

MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

GARY F. WERNER

presiding Judge &

administrative judge

NANCY L. ABBOTT

CLERK of Courts

135 North Elmwood Avenue

Medina, Ohio 44256

*Proudly serving the communities of Brunswick Hills Township, Brunswick City, Chatham Township, Chippewa Lake Village, Granger Township, Hinckley Township, Lafayette Township, Litchfield Township, Liverpool Township, Medina City, Medina Township, Montville Township, Spencer Township, Spencer Village, York Township, in addition to the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, Medina County Sheriff and the Ohio State Patrol*

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## MARCH 31, 2020

Medina City Council & Mayor

Medina County Commissioners

The following is the 2019 annual report of operations for the Medina Municipal Court as required by Ohio Revised Code Sec. 1901.14.

The Court received new filings of 13,969 cases and terminated 17,136 cases.

These cases generated $2,936,924.42 in receipts, which included bond, criminal, traffic and civil judgments.

MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT

COURT STAFF LISTINGS

|  |
| --- |
| Judicial Staff |
| Gary F. Werner | Judge, Administrative/Presiding |
| Linda Leggett | Chief Magistrate |
| Charles T. Lawrie | Magistrate |
|  |  |
| Administrative Staff |  |
| Cindy Lastuka | Court Manager |
| Katie Krosse | Administrative Assistant |
| Jon Mazanetz | Senior IT Technician |
| Shari McKee | Assignment Commissioner |
|  |  |
| Bailiffs |  |
| Carl Meding | Chief Bailiff |
| Bill Saus | Bailiff |
| Patty Lavery | Bailiff |
| Dave Ellinger | Bailiff |
| Steve Wilmington | Bailiff |
| Ryan Nagy | Bailiff |
|  |  |
| Probation Department |  |
| Matt Esterle | Chief Probation Officer |
| Gene Merinar | Deputy Chief Probation Officer |
| Molly Kafer | Probation Officer |
| Angela Kiss | Probation Officer |
| Amy Darr | Probation Officer |
| Melanie Stroup | Probation Officer (P/T) |
| Noelle Hayes | Probation Officer/Support Staff (P/T) |
| Renee Thomas | Probation Secretary (P/T) |
|  |  |
| Building Maintenance |  |
| Ed Giriunas | Custodian |

MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT

CLERK OF COURT STAFF LISTINGS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Supervisory Staff |  |
| Nancy L. Abbott | Clerk of Court |
| Jacqueline Ols | Chief Deputy Clerk |
|  |  |
| Criminal Traffic |  |
| Sue McNutt | Deputy Clerk |
| Cynthia Kolosky | Deputy Clerk |
| Nichole Galante | Deputy Clerk |
| Nikki Meyers | Deputy Clerk |
| Doris Sidwell | Deputy Clerk |
| Krystal Hartshorn | Deputy Clerk |
| Peggy Natterer | Deputy Clerk (P/T) |
| Tracy Wasmer | Deputy Clerk (P/T) |
|  |  |
| Civil/Small Claims |  |
| Kate Cather | Deputy Clerk |
| Laura Riegelsberger | Deputy Clerk |
| Megan Pierce | Deputy Clerk |
| Michele Sloan | Deputy Clerk (P/T) |



CASE FILINGS AND TERMINATION STATISTICS

Cindy Lastuka, Court Manager

The following is a report of the Medina Municipal Court cases filed and terminated for each case type as established by the Ohio Supreme Court. The information provided is taken from the Administrative and Individual Judge Reports submitted monthly to the Ohio Supreme Court.



The following breaks down total traffic and criminal cases based upon the originating state, county, municipal, or township arresting agency.



The following breaks down total operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse (“OVI”) cases based upon the originating state, county, municipal, or township arresting agency.

|  |
| --- |
| MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT |
| CASELOAD COMPARISON BY ARRESTING AGENCY |
| 2019-2015 |
|   |
| DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CASES |
| AGENCY | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Brunswick City | 48 | 39 | 59 | 60 | 69 |
| Brunswick Hills Twp. | 52 | 47 | 31 | 20 | 34 |
| Chippewa Lake | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hinckley Twp. | 22 | 42 | 21 | 25 | 30 |
| Lafayette Twp. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Litchfield Twp. | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Liverpool Twp. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medina City Police | 78 | 105 | 99 | 90 | 110 |
| Medina County Parks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medina County Sheriff Dept. | 22 | 27 | 32 | 36 | 27 |
| Medina Twp. | 29 | 28 | 35 | 32 | 35 |
| Metro Parks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Montville Twp. | 26 | 33 | 39 | 50 | 62 |
| North Royalton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ohio State Patrol | 203 | 240 | 184 | 137 | 145 |
| Spencer Village | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 484 | 562 | 505 | 451 | 515 |
| Reactivated Cases | 73 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 10 |
| Total | 557 | 577 | 521 | 464 | 525 |

|  |
| --- |
| BRUNSWICK MAYOR'S COURT 2019 CASE FILINGS |
| Type | # Filed | Transferred to Medina Municipal Court | Transfer % |
|
| Traffic | 3,133 | 121 | 3.86% |
| OVI | 103 | 16 | 15.53% |
| Criminal | 548 | 59 | 10.77% |
| Tax | 768 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Dog | 37 | 2 | 5.41% |

The Brunswick Mayor’s Court, which is within the Court’s jurisdiction, provided the information to the left for this 2019 Annual Report.

The following breaks down total “Other Traffic” cases based upon the originating state, county, municipal, or township arresting agency.

|  |
| --- |
| CASELOAD COMPARISON BY ARRESTING AGENCIES |
|  TOTAL OTHER TRAFFIC CASES |
| AGENCY | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Brunswick City | 170 | 176 | 180 | 198 | 215 |
| Brunswick Hills Twp. | 991 | 1019 | 977 | 773 | 879 |
| Chippewa Lake | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chippewa Lake Zoning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chippewa Village Constable | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Division of Wildlife | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Granger Township Constable | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hinckley Twp. | 370 | 256 | 439 | 238 | 303 |
| Lafayette Twp. | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 18 |
| Litchfield Twp. | 7 | 15 | 12 | 23 | 26 |
| Liverpool Twp. | 11 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 21 |
| Medina City Building | 0 |   |   |   |   |
| Medina City Zoning | 0 |   |   |   |   |
| Medina Police Department | 2290 | 2374 | 1766 | 1505 | 1590 |
| Medina County Parks | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Medina County Sheriff Dept. | 261 | 262 | 328 | 308 | 292 |
| Medina Twp. | 306 | 339 | 350 | 409 | 621 |
| Metro Parks | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Montville Twp. | 324 | 425 | 436 | 571 | 535 |
| North Royalton | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ohio Dept. of Liquor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ohio Investigative | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ohio State Patrol | 3388 | 3501 | 3023 | 2437 | 3317 |
| Private Citizen | 0 | 0 | 0 |   | 0 |
| Spencer Village | 159 | 62 | 90 | 42 | 49 |
| State of Ohio | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Strongsville | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Zoning Violations | 0 |   |   |   |   |
| Total | 8279 | 8,448 | 7,626 | 6,536 | 7,872 |
| Reactivated Cases | 308 | 339 | 215 | 333 | 212 |
| Total | 8587 | 8,787 | 7,841 | 6,869 | 8,084 |

The following several pages graphically display caseloads by case type over the last five years, with trend lines superimposed to convey case filing trends. The total annual cases comparison is the last graph displayed.

CLERK OF COURT 2019 REPORT

Nancy L. Abbott

The Medina Municipal Court began a conversion of its case management system in April 2019. Benchmark, Pioneer Technology Group, is a comprehensive court case management system that is helping our court streamline and automate many of our court’s day to day processes.

Through real-time access to court services, e-signing, custom workflows, and its scan upfront system, Benchmark has helped us become more efficient and provide better services to those who use our court.

The case management system data has been converted to the new Benchmark system. Court staff, prosecutors, defense attorneys, etc. are becoming more comfortable with the system. Many documents are now available online. Paper case files have been eliminated.

The following report covers April 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019. Financial data for the period from January 1, 2019 to April 1, 2019, is currently being converted to the Benchmark system.

The following table stretches over several pages. It summarizes all receipts and disbursements, alphabetically arranged by recipient, which the Clerk’s office made during the referenced 9-month period in 2019.











MAGISTRATES’ OFFICE 2019 REPORT

LINDA A. LEGGETT – Chief Magistrate

CHARLES T. LAWRIE – Magistrate

Magistrate Leggett and Magistrate Lawrie are both active members of the Ohio Association of Magistrates.

Chief Magistrate Leggett serves on the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Community Excellence Council since 2014 and on the Pretrial Standards and Recommendations Committee of the County’s Local Corrections Planning Board. In 2012, Chief Magistrate Leggett received certification from the Ohio Supreme Court in Basic Mediation & Uniform Mediation Act Training.

Magistrate Lawrie serves on the Court Technology Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference ([www.ohiojudges.org](http://www.ohiojudges.org)). The committee “explores new development in court technology and policies related to it, and serves as a resource to help Ohio judges effectively use technology.”

Judicial Seminars

(All seminars are through the Judicial college of the

Supreme Court of Ohio unless otherwise noted)

Magistrate Leggett attended the following seminar(s):

* April 2019: Ohio Association of Magistrates 2019 Spring Conference

*The History of United States Military Commissions; The Uniform Code of Military Justice and its Application in the Air Force; The Benefits of Using Veterans Courts; Resources for Ohio’s Justice-Involved Veterans; 9/11 Terrorist Hearings & Guantanamo Bay; Loans & Pay Day Lending; Attachment, Garnishment & Replevin; Revivors; Smalls Claims Franklin County Online Dispute Resolution Program; Small Claims Pleadings; Small Claims Hearing Issues; Understanding & Managing High Conflict People in Legal Disputes*

* October 2019: Project Dawn (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) NARCAN

*Training by the Medina County Health Department: Overdose education and Naloxone distribution program learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, performing rescue breathing, and administering NARCAN to someone experiencing an opioid overdose*

Magistrate Lawrie attending the following seminar(s):

* September 2019*:* Ohio Association of Magistrate’s 2019 Fall Conference

*Report on the Judiciary; Disruptive Technologies and Legal Innovation; 30 Years of OAM in Retrospect; Artificial Intelligence and predictive Analytics; The Effects of Social Media on Children and Adults; Adjudicating Canine Issues: The Mechanics of Dogfighting; Ohio Courts Update; Animal Cruelty in Ohio; Therapy Dogs in Mental Health Court; It’s Not the Fruit, It’s the Root.*

PROBATION DEPARTMENT 2019 REPORT

Matt Esterle-Chief Probation Officer

Gene Merinar-Deputy Chief Probation Officer

Amy Darr-Probation Officer/Grant Coordinator

Noelle Hayes-Probation Officer/Sealing of Records

Angela Kiss-ISP Probation Officer

Molly Kafer-Probation Officer

Melanie Stroup-Probation Officer/Community Service Coordinator

Renee Thomas-Lead Administrative Assistant

The year 2019 proved to be one of fundamental change for the court’s Adult Probation Department. In September, Marirose Power retired from the Chief Probation Officer’s position after establishing, guiding, and directing that department for more than three (3) decades. Ms. Power developed and created the department and the work performed would never had been so excellent without her guidance and vision. Her contributions are immeasurable and she will be missed.

Matt Esterle was selected from a diverse and qualified pool of candidates to serve as the court’s new Chief Probation Officer. Beginning in September, Matt brought to the court nearly 30-years of experience in law enforcement, community based supervision, corrections, and rehabilitation. He was most recently employed as a Senior Probation Officer with the Akron Municipal Court. Matt was instrumental in operating that court’s “Valor Court,” a specialized docket focused on rehabilitation for veterans. Matt is a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Program and serves on the Supreme Court’s Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative committee. He brings a wealth of experience with “problem solving courts” and “specialized docket programs” to the position. Matt is also a Medina County native and was raised in Lodi. He attended Cloverleaf Schools and graduated from The Defiance College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice/Criminology.

Also in 2019, longtime Probation Officer, Gene Merinar, was selected to act as the court’s first Deputy Chief Probation Officer. This position was established in no small part to help restructure the Department and to capitalize on Gene’s long and instrumental years of service to the court. Probation Officer Amy Darr was promoted from part-time to full-time and, in addition to her other duties, has assumed the Department’s Grant Director position. Officer Darr will manage the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections’ “Justice Reinvestment and Incentive Grant” (“JRIG”). The goal of these various moves is to continue developing evidenced-based practices in the Department, with the goal of reducing the number of supervised probationers who violate probation conditions and are incarcerated as a result.

In 2019, the Probation Department completed 517 Pre-Sentence Investigations (“PSI”) for the court, including 104 completed for incarcerated defendants at the Medina County Jail. PSI reports are prepared by probation personnel at court’s request. They are conducted to examine the educational, criminal, and family history, and the social background, of a person convicted of a crime. The PSI reports summarize for the court background information needed to determine an appropriate sentence.

In 2019, the Probation Department completed 155 Sealing of Records investigations for petitioners seeking relief and sealing of prior records. Record sealing is the practice of sealing certain otherwise public conviction or dismissal records from general public disclosure. Such records may still be reviewed under limited circumstances and in most instances, only upon a court order. The Probation Department performs eligibility and other determinations statutorily required of petitioners seeking the sealing of their criminal history records.

In 2019, the Probation Department processed 285 victim impact statements (“VIS”) during 2019. Victim impact statements provide essential information used by the court in fashioning appropriate sentences. The Department’s work with victims dovetails with the constitutional amendment expanding victims’’ rights in Ohio since February 5, 2018, known as “Marsy's Law.” Ohio Constitution Article I, Section 10a. The VIS helps to elicit descriptions of physical, emotional, and financial damage to the victim caused by the crime; medical or psychological treatments, or other restitutionary obligations, the crime made necessary; and victim's views on the crime, the offender, and on an appropriate sentence.

In 2019, 311 offenders were placed on probation with the Department. Of these, 55% were convicted of OVI or closely related offenses, 16% were convicted of Domestic Violence/Threatening Domestic Violence, 6% were convicted of property offenses, 5% of other violent offenses (assault), and the remaining 18% were convicted of various offenses including but not limited to drug law violations, sex offenses and other traffic offenses. Reporting appointments for the year totaled 2,685 and, for the 2nd straight year, over 1000 drug and alcohol screens were submitted. The Probation Department also supervised individuals ordered to either pre-trial bond reporting, electronically monitored house arrest, and/or transdermal alcohol monitoring.

Approximately 1,757 hours of Community Service Work were completed during 2019, on projects benefitting the citizens of this jurisdiction. These service hours represent a savings of approximately $17,500.00 USD to taxpayers.

Among the Probation Department’s goals for 2020 are the following: establishing a Veterans Treatment Court specialized docket to assist and address justice involved veterans—this process is well underway; increasing probationer success rates while reducing jail overcrowding; increasing access for affected probationers to support systems and substance abuse treatment programming, including medication assisted therapy (MAT) by working with local treatment providers; and implementing a Community Supervision Unit wherein Probation Officers will conduct home visits and meet probationers in their community environment, to verify and support adherence to sentencing directives. These are just some of the exciting changes occurring within this department and the court in general.

MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT 2019 BAILIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

Current staffing of the Court's Bailiff's Office consists of the Bailiff, five full-time Deputy Bailiffs, and one part-time Deputy Bailiff (who works as a security officer manning the Court's metal detector at the Court's public entrance). Bailiffs remain responsible for courtroom and general building security, attending to the Court's electronic recording system, assisting the Clerk of Court's operation by way of in court operation of the Benchmark Case Management System, and assisting the Court's Probation Department by conducting field visits. The Bailiff also supervises six additional part-time security guards who operate the Court's metal detector at the Court's security checkpoint.

In regard to the court security function, The Bailiff's office handled three (3) extraordinary incidents in the Court. A synopsis of these incidents is listed in the attachment following this report.

One Deputy Bailiff is responsible for the service of subpoenas and other Court documents throughout the Court's jurisdiction. This includes executing evictions and Court ordered recovery/sales of property. In 2019 the Bailiff's Office scheduled and executed 141 Writs of Execution (eviction orders), a 19.9% increase compared to 2018. (See Table #1) No Replevin actions were done during 2019.

The monitoring of defendants not in custody but under court-issued bond conditions remains a major Bailiff's Office function. The Bailiff's Office directly enters these defendants into the LEADS/NCIC Supervised Release file. Thus the Court and its Magistrates can help alleviate overcrowding at the County Jail by releasing more low risk defendants with personal recognizance or low cash bonds, yet maintaining supervision of these defendants by requiring them to obey specific conditions of bond which are designed to encourage compliance.

During 2019 The Bailiff's Office entered 213 defendants into the LEADS/NCIC Supervised Release file (with an additional 60 defendants already previously entered and active at the beginning of 2019). These entries yielded 95 subsequent contacts with law enforcement agencies for a variety of reasons, a 34.7% violation contact rate. Furthermore, the Bailiff's Office conducted 148 random compliance checks in regard to these entered defendants. Defendants were found at home during 52 of these random compliance visits, during which 18 violations were discovered. The remaining 34 visits found defendants in compliance with their conditions of bond.

The Bailiff's Office continues to pursue defendants who have failed to appear at the Court, or otherwise ignored court orders. During 2019 the Court's Bailiffs physically arrested 16 defendants, and cleared a total of 217 warrants by all means. This compares to the 28 defendants arrested, and 230 total warrants cleared in 2018 by the Bailiff's Office. Unanticipated staffing issues which arose during the year adversely impacted for a time the Office’s ability to conduct activities outside of the court. (See Table #2) Staffing has since returned to stable levels.

The Bailiff's Office is also expanding its assistance to the court in roles aiding other court functions. Specifically, the court’s bailiffs are more actively monitoring defendants not in custody for compliance with conditions of bond. Combining the 93 law enforcement contact violations with the 18 violations discovered by the Bailiff's Office, there were a total of 113 bond condition violations recorded in 2019. These are in relation to the 273 total defendants entered in the Supervised Release file during 2019. This represents a 41.4% bond condition violation rate.

The Bailiff’s Office is also now assisting more routinely the Court's Probation Department in monitoring probationers through, e.g., field visits, as requested by probation personnel. In 2019 the Bailiff's Office conducted 89 such visits (compared with 40 such visits in 2018). These visits resulted in 11 violations being found, and 26 visits where no violations were discovered. The remainder of the visits (52) found the probationer not at home. The bailiffs continue to work towards balancing these new undertakings with the department’s existing responsibilities.

Also in addition to entries made into the LEADS/NCIC Supervised Release file for defendants subject to conditions of bond, the Bailiff's Officer also continues to enter into this same LEADS/NCIC file those defendants convicted in this Court and placed on probation. These entries allow law enforcement agencies across the nation (as well as Canada and Mexico) to identify people they have come into contact with who are some type of supervised release with this Court. These agencies may then contact the Court's Probation Department for additional information as necessary, (e.g. individuals being screened by ICE or individuals being screened for a firearm's purchase). This allows the Court's Probation Department to better monitor those defendants on probation.

At the end of 2019, the Court listed 286 probationers in the Supervised Release file. During 2019 the Court received 108 notifications ("hits") of probationer contacts with law enforcement agencies. These contacts run the gamut of relatively minor traffic violations to more serious crimes such as OVI, Domestic Violence, Violating Protection Orders, and felony crimes such as BURGLARLY, DRUG TRAFFICKING and FELONY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

As an example of the importance of this entry activity, a probationer who was entered in the LEADS/NCIC Supervised Release apparently tried to obtain a firearm from a pawn shop in a neighboring county. The Court then received an automatic notice that the probationer had been subject of a law enforcement inquiry (The FBI background check). As the probationer was barred from possessing a firearm, this attempt to obtain the firearm was reported by the Court to the local law enforcement agency. Subsequent investigation revealed that the probationer (who was also a previously convicted felon) had actually pawned the firearm, and was now attempting to retrieve it. The probationer was subsequently arrested on a felony charge of having a Weapon under Disability, and the firearm was confiscated.

 Bailiff Carl F. Meding

 9 January 2020

ATTACHMENT ONE TO BAILIFF’S REPORT

SECURITY INCIDENT SYNOPIS

3-13-2019

Subject with known mental health issues caused disturbance in lobby of Probation Department. Subject demanded to see Chief Probation Officer. When the subject was denied access to probation offices, the subject became disruptive and threw items. Bailiffs escorted the individual from the building. This subject was subsequently served with a Court Order barring her from the Court building unless specifically authorized.

3-27-2019

Defendant waiting in Court lobby began to bleed heavily from the mouth. Defendant indicated that he suffers from hemophilia, had recent dental surgery, and believed that he had a torn a stich. LST was summoned, and subsequently transported the subject to Medina Hospital. Defendant began to pass out as the paramedics were taking him to the ambulance. Area was subsequently cleaned and disinfected.

8-7-2019

Probationer in lobby of Probation Department began having medical issues as he lost his balance and fell to his knees and began convulsing. LST was immediately summoned. The subject was assisted to a chair and consented to a PBT test. (Test result was .012%). It appears that the subject was going through serious alcohol withdrawal issues. Subject initially refused medical attention. After leaving Court building the subject again began to experience difficulties. Responding MPD officer assisted the subject and he was subsequently transported to Medina Hospital.

TABLE #1 to Bailiff’s Report

EVICTION ACTIVITY

(FORCIBLE ENTRY AND LOCK CHANGE)

 YEAR NUMBER OF EVICTIONS

 2015……………………………..167

 2016……………………………..155

 2017……………………………..132

 2018……………………………..113

 2019……………………………..141

TABLE #2 to Bailiff’s Report

WARRANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

 TOTAL NUMBER OF WARRANTS RESOLVED…………………..............217

 TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS…………………………………………….209

 WARRANTS RESOLVED BY ACTION TAKEN:

 EXECUTED BY ARREST……………………………………………………………..16

 CAME TO COURT AFTER HOME VISIT………………………………………..12

 CAME TO COURT AFTER PHONE CONTACT……………………………….109

 CAME TO COURT AFTER WARRANT BLOCK…………………………………80

 NUMBER OF HOME VISITS MADE………………………………………………49

COMPUTER DEVELOPMENTS

2019 Annual Report

Jon Mazanetz

Senior IT Technician

The court employs a Management Information Specialist to coordinate all technology applications. The current equipment in place consists of 38 printers, 3 printer/copier/fax systems, 48 desktop workstations, 2 laptops. Two Dell Power Edge VRTX servers handle the case management system, segmented network storage, and online court access. A Meraki firewall appliance is installed to comply with requirements from the Ohio Leads Organization. For virus protection the court has Trend Micro running on all systems. Three Meraki access points are installed to allow employee and visitor access to the internet.

The court continues to work with Technology Engineering Group for guidance in hardware and software programs. They continue to be a highly valued asset to the courthouse for high-level troubleshooting, maintenance, and implementation.

The court uses a new case management system called Benchmark. Pioneer Technology Group of Sanford, Florida has implemented the software. The IT admin was heavily involved in the implementation of the new Benchmark software. This was to help with a smooth transition, and to become proficient in supporting the needs of the users in the courthouse regarding the software. With this new software, the court can shift into a mostly paperless environment. This will free up the cost of any physical storage, as well as printer maintenance. This software is expected to greatly increase productivity both within and between departments due to going paperless.

The court has several technology goals for 2020. The main goal is to upgrade the server infrastructure that supports the case management software. There will be a noticeable difference in speed, storage, and scalability. The court is also going to employ a technology refresh cycle for user workstations. A few features the courthouse is looking to add are Text Alerts and E-Filing.

This will ensure up-to-date hardware for all court employees to match the standards / hardware requirements of the court’s systems. The court records are continually backed up to the Barracuda Cloud system which is maintained offsite for disaster recovery purposes. This data contains records dating back to the 1980. The contract is expiring June 2020 and the court is exploring all options to see what the best fit will be as a replacement.

Audio is recorded in both courtrooms by software from FTR systems and is stored on the network drives. This audio dates to 2003 and is also backed up to the Barracuda Cloud system.

The technical staff attends various meetings each year to keep current on changes to the case management system as well as new trends in hardware and software development.

There are two LEADS systems in use by the court allowing authorized users to look up data for court processing. This also reduces the workload for Medina Police Department. The system is secured by a Meraki firewall.

The website is hosted by Blue Domino. The site has the functionality to allow lookups based on case scheduling for criminal, traffic, and civil cases.

The court camera system is managed on through via a Hikvision DVR with 16 total cameras, 3 IP cameras and 13 analog cameras.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING SERVICES

The Court maintains interpreting services for defendants who do not speak English and require assistance in their native language to understand court proceedings. The Supreme Court of Ohio contracts with Language Line Services of Monterey, California and offers their services to Ohio Courts to provide language translation for short court proceedings (approximately 5 to 10 minutes in length). Monarca Language Services, a Medina business, is used by the Court for other translation services.

WEDDINGS

Judge Werner performed 52 weddings in 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

MEDINA MUNICIPAL COURT

MARCH 31, 2020

 Gary F. Werner Nancy L. Abbott

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 GARY F. WERNER, JUDGE NANCY L. ABBOTT, CLERK