revoked and Sentence Imposed: **130**

Number of Individuals Who Were Referred to a CBCF or Other Residential Treatment Facility: **201**

The Community Control Department experienced another busy year, with over 200 more individuals on supervision than in 2017. But this increase did not affect the Department's dedication to protecting the community. Despite the rise in numbers, officers were active in the field, making 281 probation-related arrests, initiating 154 field work contacts, and issuing 384 probation violations during 2018. The Department also helped over 200 individuals successfully complete probation and/or ILC this year.



# BUDGET NARRATIVE

In 2018, the Court and Community Control Department budgeted \$1,505,828 in anticipated general fund expenditures. Actual general fund expenditures at the end of 2018 totaled \$1,373,808. The largest expenditures for both departments in 2018 were for employee salary and fringe benefits. Court-appointed attorneys' fees (for indigent criminal defendants) and drug testing (for individuals under bond or probation supervision) were two of the largest non-personnel-related expenditures incurred in 2018.

To help offset the rising costs associated with the Court's criminal caseload (such as attorneys' fees and drug testing mentioned above), the Court continues to seek and apply for grant awards.

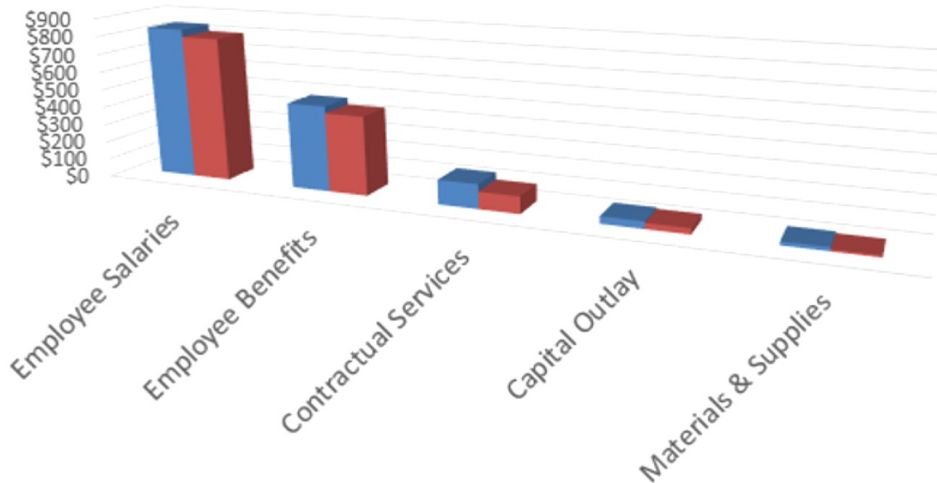
In 2018, the Court collaborated on 7 grants, totaling **over 1 million dollars** in fiscal assistance to the Court and its community partners.

The Court and Community Control Department utilize other revenue funds as well, which are generated by filing fees, probation supervision fees, and notary application fees. In 2018, the Court used these special projects funds to support a variety of projects such as upgrading its case management system, updating hardware and software for grand jury proceedings, paying indigent defendants' attorneys' fees, drug testing, and funding a CSPO Legal Assistance Fund pilot project.



## GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

2018 Anticipated vs. Actual Expenditures  
Court & Community Control Department

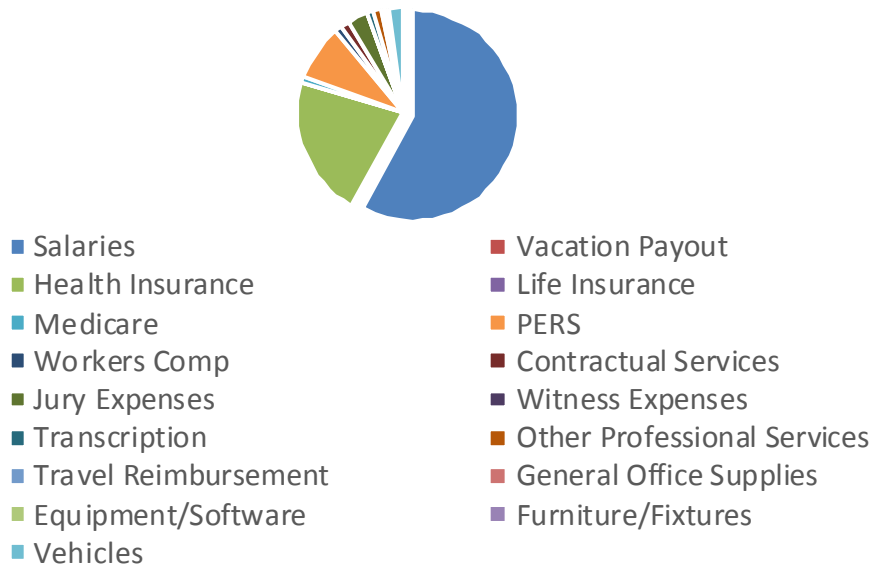


	Employee Salaries	Employee Benefits	Contractual Services	Capital Outlay	Materials & Supplies
■ Anticipated Total: \$1,505,828	\$838,000.00	\$473,557.00	\$134,800.00	\$39,471.00	\$20,000.00
■ Actual Total: \$1,373,808	\$798,632.00	\$436,945.00	\$94,930.00	\$32,180.00	\$11,121.00

■ Anticipated Total: \$1,505,828    ■ Actual Total: \$1,373,808

## GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Actual Expenditures By Line Item



Salaries	\$ 793,600.24
Vacation Payout	\$ 4,728.70
Health Insurance	\$ 295,602.27
Life Insurance	\$ 1,456.35
Medicare	\$ 11,196.81
PERS	\$ 115,065.76
Workers Comp	\$ 12,925.17
Contractual Services	\$ 20,548.42
Jury Expenses	\$ 41,687.71

Witness Expenses	\$ 1,290.00
Transcription	\$ 11,497.50
Other Professional Services	\$ 18,950.85
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 857.02
General Office Supplies	\$ 11,120.96
Equipment/Software	\$ 1,676.48
Furniture/Fixtures	\$ 3,032.13
Vehicles	\$ 27,471.00

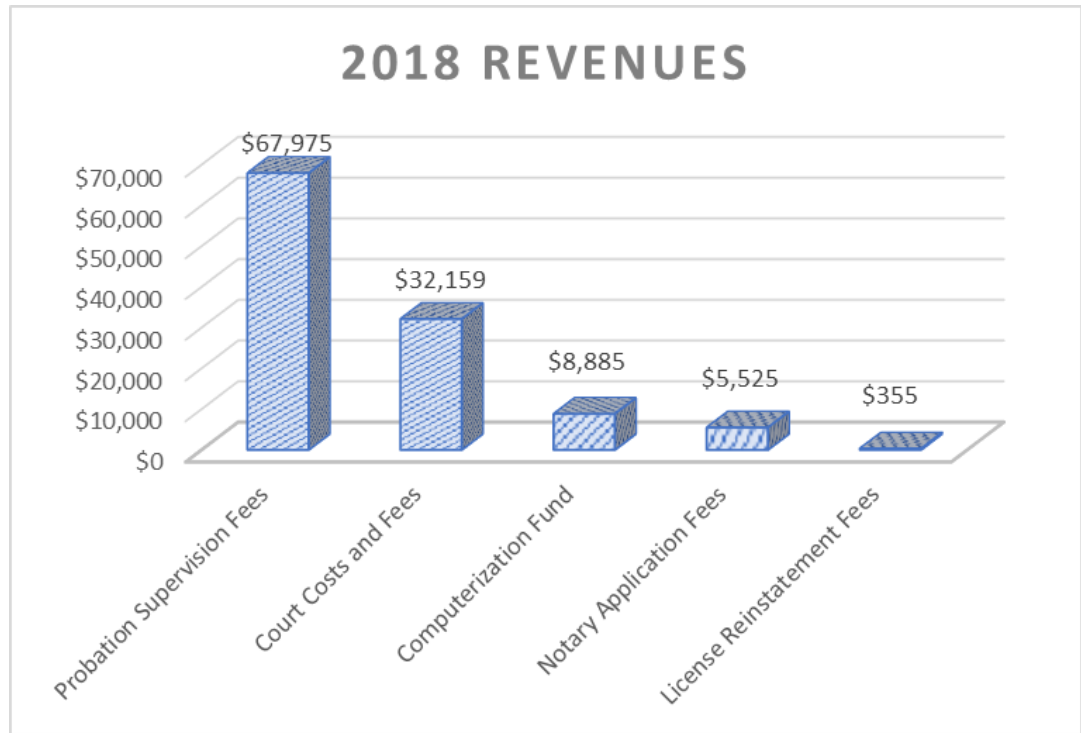
\*Expenses totaling less than \$750 not included



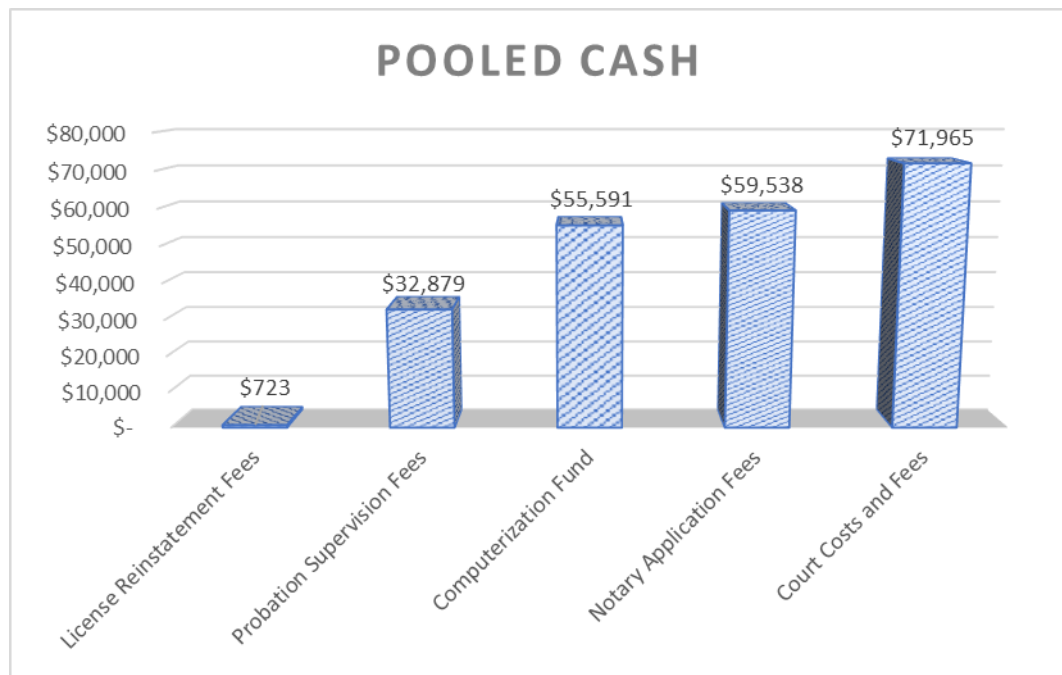
# FINANCIAL DATA

*continued*

## 2018 REVENUES



## TOTAL POOLED CASH



\*as of 12/31/2018



# FINANCIAL DATA

*continued*

## 2018 GRANT AWARDS & COLLABORATIONS

Recovery Courts Collaboration Project (SAMHSA): **\$700,000 (over 3 years)**  
*(collaboration with Municipal Court over 3 years; funds probation officer salary and drug testing)*

Intensive Supervised Probation Grant (ODRC): **\$371,816 (over 2 years)**  
*(funds probation officers' salaries and support services for ISP probationers)*

Targeted Alternatives to Prison Grant (ODRC): **\$360,000**  
*(collaboration with Commissioners and Sheriff to provide services in the jail and purchase equipment)*

Addiction Treatment Program Grant (OMHAS/ADAMH): **\$200,000**  
*(collaboration with ADAMH to provide recovery supports to specialized docket participants)*

Recovery Court Grant (OMHAS/ADAMH): **\$40,000**  
*(funds salary of court staff and recovery supports for specialized docket participants)*

Technology Grant (Ohio Supreme Court): **\$19,442**  
*(collaboration with Clerk's Office; funds online imaging of court records)*

Law Enforcement Body Armor Grant (OAG): **\$1,396**  
*(funds purchase of necessary body armor vests for probation officers)*

# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## MORE APPRECIATION

In 2018, the Court began a new peer-based employee incentive program: the Court Employee Recognition Initiative (CERI).

Every quarter, employees are asked to anonymously nominate one or more of their peers for the CERI award. The nomination includes a brief description of why the nominee deserves the CERI award, i.e., how he or she exemplified the Court's mission statement during the quarter.

Nominations are reviewed by Administration and a winner is selected. The CERI winner is then announced and awarded one additional personal day to be used within the calendar year.

Congratulations to this year's four CERI award winners:

**Kelsey Meyers, Michael Cox, Kathy Hartman, Danielle Pizzuto!**



## MORE TRANSPARENCY

The Court focused on technology and transparency in 2018. The Court revamped its entire website with an easy-to-navigate design that provides streamlined information and additional resources for self-represented persons, probationers, attorneys, and the public in general. Thank you to IT Director Mark Conrad who worked diligently to facilitate these changes.

With the assistance of a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court and the hard work of the Clerk's Office, the Court also enabled public access to online court records in July of 2018.

Accordingly, all public case records filed on or after January 1, 2018 are viewable free of cost from any device with internet access.

The Court's updated website can be found [here](#).

## MORE REHABILITATION

This past year, the Fairfield County Commissioners, in partnership with the Common Pleas Court and Sheriff, volunteered to participate in the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison Program (TCAP). Pursuant to the TCAP agreement, the ODR provided Fairfield County over \$360,000 in grant funding. These funds have been primarily used to provide enhanced mental health, substance abuse, and other rehabilitative services to inmates housed in the Fairfield County Jail. These in-jail services, which are available to inmates regardless of offense, include mental health crisis intervention screenings as well as cognitive behavior and relapse prevention classes. In the first cycle of TCAP classes, 88 inmates successfully completed TCAP programming.



# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

*continued*

## **CSPO Legal Assistance Fund**

In April 2018, the Court initiated a pilot project for the purpose of providing court-appointed counsel to indigent litigants involved in Civil Stalking Protection Order cases.

Throughout the year, the Court appointed attorneys for 32 litigants, which helped ensure fair results and a fully informed decision-making process. The Court funded the program with special project funds. It is hoped the program will continue with grant assistance in 2019.

## **Specialized Docket Recertification**

On September 28, 2018, the Court received notice that its Drug Recovery Court, presided over by Judge Richard E. Berens was recertified for a three-year period. Recovery Court is a specialized docket with a mission of providing intense, individualized supervision and treatment to participants with the aim of encouraging them to confront their addictions and problematic behavior and become productive members of society. Recertification allows the Court to apply for and receive grant funding through OMHAS.

## **Women's Wellness Program**

In keeping with its mission to rehabilitate as well as supervise, in Spring 2018, the Court's Community Control Department launched a Women's Wellness Program to help improve female probationers' self-esteem and quality of life. The program, which was the brainchild of a few female Community Control Department Officers, aims to coordinate free pro-social events for females on supervision through the Common Pleas Court in an effort to improve probationers' emotional, mental and physical health.



Since the program's inception, the Community Control Department has hosted 10 events, ranging from exercise classes to cake decorating. Events are all provided free of cost to probationers thanks to the generosity of our community partners.



# DIRECTORY

## **Assignment Commissioners**

Misty Conkle (J. Berens) 740-652-7431

Kathy Hartman (J. Trimmer) 740-652-7427

## **Administrative Assistants**

Traci Dresbach (J. Berens) 740-652-7435

Shannon Seesholtz (Fiscal / M. Boone) 740-652-7434

## **Bailiffs / Staff Attorneys**

Josh Butler (J. Trimmer) 740-652-7430

Mary Quimby (J. Berens) 740-652-7432

## **Court Administrator / Magistrate**

Jillian Boone 740-652-7424

## **Court Services Coordinator**

Kelly Starkey 740-652-7433

## **CPO & Director of Community Control**

Angel Sanderson 740-652-7344

## **Community Control Officers**

B. Casey Jones (ISP SPO) 740-652-7346

Dan Jones (Basic SPO) 740-652-7345

Danielle Pizzuto 740-652-7348

Austin Miller 740-652-7341

Kelsey Meyers 740-652-7353

Tim Norris 740-652-7354

Andrew Dreyer 740-652-7351

Lynne Gordon (PSI) 740-652-7343

Laurie Henderson 740-652-7342

Wayne Moss 740-652-7347

Samantha Green 740-652-7425

Michael Welker 740-652-7398

Katie Spires (Pretrial) 740-652-7352