

# First Judicial District

## Testimony

### *Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget*

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Presented to: Philadelphia City Council – Committee of the Whole  
Honorable Darrell L. Clarke, Council President

*Date:* May 3, 2017

On behalf of: The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas  
Philadelphia Municipal Court

By: Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge Court of Common Pleas, and  
Chair, Administrative Governing Board  
Honorable Marsha H. Neifield, President Judge of Municipal Court  
Honorable Jacqueline F. Allen, Administrative Judge, Trial Division  
Honorable Matthew D. Carrafiello, Administrative Judge of Orphans' Court  
Honorable Gary S. Glazer, Administrative Judge of Traffic Division  
Honorable, Margaret T. Murphy Administrative Judge of Family Court  
Joseph H. Evers, District Court Administrator, First Judicial District

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## **The Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Testimony of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania**

My name is, Sheila Woods-Skipper and I am privileged to address you today as the Chair of the First Judicial District's Administrative Governing Board and President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. I am here representing my colleagues on the Administrative Governing Board, Honorable Marsha H. Neifield, President Judge Municipal Court; Honorable Jacqueline F. Allen, Administrative Judge Trial Division; Honorable Matthew D. Carrafiello, Administrative Judge Orphans' Court; Honorable Gary S. Glazer, Administrative Judge Traffic Division; and Honorable Margaret T. Murphy, Administrative Judge Family Court. Also, in attendance is Joseph H. Evers, District Court Administrator and Kevin Cross, Deputy Court Administrator, Financial Services to answer questions from members of City Council about the FJD Budget Request.

The mission of our courts is to adjudicate cases according to their jurisdiction and ensure fair, timely and accessible justice to the citizens and litigants in the City and County of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Court System enables every litigant to receive their day in court whether through innovative specialty courts and progressive diversion programs; convenient on-line court access; multifaceted re-entry programs and by implementing best practices in family and youth services. These proactive initiatives, coupled with our high level of judicial commitment and productivity, enable the Court to meet many societal needs and enhance the lives of all citizens of Philadelphia.

All of the FJD's programs, initiatives, accomplishments, performance measures, goals and objectives are available in our Annual Report which members of this Council have received and is available on our website.

Today, I will outline how the Philadelphia Judiciary contributes to its budget, how we remain a fiscally responsible partner in government, and how we invest in our workforce, our clients and constituents, our justice partners, in our facilities and in outcomes. These investments are achieved by implementing new initiatives while not seeking additional funds in our budget, creating efficiencies within our justice system, and providing accessible services to our citizens and those in need.

Investments cannot be achieved without a Strategic Plan and I have convened an internal high-level working group to prepare a Strategic Plan for the First Judicial District. The goal of this strategic plan is to implement proactive measures to ensure a responsible approach to modern issues which affect our courts, while fostering an unwavering public trust in our judiciary. To achieve this goal we are using the Trial Court Performance Standards established by the National Center for State Courts and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. By taking into account the rapid pace of societal change within our large metropolitan district and our commitment to self-evaluation, the courts of the FJD are well positioned to take on future challenges as we continue our quest for excellence.

Our budget request for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$161,466,092 million dollars and consists of \$111.4 million for the General Fund and \$50.0 million for Grants Revenue and is awaiting your approval. In large measure, this \$161 million budget request is paid for by the court system itself. In fact, the FJD generates \$49.0 million dollars that is credited to the general fund from filing fees, fines and costs (\$31.0 million) and, reimbursements (\$16.0 million). In addition, the FJD saves the City and its agencies nearly \$4.6 million annually by waiving filing fees in the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court as well as \$3.2 million law library fees. As a consequence, of the total \$158 million budget request, the FJD is in reality only seeking \$55.9 million.



**Table 1: FJD General Fund Budget and Revenue Contributions:**

<b>FY18 FJD General Fund Budget .....</b>	<b>\$111,442,508</b>
FJD Reimbursements & Grant in Aid from other Governments.....	(\$15,957,000)
Filing Fees, Fines and Costs .....	(\$31,017,000)
Jenkins Law Library Fee Collected and Paid on City's Behalf.....	(\$3,240,125)
Waived Fees for City Agencies.....	(\$4,517,052)
<b>Total Revenue that Offsets General Fund Budget.....</b>	<b>(\$55,868,324)</b>
<b>Net Cost to Fund FJD Courts .....</b>	<b>\$55,574,184</b>

Based on the revenue we generate and fees waived to our partner agencies, the Philadelphia Judiciary's budget is less than 1.3% of the City's overall General Fund budget.

**As a fiscally responsible partner in government:**

The FJD has maintained to keep its employee complement 100 positions lower than in 2012 and our overtime expense remains less than one-tenth of one-percent of our Class 100 budget.

For three consecutive years, we have not requested any additional funds in our budget and this budget-neutral request can generate budget savings while we implement new programs and initiatives.

**Investments in what matters most**

My testimony outlines how the FJD is a critical partner in the Philadelphia justice community as we strive to provide access to justice services in an efficient and effective manner. This role is not taken lightly and we remain committed to investing in what matters most: our **workforce, constituents, justice partners and facilities**. For our workforce, we recognize our employees' years of service, and have employee appreciation events as a way to thank our workforce for their efforts. Regular and ongoing training programs keep our workforce up-to-date on best practices and we provide management development seminars to foster career advancement and create an engaged and valued workforce. For our constituents, we have tailored programs to address the needs of each group whether they are children, families, seniors, litigants, clients or defendants; they are all treated with respect and dignity. Investment and collaboration with our justice partners enables the justice system to work efficiently as reflected here in our written testimony. Our facilities continue to improve as we have added the Family Court Building in 2014, redesigned our Traffic Division hearing rooms, adding security cameras in the Stout Center for Criminal Justice and are having murals added to the City Hall Jury Room.

**Savings to Other Agencies**

The FJD has remained a cooperative and responsible partner in government by creating, collaborating and implementing programs that streamline case processing and reducing costs to other agencies. Our involvement and participation in the MacArthur grant criminal justice reform initiative has generated saving by reducing incarceration lengths of stay through early bail review for eligible pretrial

defendants. The soon to be added 700 new technologically advanced electronic monitoring equipment can further impact the prison population. Additionally, we are continuously evaluating our criminal court programs to identify savings to other criminal justice agencies in the following areas: by creating reductions in prisoner transportation through video conferencing and using case management scheduling to reduce or eliminate police officer appearances.

### **Creating access and accessibility to the Philadelphia Justice System:**

**Web-based job application** – last year at this time we announced the development of an on-line job-application system where residents and interested job-seekers can apply for posted positions utilizing our on-line job application accessible via our website. Since implemented, we have received 11,887 on-line job applications where prospective candidates can apply for positions, submit resumes and cover-letters without coming to our Human Resources office, all saving applicants the time and expense of traveling to center city.

**Electronic filings and payments** – our courts are committed to be fully accessible to the public and legal community via the internet for on-line case status, jury duty status, and payment of fines and fees. In 2016, over 877,000 documents were transmitted electronically or e-filed by our litigants in Civil, Criminal and Orphans' Court cases, and can occur at any hour or day of the week. Additionally, 200,000 individuals used our interactive voice response system to access the status of Traffic Division cases resulting in \$7.6 million in fines and costs received. Currently, over two million (2,000,000) case filings are stored electronically, eliminating the paper file in a majority of our courtrooms.

### **New Initiatives:**

**Day Reporting Center** – in our original budget submission and letter to the Mayor, the FJD outlined its willingness to discuss and pursue implementing an adult Day-reporting initiative and seeks input from City Council to formalize this endeavor.

**Internet access in our Courthouses** – our Family Court and Criminal Court locations are Wi-Fi enabled for the public and our litigants to access the internet to assist in presenting their case. Our City Hall courtrooms is the next location we seek to install Wi-Fi access.

**FJD Elder Care Resource Center** – on October 13, 2016, I officially opened Pennsylvania's first ever Elder Justice Resource Center. Created as a result of recommendations from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force, the new Elder Justice Resource Center will be a one-stop resource for elderly citizens needing legal assistance or access to legal resources. Since its opening, the Elder Justice Resources Center assisted numerous seniors via walk-ins, recorded phone calls, and e-mail. The Center coordinates access to FJD services, courts and offices by providing: 1) equipment for hearing support, assistance to those with vision and mobility disabilities, interpreter services to overcome language barriers; 2) a listing of referral agencies for in-home services, legal services and other community based resources; and, 3) sponsor educational seminars to educate and safeguard seniors from exploitation, physical and financial abuse and mental health issues.

**Orphans' Court** jurisdiction includes guardianships of minors and incapacitated persons and their estates, decedents' estates, marriage licenses, and powers of attorney. Originating in 1683 by William Penn, the Philadelphia Orphans' Court protects those who cannot protect themselves. Its



jurisdiction encompasses people of all ages and stages of life and entities such as estates, trusts, charities and cemeteries. The Court has responded to the city's increasing aging population by providing a guardian investigator to review, monitor, and audit guardian reports and filings. Also, development and implementation of a statewide uniform Orphans' Court case management system will enhance caseflow processing and reporting.

**Family Court's** mission statement for its Juvenile Probation Department is justice is best served when the community, victim and youth receive balanced attention and all gain tangible outcomes from their interaction with Juvenile Probation. Here are two brief examples of how this is fulfilled:

Juvenile Probation Evening Reporting Centers are a community-based alternative to juvenile confinement whose goals are to promote court appearances and reduce the likelihood of re-arrests while allowing youth to remain at home and continue to attend their neighborhood school. In 2016 the program serviced 84 youth and reported a 91% overall success rate.

Also, in 2016, the Victim Services Unit serviced 1,186 victims of juvenile crime and collected \$187, 000 in restitution crime victims.

**Municipal Court** provides a court-based Landlord/Tenant Help program to improve access to justice for low-income unrepresented tenants in Philadelphia. The court provides space for volunteer attorneys and informational pamphlets. Discussions between President Judge Marsha Neifield, TURN (Tenant Union Representative Network), the Senior Law Center and the private bar seek future expansion of the program to include:

- Realizing the vision of the Help Center to have sufficient volunteers to begin a Lawyer for the Day Program.
- Expanded use of volunteers for tasks such as intake/screening and off-site advice.
- Increased access to pro-bono counsel through additional recruitment and training.

**Traffic Division** of the Philadelphia Municipal Court has been a proponent of the electronic citation which will yield more efficient, expedient, and safer car stops. Repetitive information will be auto-populated and citation data automatically transmitted to the Traffic Division. A pilot program will begin shortly in two Police Districts.

**Cell Phone Restrictions in the Stout Center for Criminal Justice** – Beginning in April, all entrants to the Stout Center are required to turn off their mobile devices and place them in a form-fitting, lockable *Yondr* pouch. Members of the public can keep their pouch-covered device with them, but will be unable to access it for purposes of taking photos or videos, sending text messages, or placing/receiving phone calls. This new policy will deter witness intimidation and courtroom distractions while addressing safety and security concerns in our courtrooms. The collection and distribution of the *Yondr* pouches is handled by the Sheriff's office and can be locked and unlocked by a simple magnetic disk mechanism. It is this type of forward and creative thinking that "addresses a 21<sup>st</sup> century problem with a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution" as stated by my colleague Administrative Judge Jacqueline F. Allen in our press conference announcing the cellphone ban.

**Mural Arts Paintings in our Civil Jury Room** – set to be installed in Room 195 City Hall, new inspirational murals will adorn the walls the FJD's Civil Jury Room. Designed and created by Nathaniel Lee, a staff muralist at Mural Arts Philadelphia, these murals will highlight the concept of justice through several key images: the text of the 7th amendment, which outlines the right to trial by a

jury of peers; scenes of jurors empaneled; a representation of a sculpture of blind justice; and the symbolic center and crossroads of Philadelphia at City Hall. The various scenes depicted in the murals are set here in Philadelphia and include community members who represent the diversity of the city.

**Video Camera Installation at the Juanita Kidd-Stout Center for Criminal Justice** – 168 cameras have been installed in hallways and common areas of the Stout Center to promote the cause of justice, deter intimidation and foster a safe and secure environment for our victims of crime, witnesses and litigants. Grant funds partially offset the cost of this project.

**Electronic Evidence Presentment** – courtrooms in the Stout Center for Criminal Justice are being equipped with wireless receivers and monitors permitting video, pictures, documents and any other electronic media that can be stored on a mobile device to be transmitted to the monitor. This technology will be available to all courtroom litigants including the District Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office and private counsel and can be presented from a laptop, tablet, or mobile phone. Grant funds have been secured for this project. Vendor delays have postponed this project which will be implemented in FY18.

### **MacArthur Grant Award**

This grant to Philadelphia from this prestigious foundation is the result of unparalleled collaboration between the city's criminal justice partners and this Council resulting in \$3.5 million awarded to address much needed criminal justice reforms. The initiatives in this grant will substantially alter the city's prison population, create alternatives to cash bail, establish and enhance diversion and early-intervention programs and address racial and ethnic disparities throughout the justice system.

The Early Bail Review has been a highlight of the first year of the MacArthur grant partnership. In July 2016, President Judge H. Marsha and the Philadelphia Municipal Court, in collaboration with the Defender Association and the District Attorney's Office, started conducting early bail review hearings for individuals in custody on low bail amounts and no other holding matters. This new hearing process provides an early release opportunity for people who remain in custody because they cannot make bail.

Early Bail Review statistics from July 2016 to February 2017 outline the following results:

- 82.4% (309 people) of defendants who receive an Early Bail Review hearing obtained release
- 92.3% of defendants released appeared at their next court date
- 88.1% of defendants ordered to Pretrial Services show up for pretrial orientation
- Over 43,000 jail inmate bed days saved since the inception of Early Bail Review in July, 2016

Another FJD MacArthur initiative is obtaining new electronic monitoring which will replace and enhance the current system by adding cellular technology and will eliminate the need to individuals to have a landline telephone to participate in electronic monitoring.

### **Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program**

The Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program remains a highly-acclaimed, innovative and successful program that allows homeowners to stave-off mortgage foreclosure through conciliation conferences. In October 2016, the Philadelphia Department of Housing and Community Development acknowledged the 10,000th home saved under the program.



### **Civil Tax Rule Returnable Program**

The Court of Common Pleas Civil Division under the direction of Supervising Judge Idee Fox has instituted an owner-occupied residential homeowner tax program to help alleviate property tax delinquency and the possible loss of homes through tax sheriff sale. This program puts housing counselors from the Philadelphia Department of Housing and Community Development with the Law Department and the homeowner together to come up with an Owner-Occupied Payment Agreement to get current on their outstanding taxes. The program is set to start in June and already the weekly caseload is expected to be over 100 participants.

### **Civil Tax Sequestration Program**

The Court of Common Pleas Commerce Court handles Petitions to Appoint Sequestrators for commercial properties where tax liens have been filed. In the three-and-one-half years of the Commerce Court's Sequestration Project, the City obtained over \$54 million dollars in back taxes, including more than \$17 million in 2016. Approximately half of this money goes to the Philadelphia School District to help alleviate its funding shortfall.

### **Conclusion**

Lastly, in addition to providing the delivery of fair, timely and accessible justice to Philadelphians, the FJD should be recognized for its contribution to offsetting its costs and generating revenue for other city agencies. As outlined in my testimony today, an investment into our courts, judiciary and staff creates returns that positively impact our justice partners, other city agencies, and our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony today. On behalf of the Philadelphia Judiciary, Administrative Governing Board, and the employees of the FJD, we respectfully seek City Council's consideration and approval of our FY18 General Fund and Grants Revenue budget request. I will take your questions at this time.

## Financial, Contracting and Demographics Summary

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PA BUDGET SUMMARY AND OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS

#### Financial Summary by Class - General Fund

	Fiscal 2016 Actual Obligations	Fiscal 2017 Original Appropriations	Fiscal 2017 Estimated Obligations	Fiscal 2018 Proposed Appropriations	Difference FY18 FY17
Class 100 - Employee Compensation	\$97,017,514	\$97,254,698	\$96,788,135	\$99,505,601	\$2,717,466
Class 200 - Purchase of Services	\$17,650,649	\$10,656,574	\$10,185,574	\$9,545,039	(\$640,535)
Class 300 - Materials and Supplies	\$1,870,581	\$1,870,944	\$1,870,944	\$1,870,944	\$0
Class 400 - Equipment	\$520,924	\$520,924	\$520,924	\$520,924	\$0
Class 500 - Contributions	\$827,023	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 700 - Debt Service	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 800 - Payment to Other Funds	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 900 - Advances/Misc. Payments	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$117,886,691</b>	<b>\$110,303,140</b>	<b>\$109,365,577</b>	<b>\$111,442,508</b>	<b>\$2,076,931</b>

#### Contract Summary

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Total amount of contracts	\$6,313,226	\$6,328,348	\$6,154,947	\$6,250,603	\$8,207,310	\$6,609,088
Total amount of M/W/DBE	\$3,068,943	\$2,895,610	\$3,149,245	\$3,061,432	\$3,674,673	\$3,764,767
Participation Rate	49%	46%	51%	49%	45%	57%

#### FJD Staff Demographics (as of December, 2016)

Staff Demographics Summary (as of December 2016)				
	Total	Minority	White	Female
Number of Full-Time Staff	2372	955	1417	1457
Number of Civil Service-Exempt Staff	2372	955	1417	1457
Number of Executive Staff (deputy level and above)	48	10	36	19
Average Salary, Full-Time Staff	\$48,833	\$48,614	\$50,476	\$47,585
Average Salary, Civil Service-Exempt Staff	\$48,833	\$48,614	\$50,476	\$47,585
Average Salary, Executive Staff	\$95,113	\$100,618	\$98,866	\$93,731
Median Salary, Full-Time Staff	\$46,208	\$46,208	\$46,130	\$44,177
Median Salary, Civil Service-Exempt Staff	\$46,208	\$46,208	\$46,130	\$44,177
Median Salary, Executive Staff	\$98,660	\$98,760	\$98,560	\$91,296



Employment Levels (as of December 2016)	
	Filled
Number of Full-Time Positions	2372
Number of Part-Time Positions	153
Number of Civil-Service Exempt Positions	2372
Number of Executive Positions	48
Average Salary of All Full-Time Positions	\$48,833
Median Salary of All Full-Time Positions	\$46,208

Staff Demographics (as of December 2016)					
Full-Time Staff			Executive Staff		
	Male	Female		Male	Female
	African-American	African-American		African-American	African-American
Total	258	612	Total	5	3
% of Total	10%	24%	% of Total	11%	7%
Average Salary	\$47,399	\$46,350	Average Salary	\$104,789	\$90,885
Median Salary	\$45,862	\$43,496	Median Salary	\$102,836	\$90,696
	White	White		White	White
Total	631	843	Total	20	16
% of Total	25%	33%	% of Total	43%	35%
Average Salary	\$53,362	\$47,590	Average Salary	\$97,982	\$94,264
Median Salary	\$48,083	\$44,177	Median Salary	\$101,066	
	Hispanic	Hispanic		Hispanic	Hispanic
Total	40	76	Total	1	0
% of Total	2%	3%	% of Total	2%	0%
Average Salary	\$49,454	\$47,203	Average Salary	\$115,154	\$0
Median Salary	\$46,241	\$46,235	Median Salary	\$115,154	\$0
	Asian	Asian		Asian	Asian
Total	12	15	Total	1	0
% of Total	0%	1%	% of Total	2%	0%
Average Salary	\$49,725	\$48,908	Average Salary	\$110,499	\$0
Median Salary	\$41,972	\$50,725	Median Salary	\$110,499	\$0
	Other	Other		Other	Other
Total	18	27	Total	0	0
% of Total	1%	1%	% of Total	0%	0%
Average Salary	\$50,772	\$47,566	Average Salary	\$0	\$0
Median Salary	\$54,267	\$45,049	Median Salary	\$0	\$0
	Bilingual	Bilingual		Bilingual	Bilingual
Total	0	0	Total	0	0
% of Total	0%	0%	% of Total	0%	0%
Average Salary	\$0	\$0	Average Salary	\$0	\$0
Median Salary	\$0	\$0	Median Salary	\$0	\$0
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Total	959	1573	Total	27	19
% of Total	38%	62%	% of Total	59%	41%
Average Salary	\$50,142	\$47,523	Average Salary	\$103,128	\$93,731
Median Salary	\$49,725	\$47,566	Median Salary	\$102,436	\$91,296

## **Creating Efficiencies within the Criminal Justice System**

The FJD has remained a cooperative and responsible partner in government by creating, collaborating and implementing programs that streamline case processing. We have evaluated some of our criminal court programs to identify savings to other criminal justice agencies by reducing or eliminating the following: incarceration days; prisoner transportation; lab fees for drug testing, and police officer appearances. These efficiencies and savings are determined based on additional expenses other criminal justice agencies could incur if these services were not provided.

- **Stout Center Video Conferencing**

**Savings: \$1,252,924**

The use of video conferencing reduces the need to transport prisoners in a large number of criminal cases makes it easier for victims and child witnesses to testify; and it addresses and improves some of our court security concerns. During calendar year 2016, the criminal courts conducted 4,817 video conferences saving the city in police overtime, and prisoner and transportation costs.

- **Video Crash Court**

**Savings: \$715,514**

In addition to the use of video conferencing, the Video Crash Court expedited adjudications of 314 cases from formal case processing. The collective benefits of this program generates savings by canceling subpoenas for police officer appearances, accelerating prisoner release, lessening prisoner- transportation, and lifting VOP's.

- **Early Resolution Initiative**

**Savings: \$1,032,077**

Furthermore in 2016, an additional 499 cases were adjudicated through the early resolution initiative. Many cases that would have previously been scheduled to Video Crash Court are now scheduled more quickly to the early resolution list.

- **Electronic Monitoring**

**Savings: \$3,546,535**

The Electronic Monitoring Unit supervises pre-trial and post-trial adult defendants ordered by the judiciary to Electronic Monitoring. The monthly electronic monitoring inventories average around 700 defendants on active monitoring. This program generates savings in incarceration costs.

- **Juvenile Delinquent GPS Monitoring**

**Savings: \$6,669,768**

Additionally for juveniles adjudicated as delinquent, the use of GPS Monitoring as an alternative to placement and detention saves in juvenile justice service costs.

- **Attorney/Client Video Interview Program**

**Savings: \$459,552**

The Attorney/Client Video Interview Program was instituted in April 2011. In 2016, 719 State and County video interviews were scheduled resulting in the early disposition of almost 30% of these matters. State and County matters scheduled via video yielded a transportation savings of \$459,552.

- **Accelerated Misdemeanor Program**

**Savings: \$391,227**

Accelerated Misdemeanor Program targets eligible misdemeanor-violators for post arraignment diversion and early resolution of their cases with offers for community service and court costs. In 2016, approximately 2,900 listed cases were removed from the standard criminal calendar resulting in savings from reduced police overtime. Also, a total of 17,493 community service hours were completed.



- **Mental Health Court**

**Savings: \$111,300**

Mental Health Court is a re-entry program that provides intensive wrap-around treatment and individualized probation supervision. The Court aims to reduce the recidivism rate by facilitating the re-entry of offenders with mental illness from incarceration into supervised community treatment settings. This program saves in reducing prison costs.

### **Performance Measures, Outcomes, Caseload Statistics, and Achievements**

- **In the Family Court Division**

- **Juvenile Delinquency Court**

At the end of 2016, 2,241 juveniles were under the supervision of the Probation Department, and including office, home and community site visits, juvenile probation officers completed more than 37,133 contacts with youth and their families.

In 2016, 272 youth were awarded a High School Diploma, and 100 youth earned their GED Certificate while in residential care.

The Student Transition Center is the link between residential placement and youth returning to their neighborhood school. Of the 476 youth participated in 2016, 309 youth were assigned to a Comprehensive or a Transitional School to achieve their academic goal for a high school diploma or a GED Certificate

Over 28,000 hours of youth Community Service was completed in 2016. This calculates into \$203,000 in services for neighborhoods and citizens in Philadelphia using the current minimum wage scale.

Combined collections for restitution to juvenile victims and court fees totaled \$287,089.

The utilization of GPS Monitoring, as an alternative to placement and detention saved City of Philadelphia taxpayers \$6,667,000 in juvenile justice services.

In 2016, the number of closed cases increased from 1,563 in 2015 to 1,663 in 2016, while the number of arrest declined by 20% from 2,676 in 2015 to 2,145 in 2016.

- **Dependency Court**

3,598 dependency cases were filed in 2015. Or an 8% increase from 2015.

3,193 Dependent adjudicated cases were closed, and terminated from court supervision. A 40% increase from 2015.

Family reunification is the preferred permanency option for children in the dependency system and in 2016, family reunifications totaled 240.

Adoptions increased by 18% in 2016, permanent homes were found for 610 children.

Of the children under the courts supervision at the end of 2016, 49% remained at home or were in kinship care, 36% were in foster care, 11% were in congregate care, and the remainder either in a detainment center, hospital, or unknown according to case reports

- Domestic Relations

In 2016, there were approximately 79,000 total filings in the Domestic Relations Branch (20,308 custody, 35,338 support, 9,879 domestic violence and 13,432 divorce) and more than 92,000 interim and final orders entered (31,950 custody, 29,773 support, 26,945 domestic violence, and 3,438 divorce).

In 2016, Domestic Relations judges and custody masters entered more than 32,000 interim and final dispositions, representing an increase of more than 6,000 dispositions during the same time period in 2015.

In 2016, the Domestic Relations Branch exceeded the 80% threshold in all performance areas and was instrumental in ensuring that the state of Pennsylvania remained the most efficient and effective Child Support Enforcement program in the country.

In 2016, support collections totaled more than \$155M, which represents a \$2M increase over 2015 collections

- Criminal Trial Division

- Adult Probationers

Total number of offenders supervised by APPD on 12/31/2015: 44,227.

The number of drug tests administered to probation clients totaled 80,359.

- Pre-trial Services / Electronic Monitoring Unit

At the end of 2016, there were 568 clients on active electronic monitoring and the total number monitored was 1,658. The Unit installed 1,658 electronic monitoring devices and visited 12,387 clients on electronic monitoring.

- Civil and Criminal Clearance Rates

- The Clearance Rate is the standard performance measure for the management of caseloads. A clearance rate of over 100% means a court is disposing more cases than it receives in new filings.

#### Common Pleas Criminal Trial Division

Case Type	Homicide	Felony Majors Program	Felony List Program	Total
New Cases	186	4,214	7,422	11,822
Disposed Cases	208	4,148	9,399	13,755
Clearance Rate	112%	98%	127%	116%

- Approximately 90% of civil cases filed were disposed with 24 months of initial filing.

#### Common Pleas Civil Trial Division

Cases	2016	2015	2014	2013
New Cases	35,812	35,888	35,739	35,147
Disposed Cases	41,089	37,576	37,314	41,150
Clearance Rate	115%	105%	104%	117%



<b>Residential Mortgage Foreclosures</b>		
<b>Filings and Dispositions</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Filed</b>	<b>Disposed</b>
2008	6,151	7,508
2009	8,381	11,501
2010	7,654	6,904
2011	4,638	6,031
2012	6,290	8,028
2013	6,145	6,641
2014	5,345	6,374
2015	5,178	6,075
2016	5,234	6,232
<b>Total*</b>	<b>55,016</b>	<b>65,294 *</b>
* Includes cases reopened from a prior year		

### **Municipal Court Criminal Division**

<b>Cases</b>	<b>Felony Held for Court</b>	<b>Misdemeanors</b>	<b>Total</b>
New Cases	18,617	17,521	36,138
Disposed Cases	19,347	18,932	38,279
Clearance Rate	104%	108%	106%

### **Municipal Court Civil Division**

<b>Cases</b>	<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Landlord /Tenant</b>	<b>Small Claims/Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
New Cases	35,305	24,466	17,756	77,527
Disposed Cases	40,431	26,943	20,209	87,583
Clearance Rate	115%	110%	114%	113%

- **Municipal Court Traffic Division**

- 105,026 motor vehicle citations were issued in 2016.
- Traffic Division adjudications totaled 112,520 of which 69% were by trial and 50% of the remainder pleaded guilty.
- 50,979 installment payment plan hearings were conducted to arrange payment of citation fees.
- 11979 Impoundment hearings for confiscated vehicles.
- 1,550 warrant hearings were conducted.
- Traffic Court collected \$22 million which is approx. four (4) times its budget.

## Specialty Courts and Alternatives to Incarceration

The courts and divisions of the FJD administer numerous programs that provide diversion services and specialty courts as an alternative to incarceration

### Municipal Court – Criminal

- **Veterans Court** is a program that assists justice-involved veterans struggling with mental health, substance abuse, or other re-integration issues with immediate access to representatives from the Veterans Administration (VA) to determine benefits eligibility and to perform an assessment to determine the appropriate level of care.
- **Project DAWN** streamlines prostitution cases to centralize treatment, housing and ancillary services for women in custody on detainers or open prostitution cases. Project Dawn strives to provide holistic and evidence based treatment options to its participants, supporting them through their recovery journeys by addressing mental health, substance abuse and significant trauma histories. The program operates with the dual goals of decreasing the number of non-violent offenders in Philadelphia county jails and reducing recidivism for this population of women.
- **The Choice is Yours (TCY)** is an innovative alternative-to-incarceration program that diverts non-violent felony drug offenders away from prison and toward positive social services and support. TCY strives to reduce recidivism rates and address the problem of prison overcrowding without compromising public safety. TCY's goals are to: (1) reduce the likelihood of recidivism among TCY participants; (2) reduce state and city costs by cutting the number of trials among the TCY target population; (3) reduce costs associated with pre-trial and post-trial incarceration; and (4) provide participants with the skills and training necessary to become productive, employable individuals without the stigma of a criminal conviction.
- **Bench Warrants Court** provides swift and certain justice to address repeated failures to appear, which undermine public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. Adjudications range from the removal of the warrant, a contempt charge and sanction, bail modifications, and in certain misdemeanor cases, the immediate disposition of the underlying case. The failure to appear (FTA) rates have been steadily declining.
- **Video Crash Court** uses expanded video technology in association with the prison to conduct expedited misdemeanor trials, thereby eliminating the need to transport defendants to the courthouse for negotiated pleas and stipulated trials.
- **Drug Treatment Court** is the first drug court in Pennsylvania. It was established in response to the dramatic growth in drug related criminal activity occurring in Philadelphia, recognizing that sound strategies to address the drug involvement of criminal offenders must be a fundamental priority of the criminal justice system. The Court represents an effort to establish a new working relationship between the court and the substance abuse treatment system. There are 3,064 successful graduates of the program; of those, 91% were not convicted of a new crime within one year of graduation and 84% remained arrest free during that same time period.
- **DUI Treatment Court** is dedicated to the treatment and punishment of individuals with multiple DUI offenses who have no related history of violent crime or other legal complications. The program promotes public safety, holds offenders accountable for their actions, and helps offenders to be sober, responsible and productive members of the community.
- **Summary Diversion Program** consists of special non-traffic summary programs, such as nuisance night court and the summary diversion program, helped pioneer problem solving diversion initiatives in the Commonwealth. Introduced in the late 1990's, these programs addressed quality of life issues for the citizens of Philadelphia in an attempt to deter future



criminal behavior. In 2016, 2,502 offenders successfully completed the Quality of Life Summary Diversion Program and collections for the Victim Compensation Fund amounted to \$137,400.

- **The Accelerated Misdemeanor Program (AMP)** is an alternative to traditional prosecution methods that diverts offenders with low level misdemeanor arrests. AMP hearings are scheduled to district courtroom locations throughout the City. The cases are heard and disposed expeditiously with sentencing options of community service to be completed in the neighborhood where the crime occurred. The AMP unit has a community service representative in the courtroom to provide direction to offenders on completing their service hours, along with a list of court approved sites and contact information to report compliance. To assist with this task, the court has partnered with over 120 non-profit organizations within the City including the Department of Recreation. In 2016, over 2,000 cases were accepted into the AMP program and total of 17,993 community service hours were completed.
- **Emergency Protection from Abuse** unit operates during non-traditional hours, holidays and weekends, for emergency petitions only. The unit is staffed by law-trained masters who, in accordance with the Protection from Abuse Act, conduct *ex-parte* hearings and review facts to determine if a petition should be granted.
- **Domestic Batterers Intervention Program**, a formalized Domestic Violence Court, is a collaborative, two-tiered domestic violence program to address anger management, underlying substance abuse and mental health related issues. In 2016, 155 individuals accepted the DV Diversion Program.

From the time of inception in February 2014 through October 2016, 193 individuals successfully completed the Tier 1. 93% remain arrest free. During the same time frame, 74 individuals successfully completed the Tier 2 requirements. 96% remain arrest free.

#### **Trial Division – Criminal**

- **Mental Health Court** aims to reduce the jail population and criminal justice costs by balancing justice, treatment, and public safety by providing an alternative to incarceration for offenders with mental illness and co-occurring disorders by preparing individuals for re-entry into more effective treatment modalities in supervised community settings.

#### **Trial Division – Civil**

- **Civil Case Management Programs** include the following programs: Complex Litigation (Pharmaceutical, Asbestos and Medical Devices), Day Forward Major Jury, Major Non-Jury, Compulsory Arbitration, Arbitration Appeals, Motions Program, Class Actions, Governmental and Administrative Agency Appeals, Civil Forfeiture, Code Enforcement, Rent Lease and Ejectment, Landlord/Tenant Appellate Mediation and Discovery, as well as the Civil Case Management and Dispute Resolution Centers.
- **Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program** conducted over 28,000 conciliation conferences between lender and homeowner since the inception of the program with sustainable resolution reached in 35% of these matters.
- **Commerce Court** is a specialized court focused on resolving commercial disputes brought by local, national and international companies that do business in Philadelphia and thereby making Philadelphia more business friendly. Here the City's Sequestration program has collected \$54 million in back taxes of which half support the Philadelphia School District.

## Family Court Juvenile Branch

- **Truancy** is a collaborative effort between the City, Court, School District of Philadelphia, and DHS to prevent, address and reduce chronic truancy and increase school attendance. The Court's role in this partnership is to order appropriate social and educational services to help the family combat the barriers that led them to chronic truancy.
- **Community Outreach Efforts** – the Juvenile Probation Department sponsored events that made a tremendous impact for our youth – the Back to School Supplies Drive, Sports for Juvenile Justice and Evening Reporting Center.
- **Juvenile Human Trafficking Court – Working to Restore Adolescents Power (WRAP)** is a pilot program in juvenile court, aimed at helping children with delinquency and/or dependency matters who have been identified by various criminal justice partners as being a victim of commercial sexual exploitation/human trafficking. This collaborative problem solving court is designed to address the specialized needs of trafficked children in an individualized trauma informed manner. In 2016, there were approximately forty (40) cases in WRAP court. The program was recognized by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and in Legal Intelligencer article, "Phila. Family Court Offers Hope for Young Victims of Trafficking".
- **Juvenile Treatment Court** – the mission of this program is to eliminate substance abuse and reduce crime among non-violent substance-abusing juveniles. The objective is to provide coordinated strength-based intervention and treatment with intensive judicial and interdisciplinary oversight. The intended results are to develop socially responsible juveniles and safer communities. Of all of the youth active in 2016, 36% are still active, 25% have graduated successfully, 12% have had their records expunged, only 10% have been removed for being on bench warrant status for over 21 days, even less than that, only 6% have been removed for noncompliance.
- **Crossover Court and Shared Case Responsibility** is the practice of mutually providing care of services to youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system. Since 2011, Juvenile Probation Officers and Social Workers assigned to a child have taken part in joint assessment meetings to develop a coordinated single plan. During 2016, 251 joint assessment meetings were conducted that allowed all parties to participate in planning for the needs of youth and their families with multiple system involvement.

## Program Initiatives and Accomplishments

- **Wi-Fi access to the internet**- the Stout Center for Criminal Justice consists of 66 courtrooms, 60 judicial chambers, and supporting administrative and processing areas, and more than 60,000 criminal cases are heard annually. Wi-Fi accessibility enables one of the country's largest criminal court systems to move closer to our goal of becoming 100% paperless. Litigants and judges and courtroom staff are able to retrieve court documents electronically and interact seamlessly with the court's new electronic evidence presentment technology, eliminating the need for large paper files.
- **Criminal Trial Division**  
  
**Re-Entry Programs** In 2016, the Criminal Trial Division continued its efforts to work with the following organizations as they ex-offenders as they transition to community settings.



- **Future Forward** – this one-year program targets individuals, 24 years of age or older, interested in obtaining college credits. The program is limited to Philadelphia residents with a high school degree or GED. After completing testing and financial aid requirements, individuals are offered admission to Community College of Philadelphia. In 2016, six participants enrolled, one was moved to Drug Treatment Court, and four are active in the program.
- **New Leash on Life** –inmates in the Philadelphia Department of Prisons participate in a rigorous 12-week program to train dogs rescued from animal shelters. The 48 participants receive six hours of dog training and 24 hours of animal care workshops and 108 hours of life and job skills workshops.
- **Roots to Re-entry** – the Roots to Re-entry program is a multi-partner collaboration with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Inmates in the Philadelphia Department of Prisons are trained in gardening and landscape management. The program has 26 participants.
- **State Reentry Court** – the State Parole Re-entry Program is designed as an intensive parole program for at risk parolees. The parolees appear once a month in court before the Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper and the State Parole Board Chairman, Leo L. Dunn, Esquire. Statistics for 2016 include: 17 new admits, 12 graduates, 3 terminations, and 23 currently active participants.
- **Office of Judicial Records.** In 2016, the civil E-filing system collected 553,000 electronic documents and the criminal E-Filing program accepted 36,240. Also, 20% of these filings occurred during non-business hours making our court accessible and convenient.
- **Criminal Document Management System** has a total of 950,000 documents stored and virtually replaced the hard copy file in the courtroom. In sixty out of our sixty-three adult courtrooms scanned pleadings and e-filed documents are electronically transmitted to the courtroom and have replaced the paper file.
- **Family Court**
  - **Summer Jobs Program with Philadelphia Youth Network** – In July of 2015, Juvenile Probation hosted a series of Summer Employment Enrollment Sessions. By assisting youth with the Work Ready application process, and finding a suitable work site, the Probation Department and Philadelphia Youth Network were able to secure 478 summer jobs for juvenile justice involved youth.
  - **Sports for Juvenile Justice Program** – In 2011, the US Attorney’s Office and Juvenile Probation collaborated on a creative effort to tailor a unique sports program for youth who were under court supervision. This unique sports program created a partnership with local agencies to enlist our youth in non-traditional sports such as Golf, Tennis, Martial Arts, and Softball. The premise of the program was to introduce youth to non-traditional sports as a way to foster social skills, team work, self-esteem and discipline. In the current 2016-17 fiscal year (from July – present), SJJ has already provided sports programming to 197 court involved youth, amounting to 725 total hours of instruction provided.
  - **Alternative to Secure Detention** – Evening Reporting Centers (ERC’s) are community-based alternative to detention programs. The ERC’s engage youth in strength-based programming to promote court appearances and reduce the likelihood of re-arrests, while allowing the youth to remain at home and continue to attend their neighborhood school. In 2015, there were 205 youth serviced at two gender-specific locations, and only seven (7) were re-arrested while under supervision. The program reported a 92.20% overall success rate.

- **Bench Warrant Project** – reduced active juvenile warrants from 800 to 320.
- **Academic Help Center** – is a collaborative effort between Philadelphia Family Court, the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the School District of Philadelphia, was formed In November of 2014. The center located in the Philadelphia Family Courthouse aims to assist dependent and delinquent youth in obtaining educational stability as well as fostering a successful educational experience.
- **Project Penn** is an innovative court-based outreach program for families awaiting dependency (child abuse and neglect) proceedings at Philadelphia Family Court. On three mornings a week University of Pennsylvania graduate students assist families in finding community-based resources to reduce the most common stressors that cause disruption in families and place children at risk for harm.
- **Family Court Domestic Relations**
  - **New Employment Opportunities for Noncustodial Parents (NEON)** is a partnership that awards Philadelphia 500 job training and job placement slots annually. Since 2004, 6,309 unemployed obligors have been enrolled in the NEON program. 70% of the obligors who complete the program find jobs with an average hourly wage of \$10.69, and 57% of those jobs provide medical coverage. Since 2004, obligors who have completed the NEON program have paid more than \$33,466,922 in child support.
- **Orphans' Court**
  - **Guardianship Tracking System** – the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) will provide tools for the management, tracking and reporting of new and existing guardianship cases and guardians.
  - **Orphans' Court Electronic Filing User Manual** – with the assistance of dedicated members of the Data Processing and Information Technology Departments along with staff from the Clerks' Office and Court, the Orphans' Court Electronic Filing User Manual has been updated and the revised manual is available online.
  - **Guardianship Manual** – the Guardianship Manual, is being revised by Administrative Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello and the updated revision will be printed and available on the Court's website as a guide to guardians of their fiduciary duties as guardians of the person and/or estate of an incapacitated person.
- **Municipal Court**
  - **Consumer Credit Conciliation Pilot Program** – this pilot program was created with the goal to assist those being sued for outstanding credit card debt by providing access to volunteer lawyers. A defendant/debtor is given information on financial counseling and other resources and receives assistance in obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the case at a settlement conference. Both the plaintiff/creditor and defendant/debtor agree to participate in good faith to resolve the debt. Should the parties be unable or unwilling to settle the case, the case is transferred to a Municipal Court Judge for trial. The goal is to reduce the number of default judgments entered in debt collection cases, as well as educate debtors/defendants concerning their rights and responsibilities and ensure that creditors have adequate documentation to prove their case.



- **Early Resolution Initiative** – this initiative was implemented in Municipal Court for early resolution of felony cases where the offer would be extended to plead to the misdemeanor offense, then expanded to include waiver of preliminary hearings, as well as pleas on misdemeanor cases. In June 2016, the initiative expanded to include early felony offers on felony cases. If the offer is accepted, these cases are scheduled to Common Pleas Court two weeks later for a non-trial disposition.

In 2016, 499 felony and misdemeanor cases were adjudicated through the Early Resolution Initiative.

- **SER (Sexual Education Responsibility) Class** Recognizing the need for sound strategies to address sexual exploitation by criminal offenders, the Court, the District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association partnered to diminish the demand for prostitution within Philadelphia; to provide high quality, professional clinical intervention; and to provide accurate information to individuals regarding the impact on the sex worker, the community and on the individual soliciting sex.
- **Emergency Protection from Abuse Unit** operates during non-traditional hours for emergency petitions only. The unit is staffed by law-trained masters who, in accordance with the Protection from Abuse Act, conduct ex-parte hearings and review facts to determine if a petition should be granted. The unit approved 2,243 petitions in calendar year 2014 and provided referrals for victim services and emergency referral sites throughout Philadelphia to several thousand non-qualifying petitioners. The EPFA unit is available to petitioners when many other service agencies are closed. Funding cuts threaten the continued operation of this critical service in Municipal Court.

#### • **Municipal Court Traffic Division**

- **Training** - In 2016 eight training sessions were offered to core and managerial staff, on a variety of topics, including Ethics, Compliance, CPR Training, Active Shooter and Security, Local Court Security, and Bio-Chemical/Fire/General Protocol.
- **The Re-Entry Program** – The Court continued to work with United States Magistrate Judge Timothy Rice and his team of mentoring attorneys and law students on the Re-Entry Program which assists federal probationers to transition into society after release from incarceration. In March, 2016, three new re-entry students from the Temple University Beasley School of Law visited the court to analyze the current processes and procedures involving convictions on motor vehicle violations at the Traffic Division and nunc pro tunc appeals to the Court of Common Pleas in an effort to assist former inmates whose driver licensing issues hamper their future growth and societal stability.

**The Public Safety Out-Reach Program** – with the assistance of William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of the Philadelphia School Board, the Court's Public Relations Manager for Education participated in a professional development workshop in September, 2016, at the Lincoln High School in Philadelphia, at which time he connected with numerous faculty members from schools throughout the City to expand the Court's "distracted driving program." The Traffic Division endeavors to change driver behavior, at a young age, encourage compliance with motor vehicle laws, and foster a greater understanding of the process of ticket issuance and what transpires at the time of a motor vehicle stop by an enforcement agent.

- **"Use Your Refund Wisely"** – In 2016, the court identified a population of defendants whose accounts were in default by \$25.00 or more for outstanding fines and costs and a one-time notice was mailed to those entities. The response was significant; 5,378 individuals either

satisfied their debt in its entirety or established a monthly payment agreement. The revenue generated as a result of those notices was \$807,148.

- **Interactive Voice Response System** – through the court's Interactive Voice Response system ("IVR"), \$972,723 was paid by defendants who were attempting to satisfy their total debt or comply with their monthly payment obligation. Also, approximately 201,977 individuals contacted the Call Center via the call-forwarding feature of the IVR.



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