

First Judicial District

Testimony

Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget

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

Date: April 16, 2014

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



By: Honorable John W. Herron Administrative Judge, Court of Common Pleas
Trial Division, and Chair, Administrative Governing Board
Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Kevin M. Dougherty, Administrative Judge of Family Court
Honorable Joseph D. O'Keefe, Administrative Judge of Orphans' Court
Honorable Marsha H. Neifield, President Judge of Municipal Court Honorable
Gary S. Glazer, Administrative Judge of Municipal Court Traffic Division
Joseph H. Evers, Court Administrator, First Judicial District

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The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Testimony for the FJD

My name is John W. Herron, and I am privileged to address you today as the Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas Trial Division and Chair of the FJD Governing Board. My colleagues, Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge, and Joseph H. Evers, FJD Court Administrator, are also present with other members of Court leadership to answer questions from members of City Council about the FJD Budget Request.

Whether a civil complaint seeking damages, a will contested, a family custody or divorce issue, a criminal matter involving a juvenile or adult defendant, our Philadelphia Courts strive daily to render timely, fair and impartial decisions.

The Philadelphia Court System serves as a national model for innovative special programs, under court supervision, that improve the lives of non-violent offenders by easing their assimilation back into society with limited resources, special courts, and volunteer organizations. In so doing, it enhances the lives of all citizens of Philadelphia.

Today, I will outline how our modest budget request for an additional \$3.2 million will help keep these programs vital and effective.

The FJD Budget of \$158 million, which consists of \$109.5 million for the General Fund and \$48.8 million for Grants Revenue, is awaiting your approval. In large measure, this \$158 million is paid for by the court system itself. In fact, the FJD generates \$51.0 million dollars that is credited to the general fund from filing fees, fines and costs and reimbursements. In addition, the FJD saves the City and its agencies nearly \$5,540,294 annually by waiving filing fees in the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court as well as library fees. As a consequence, of the total \$158 million budget request, the FJD is in reality only seeking \$49.5 million.

Table 1 FJD General Fund Budget and Revenue Contributions:

FY15 FJD General Fund Budget	\$109,363,057
FJD Reimbursements & Grant in Aid from other Governments	(\$14,727,000)
Filing Fees, Fines and Costs	(\$36,469,771)
Jenkins Law Library Fee Collected and Paid on City's Behalf.....	(\$3,133,599)
Waived Fees for City Agencies.....	(\$5,540,294)
Total Revenue that Offsets General Fund Budget.....	(\$59,870,664)
Net Cost to Fund FJD Courts	\$49,492,393

Recent programs introduced in the court have also brought substantial revenue to the City. One outstanding success has been the innovative Delinquent Tax Collection Program. In this program, the City petitions the court to appoint a receiver or sequestrator to manage abandoned commercial properties. This makes it possible to collect rents and pay delinquent tax debts. In its first five months, this program has generated \$3.9 million for the general fund and, in particular, the School District of Philadelphia. The long-term benefits of this flow of income into our school system – and the benefits to the children of our city – are incalculable. If this collection rate of \$3.9 million from the 500 cases that were filed in the program's first five months is maintained, the tax sequestration program has the potential for generating over \$8 million dollars a year to the benefit of our schools.

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, generating revenue for other city agencies, and reducing costs through Specialty Courts and Programs. Many of the items for which we are seeking additional funds directly support these programs. An investment into our budget creates returns that positively impact our justice partners, other city agencies, and our citizens. The below table (see page 3) outlines the additional items the judiciary is seeking funding in FY15 and a summary of these items is attached.

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 FY15 General Fund budget request and Grants Revenue budget request. We will take your questions at this time.

Summary of budget request items sought for FY15:

Table 1: FJD Target Budget and Adjustments		
	<u>FY15 FJD Adjustments</u>	<u>FY15 FJD Submitted Amt.</u>
FY15 Target Budget Amount		\$106,152,148
President Judge		
1) Mental Health Court Expansion	138,038	
2) Court Public Information Officer	60,395	
3) Wi-Fi Capability - City Hall & CJC/Stout Center	728,610	
	<u>927,043</u>	
Trial Division		
4) Juror Summons Increased Costs	819,265	
Orphans' Court		
5) Orphans' Court Guardian Investigator	44,755	
Municipal Court		
6) Emergency Protection from Abuse	223,428	
7) Diversion Liaison Officer	60,395	
	<u>283,823</u>	
Family Court		
8) Administrative Support & Security Staff	772,556	
9) Custodial Staff	363,467	
	<u>1,136,023</u>	
Subtotal of FY15 Proposed Adjustments		3,210,909
Total Projected Gen Fund FY15 Budget Submission		<u>\$109,363,057</u>

Summary of New Programs and Enhancements

1. Mental Health Expansion – \$138,038

By restoring funding to previous levels received from grant funds, individuals incarcerated with mental health and other disorders will receive treatment outside the prison environment thereby reducing overcrowding and prison costs. The Mental Health Court is an innovative program that fosters collaboration across system agencies. The program also provides a multidisciplinary approach to program participants who receive wraparound treatment services and individualized probation supervision as an alternative to incarceration.

2. Court Public Information Officer – \$60,395

This position is needed to coordinate with the numerous media outlets, provide community liaison and administer and oversee our public access policies and requests.

3. Wi-Fi Capability in City Hall and the Stout Center for Criminal Justice – \$728,610

Wi-Fi maximizes productivity by allowing us to stay connected even if we're not at our desk. Every spot with Wi-Fi now becomes a cubicle or work station. We can now respond to emails, schedule meetings, do research, review files, input information and provide real time data. We can attend meetings with all our information at our fingertips. Law clerks can send important updates to their Judges. Attorneys can retrieve vital information for their case without delaying a trial. With our paperless systems, document management systems and e-filing, Wi-Fi is necessary for full access at all times and everywhere. The list is endless as long as we are able to connect to the internet and Wi-Fi just makes it easier, efficient and cost effective.

4. Juror Summons Increased Costs – \$819,265

The Jury Assembly Room at the Juanita Kidd-Stout Center for Criminal Justice cannot fulfill the current need for jurors. On most days the number of jurors exceeds capacity by 200 jurors and they are forced into overflow rooms and hallways until called to courtrooms for trials. Having a dedicated Civil Jury Room in City Hall will allow additional jurors to be summoned to meet judicial trial needs while alleviating the current overflow. While the FJD has savings from prior years to construct the Civil Jury Room in 195/196 City Hall, the additional funds requested will fund the shortfall in the cost of printing and mailing summons to 700,000 citizens.

5. Orphans' Court Guardian Investigator – \$44,755

This position will oversee, monitor and review qualifications of guardians for incapacitated persons. The growing aging population has resulted in an increase in filings appointing guardians for incapacitated persons, and requiring the court to take a more active role. This investigator will review prospective guardian's qualifications, verify and monitor bank account balances, review annual reports and petitions for allowance.

6. Emergency Protection from Abuse – \$223,428

This critical service to the City provides immediate relief to assault victims of domestic violence. This program was previously state funded and the funds exhausted in June 2013. In 2013, 2,550 individuals received relief through Emergency Protection from Abuse petitions and another 2,200 received referrals for other services. The sensitive nature of domestic violence allegations warrants funding for this critical program.

7. Diversion Liaison Officer – \$60,395

This position will bring to the FJD and the City's criminal justice system a Certified Trauma Informed Care Instructor with established collaborative professional relationships with the Defender Association, the District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health, and other treatment programs. This liaison professional will conduct training that addresses trauma, substance abuse, mental health and intellectual disability concerns.

8. Administrative & Security Staff – \$772,566

Currently, Domestic Relations staff occupy the 34 S 11th Street facility with the Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement as the predominate program. Nine (9) Administrative Services employees and Twelve (12) Security officers are paid 100% by the Title IV-D budget. These twenty-one (21) employees will perform "central service" functions to the entire Family Court. With the move to the new courthouse, these employees can no longer be paid by the IV-D grant budget. Unallowable IV-D expenditures are prohibited by the grant agreement

and federal regulations. Federal and state rules require these employees to be paid by the General Fund, but allow a portion of their costs to be reimbursed by IV-D through an annual Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (CAP).

9. Custodial Staff – \$363,467

The new Family Courthouse located at 1501 Arch Street encompasses fifteen floors covering 550,000 sq. ft., and requires thirteen (13) additional custodial staff to supplement the existing eleven (11) custodial staff at 1801 Vine Street, for a total of twenty-four (24) custodial employees. Approximately one quarter (25%) of the costs will be reimbursed by the Title IV-D grant, since the grant occupies approximately 25% of the building. The Domestic Relations Division currently located at 34 S 11th Street occupies leased space and does not have custodial employees, as the landlord provides the service.

Savings Initiatives

The FJD has remained at the forefront of creating, collaborating and implementing programs that streamline case processing. We have evaluated some of our criminal court programs to determine criminal justice agency savings in the following areas: reduced or eliminated incarceration days; reductions in prisoner transportation; lab fees for drug testing, and reduced or eliminated police officer appearances.

• **Electronic Monitoring** **Savings: \$3,964,015**

The current Electronic Monitoring Unit supervises pretrial and post-trial defendants ordered by the judiciary to Electronic Monitoring. During 2013, the Unit monitored 1,800 defendants with daily inventories averaging between 600-650 defendants on active monitoring. This program has generated \$3,964,015 in savings by eliminating or reducing incarceration costs.

• **Juvenile Delinquent GPS Monitoring** **Savings: \$5,249,829**

The utilization of GPS Monitoring, as an alternative to placement and detention saved \$5,249,829 in juvenile justice services.

• **Stout Center Video Program** **Savings: \$1,721,901**

Video connectivity has been established between thirteen (13) SMART Courtrooms and all other county and state Prison System institutions. This program continues to expand the number of cases that are disposed via videoconferencing. For 2013, there were 4,200 cases disposed via videoconferencing resulting in savings of \$1,721,901 in police overtime, prison cost and transportation cost.

• **Mental Health Court** **Savings: \$63,816**

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 saved \$63,816 in reduced prison costs.

• **Substituted Judge Program** **Savings: \$5,812,380**

With the Non Sitting Judge program whenever a Common Pleas VOP needs to be scheduled for a Judge who does not preside in the CJC anymore that case is scheduled before a substituted Judge.

If there are no objections to reassigning the case, the substituted Judge can receive and expedite the listing. Utilizing one room streamlines the process for the Sheriff when a defendant is brought down but also has allowed the use of video for the vast majority of these hearings. Currently over 90% of these custody VOP hearings are heard via video since this room is equipped with video technology.

- **Advanced Review and Consolidation** **Savings \$428,765**

The Advanced Review and Consolidation Program provides for consolidation of multiple cases in any individual judicial calendar. The activity begins at the pre-trial conference by consolidating multiple cases into one listing. Through judicial economies this program has created \$428,765 in saved police officer overtime.

- **Video Crash Court** **Savings \$1,461,898**

The Video Crash Court created expedited adjudications of 646 cases removed from formal case processing. The collective benefits of this program generated \$1,461,898 in savings by canceling subpoenas for police officer appearances, accelerated prisoner release, less prisoner-transportation, and lifting VOP's.

- **Accelerated Misdemeanor Program** **Savings \$458,427**

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 2013, approximately 5,500 listed cases were removed from the standard criminal calendar resulting in \$458,427 in savings from police overtime, elimination of incarceration and transportation savings.

- **Small Amounts of Marijuana Program** **Savings \$171,645**

The Small Amounts of Marijuana Diversion Program allowed for removal of 3,332 cases from formal prosecution in 2013. This resulted in \$171,645 in savings in police overtime and laboratory fees.

- **Veterans Court, Drug Court & DUI Court** **Savings \$80,448**

These courts expedited adjudication of 838 cases. These cases were removed from formal processing and generated savings of \$80,448 in police overtime and transportation costs.

Specialty Courts:

Municipal Court –Criminal

- **Veterans Court**, in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, Defender Association and veterans' agencies, the Court continued its successful problem solving endeavor to divert cases involving veterans. The program assists justice-involved veterans struggling with mental health, substance abuse, or other re-integration issues by providing veterans 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 Choice is Yours (TCY)**, 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.
- **Bench Warrants Court**, established in April 2012, is designed to provide 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.
- **Nuisance Night Courts** are conducted only upon a direct request from commanding officers, to address quality of life offenses in respective police districts. A Judge and staff work nontraditional hours to conduct hearings and provide for immediate adjudications in police district courtrooms.
- **Video Crash Court** expedites adjudications for custody defendants through use of expanded video technology with the prison to expedite release based on Commonwealth offers agreed to by defendants and their counsel.
- **Drug Treatment Court** is a program dedicated to the treatment and punishment of individuals with multiple DUI offenses who have no related history of violent crime or other legal complications.
- **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** addresses quality of life issues for the citizenry of Philadelphia in an attempt to dissuade future criminal behavior.
- **Small Amounts of Marijuana Program** diverts cases involving small amounts of marijuana; participants are required to complete an educational course and upon successful completion the charges are expunged; tiers were implemented to ensure public safety measures were maintained by disqualifying individuals deemed serious offenders from participating in the program.
- **Accelerated Misdemeanor Program** diverts eligible defendants from standard trials to expedited adjudications; attorneys for the District Attorney and Defender Association assigned to AMP reviewed the facts of the case and a proper resolution.
- **Emergency Protection from Abuse** unit operates during non-traditional hours, holidays and weekends, for emergency petitions only; 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.

Office of the President Judge

- **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

- **Elections Court**, due to the changing voting laws and legislation, the District was required to design and institute a court process regarding “emergency petitions”; on Election Day, the court session is staffed from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm in Courtroom 676 City Hall, without incident or delay.
- **Mortgage Foreclosure** conducts mortgage foreclosure conciliation conferences.
- **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.

Family Court

- **Juvenile Drug Treatment Court** - In September of 2004, the Philadelphia Family Court established the Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC). The JTC is an intensive diversion program for juveniles in need of substance abuse treatment managed by an interdisciplinary team under the supervision of the JTC judge. Eligibility criteria are the following: 14 to 17 years old, a non-violent new charge, no more than two prior adjudications and none for a violent charge, a need for substance abuse treatment, and residing in Philadelphia.

The goals of the program are the following:

- To reduce the use of drugs
- To reduce criminal behavior
- To increase the completion rate of outpatient substance abuse treatment programs
- To improve treatment outcomes through interagency collaboration.

Participation in JTC is voluntary. Juveniles agree to a stipulation of the facts of their case(s) and then enter “Deferred Adjudication” status, thereby avoiding the negative consequences associated with being adjudicated delinquent. Additionally, they agree to participate in regular treatment for drug and alcohol dependency based on the results of a drug assessment conducted to determine the appropriate level of treatment. Successful completion of the program results in a dismissal of the charge at graduation and an expungement of the arrest 12 months later for satisfactory behavior.

- **Project START Truancy** Philadelphia's response to truancy is a collaborative effort between the City, the Court, and School District of Philadelphia, and the DHS to prevent, address and reduce chronic truancy behavior and increase school attendance. The Project SJ ART truancy process is continually evaluated and analyzed in order to monitor resources across systems and outcomes of intervention services.

Youth who have been identified as chronically truant are referred to the Court by the SDP only after school-level interventions have failed to address truant behavior. The referrals are scheduled by the Court in four (4) strategically selected schools with regional court sites. Incremental scheduling of the hearings provide the necessary time for Truancy providers to work with the family to help alleviate barriers to school attendance.

After three (3) regional hearings, a Hearing Officer makes a decision to either discharge the case (when the family has successfully resolved or made progress towards resolving truancy issues) or refer to DHS for the filing of a Dependent Petition (based on the ground of truancy pursuant to the Juvenile Act) and a hearing at 1801 Vine St. The Court conducts hearings, and utilizes family assessments to identify causes of truancy and orders services to assist in alleviating truancy barriers, including: Tutoring, Assessments, Counseling/Positive Youth Development, Parenting Classes, Mentoring, Advocacy, Homework Organization, Behavioral Health, and Family Support.

- **Crossover Court** at the direction of Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty, in 2003, Philadelphia started operating a court specifically for youth with both dependency and delinquency needs. Currently, Crossover Court continues to operate and is enhanced by Philadelphia's participation in Georgetown's Crossover Youth Practice Model and the Shared Case Responsibility (SCR) collaboration with DHS. In an effort to meet the individual needs of youthful offenders and to prevent further penetration into the delinquent system, youth with recognizable child welfare needs are referred to a specialized courtroom and one Judge for disposition. In 2012, 827 youth received services through crossover court. Additionally, 4,783 hearings were conducted in crossover court. With the increase in activity, the specialized court expanded from having cases heard two days a week to now three.
- **Graduated Response Court** is a central focus of both the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The graduated response process emphasizes the principles of BARJ by addressing probation violations with prompt responses. The JDAI Graduated Responses Task Force is partnering closely with the Juvenile Probation Department and Family Court to analyze current practice in Graduated Response Court and enhance data collection capacity regarding the use of graduated responses. GRC operates one day per week in one courtroom.

The Mission and Goal Statements of our Courts

- For the First Judicial District, our overall mission is the delivery of fair, timely and accessible justice to Philadelphians.
- The First Judicial District consists of courts that adjudicates cases according to its jurisdiction and sets goals and objectives to achieve this mission. Below are selected mission and goal statements from our various courts and divisions.
- **In the Family Court Division**
 - The mission of the Child Support Enforcement Program within the Domestic Relations Division is to increase the reliability of child support paid by non-custodial parents by locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing realistic support orders, increasing health care coverage for children, and removing barriers to support payments, such as referring non-custodial parents to employment services.
 - The Juvenile Branch is committed to maintaining and improving upon the quality of services they provide to Philadelphia's families, as we transition into our new facilities.

The mission of the Juvenile Probation Department is to protect the community from delinquency, to impose accountability for offenses committed and ensure restoration of the victim. In keeping with this mission, Juvenile Probation will continue to strive in providing treatment, supervision and rehabilitation to every youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Philadelphia Family Court's Office of Children, Youth and Families' mission is to create and maintain best practice standards and operations that ensure the protection, safety and stability of all Philadelphia children, youth, and families who enter the dependency system.

- **In the Trial Division**
 - The mission of the Civil Trial Division is to provide a system for the prompt and fair resolution of all civil cases and to administer justice in Philadelphia in an efficient and productive manner. The Civil Section continuously provides access to justice by the implementation of innovative and progressive case flow management systems, continuous education for the public, judges and support staff, and the creation of appropriate pretrial forums and technologic advancements.
 - The Mission of the Criminal Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas is to serve the justice partners and the public with integrity providing equal access for all that instills trust and confidence in our judiciary and courts.
 - The mission of the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department is to protect the community by intervening in the lives of offenders. We hold them accountable by enforcing the orders of the Court. Through a balance of enforcement and treatment strategies, we afford offenders the opportunity to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

- **The Office of Judicial Records**

- It is the mission of the Office of Judicial Records to protect the integrity of the docket, guarantee the accuracy of the official court record, and insure that the public is provided access to justice. This mission is accomplished by the timely and accurate recording of the disposition of all criminal, civil, and juvenile delinquency matters; employing quality control practices to ensure that cases are processed timely, accurately, and completely; and, anticipating the needs of all members of society, the judiciary, and the legal community.
- The Office of Judicial Records seeks to accomplish its mission by employing innovative techniques, such as electronic document management and electronic filing, entering concise and detailed narratives on the Court's case management systems for all event outcomes, and providing adequate resources and continued education and training to its staff in order to meet the growing demand for the court's services.

- **Jury Commission**

- The mission of the Philadelphia Jury Commission is to select at random, from a representative cross-section of the eligible population of the county, jurors for both civil and criminal proceedings for all litigants entitled to a jury trial. The short and long-term goals are to provide sufficient number of jurors to satisfy requests of all the courts.

- **In the Municipal Court**

- The Municipal Court Criminal Division will continue to work on initiatives involving the Criminal Reorganization Plan, the Traffic Division, Philadelphia Arraignment System (PARS) reengineering, the Pretrial Release Guidelines Project, Domestic Batterers Intervention Program, and time to disposition analysis.
- The Municipal Court Civil Division continues to provide access to justice with enhancements to its e-filing system to ensure litigants, attorneys and external agencies are provided with an ever-improving, user friendly application.
- The Municipal Court Traffic Division adjudicates violations of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code arising in the City of Philadelphia. The Traffic Division is committed to providing efficient and convenient service to the public while providing fair and impartial hearings on traffic citations.

Performance Measures, Caseload Statistics and Achievements

- **In the Family Court Division**

- Juvenile Branch

At the end of 2013, 3,374 juveniles were under the supervision of the Probation Department.

The Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET) and the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP) successfully confiscated over \$136,300 worth of illegal narcotics and 19 illegal firearms.

There were 819 warrants served and 240 successful bench warrant apprehensions by Juvenile Probation units in 2013.

Combined collections for restitution to juvenile victims and court fees totaled \$368,277.

The utilization of GPS Monitoring, as an alternative to placement and detention saved City of Philadelphia taxpayers \$5,249,829.35 in juvenile justice services.

Through, juvenile justice initiatives undertaken by staff and innovative collaborations with system partners, new cases have gone down to the lowest level of the last decade with 4,770 dockets created in 2013.

The pre-adjudicatory diversion initiative continued in 2013 with an additional 2,700 juvenile records expunged and consistent with the goals set by the juvenile probation department, juvenile justice initiatives and collaborations with system partners, new cases have gone down to the lowest level of the last decade with 4,770 dockets created in 2013.

- Domestic Relations

In 2013, the Domestic Relations Division exceeded the 80% threshold in all federal performance areas: Paternity Establishment, Support Order Establishment, Current Collections and Arrears Collections, and was instrumental in ensuring that the state of Pennsylvania remained the most efficient and effective Child Support Enforcement program in the country.

Established Paternity for 80,918 children, and established a 95% performance measure.

Total Child Support Collections \$164,753,417, and established an 80% performance measure for payments and establishing court orders.

- **Criminal Trial Division**

- **Adult Probationers**

Total number of offenders supervised by APPD on 12/31/2013: 44,270

The number of drug tests administered to probation clients totaled 64,651

- **Video Conferencing**

Number of Video Hearings (State and County) 5,014

Total transportation costs savings to the Sherriff \$512,511

- **Pretrial Services / Warrant Unit**

At the end of 2013, there are currently 626 clients on active electronic monitoring and over 1,800 during the calendar year. Of those, 685 individuals were arrested for violations of their electronic monitoring release conditions.

The Unit processed 4,239 individuals who surrendered on Bench Warrants and arrested 1,438 individuals on Traffic Court Warrants owing fines totaling approximately \$3.7 million.

Also, there were 6,403 individuals arrested by the Warrant Unit on Criminal Bench and/or Probation warrants resulting in the clearance of approximately 8,967 FJD warrants.

In addition to the criminal matters, the Unit arrested 469 individuals on Domestic Relation warrants and 458 individuals surrendered to Domestic Relations due to Warrant Unit intervention.

- **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.

Case Type	Homicide	Major Felony Program	Felony List Program	Total
New Cases	315	4,553	11,094	15,962
Disposed Cases	318	4,842	10,354	15,514
Clearance Rate	101%	106%	93%	97%

Case Type	Civil Case Inventory
New Cases	35,147
Disposed Cases	41,150
Clearance Rate	117%

- During CY 2013 90% of all Civil cases were disposed or otherwise resolved within the case processing time standards established by the American Bar Association.

- **Municipal Court Criminal Division**

Case Type	Felony Held for Court	Misdemeanors	Total
New Cases	23,666	24,839	48,505
Disposed Cases	26,512	28,846	55,358
Clearance Rate	112%	116%	114%

- The felony dismissal rate has decreased by 58% from 2007 and the misdemeanor dismissal rate decreased by 76%.

- **Municipal Court Civil Division**

Cases	Civil Case Inventory
New Cases	105,047
Disposed Cases	113,081
Clearance Rate	108%

- Included in this cases are City Code Enforcement cases filed by 14 City agencies. During 2013, there were 56,365 cases filed and 56,183 disposed resulting in a clearance rate of 108%, and generating \$14.3 million in revenue to the City for judgments satisfied.

- **Municipal Court Traffic Division**

- 157,000 motor vehicle citations were issued in 2013.
- Traffic Division adjudications totaled 202,000 of which 81% were by trial and 84% where either found guilty or pleaded guilty.
- 65,162 installment payment plan hearings were conducted to arrange payment of citation fees.
- 16,149 Impoundment hearings for confiscated vehicles.
- 3,295 warrant hearings were conducted.
- Traffic Court collected \$24 million which is approx 5 times its budget.

- **Use of Interpreters in FJD Courtrooms**

- In 2013, the FJD utilized language and sign interpreters in 61 languages in 3,200 courtrooms, hearings, and related matters.
- Our top five languages are the following: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Sign, and Russian and account for 60% of our usage and 70% of our costs.

- **Collection of Criminal Case Fines and Costs**

- In 2013 over \$27 million was collected in court-ordered fines and costs for disbursement to the appropriate parties and agencies. Additionally \$1.4 million in restitution was collected and disbursed to victim of crime.

FJD Initiatives

- **Criminal Trial Division**

- **Indicting Grand Jury and Witness Intimidation.** In 2013 the District Attorney's Grand Jury Indictment Program processed approximately 721 cases. The criteria for a Grand Jury case is one that has or may have an element of victim or witness intimidation. These cases are fast tracked from the Municipal Court Preliminary Arraignment directly into the Court of Common Pleas for status and review. Once the case is Held for Court it is again fast tracked directly from CP Formal Arraignment to one of 12 CP Grand Jury Judges for trial. This allows a speedier resolution of these sensitive matters and protects the victims and witnesses and defeats the culture of "don't snitch".
- **Robo-Call Court Date Notification.** In hopes to decrease the FTA rate and in cooperation with Municipal Court, a new automated system to notify all defendants of upcoming criminal cases has been implemented in 2013. Automated calls are made to defendants' phones 48 hours before their next court date; the calls include notifications of trial, preliminary hearing, status or post trial hearings. Not yet implemented but in the works are email and text message notifications.
- **The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Mental Health Court (FJDMHC).** This program provides 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. The FJDMHC is a re-entry program that provides a unique multidisciplinary collaborative approach, which combines intensive wrap-around treatment and individualized probation supervision. Over the last 4½ years, the number of cases processed in the MHC has increased from 320 cases in 2009 to 3,740 cases in 2013. The program maintains a comprehensive and strict supervision plan for all participants to ensure public safety, which require longer probation sentences and stringent program sanctions.
- **Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant.** In September, Adult Probation and Parole Department was awarded a competitive, three-year Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to improve supervision techniques in our department. This project involves a partnership between APPD and two major research universities – George Mason and Temple. The goals and objectives of this proposal are devoted to identifying and addressing the criminogenic needs of offenders through effective case plans and managing compliance.
- **Soaring 2 Pilot Program.** Five probation officers participated in the piloting of SOARING 2, an e-learning system developed by the ACE! Center at George Mason University. All officers in the department will be trained in the system.
- **Motivational Interviewing.** A team of APPD staff were trained by Bucks County Adult probation on this evidenced-based practice. Using this training along with the NCIS model, our staff created a motivational interviewing curriculum that was given to our last new class of officers. Using this model, the entire department will be trained in 2014.

- **Civil Trial Division**

- **Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program.** Since the beginning of the Trial Division - Civil Mortgage Foreclosure Program, over 25,000 mortgage foreclosure

reconciliation conferences have been conducted. Of that number approximately seventy percent (70%) of homeowners have come through the conference program with various resolutions. According to an independent study conducted by The Reinvestment Fund thirty-five percent (35%) of participating homeowners reach sustainable resolutions. Of the thirty percent 30% that do not appear, data suggests that the properties at issue are ineligible for the program because the home is not vacant or not owner-occupied.

- **Office Of Judicial Records.** Formerly known as the Offices of the Prothonotary and the Clerk of Quarter Sessions, or more recently the Clerk of Courts, the Office of Judicial Records of Philadelphia was implemented in October 2013 by Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Office of Judicial Records is responsible for the records, books, and dockets for the Court including civil, criminal, and juvenile cases. All duties and responsibilities inherent with the Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts were assigned to the Office of Judicial Records. It is the goal of this department to provide one designated area where all commerce with the Office of Judicial Records will be conducted. This department will allow the public to file documents over the counter, purchase subpoenas and certified and exemplified copies of records, decrees, notary signatures, and conduct all other forms of commerce.

- **Family Court Domestic Relations**

- **Coordinated Job Training and Re-entry.** Expanded the job training and placement services to include custodial parents. Entered into an agreement the Mayor's Office for Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (R.I.S.E.) to provide job training and placement services for ex-offenders and Correctional Institution Fairton to provide reintegration services for soon to be released inmates.
- **Embracing Low-Cost High-Impact Technology: Text Messaging.** Text messages are sent to defendants who have not made a payment in the current year. Text messages and letters are sent to defendants who have made at least one payment in the current year, but have not made a payment in the last 60 days.

Text messages are sent to defendants with outstanding bench warrants requesting they surrender or contact the Bench warrant Unit to resolve the open warrant and possibly obtain a lump sum payment, new employment information or have the defendant file a petition to modify the support order.

- **Document Management System.** In 2013, DR staff, working in conjunction with FJD programming staff, began the monumental task of designing and implementing a document management system. The objective of the system is to create digital images of all DR case files and eliminate the dependency on paper files.
- **Child Support Lien Network Life Insurance and Annuity Matches.** The Child Support Lien Network (CSLN) is a consortium of 33 state child support enforcement agencies, including Pennsylvania, that uses a data match process to obtain insurance award settlement information from insurance companies.
- **Financial Institution Data Match/FAST Levy.** The Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program operates a data match system in which each institution is required to provide identifying information for each noncustodial parent who maintains an account and owes overdue child support. In 2013 a statewide workgroup, including staff from

Philadelphia, redesigned the FIDM process to include automated and manual selection and submission components. The revised FIDM process streamlines FIDM functions and reduces worker intervention with the goal of increasing collections of overdue support.

- **Municipal Court Criminal**

- **Project Dawn Prostitution Initiative.** The “Project Dawn” initiative is for women who are in custody on detainers or open prostitution cases. Municipal Court continues to work with the Commonwealth and Defender Association to streamline prostitution cases to centralize treatment, housing and ancillary services. The project includes a component of therapy for survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Project Dawn 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. 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.

In 2013, Project Dawn admitted 34 individuals with 61 cases and 67 probation matters, bringing the total number of program participants to 75. There were 11 graduates and only 3 women terminated from the program and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. There was the tragic death of 2 participants and we celebrated 2 drug free births. At year’s end, there were 59 active participants.

- **The Choice is Yours Alternative to Incarceration.** 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. In partnership with Jewish Employment and Vocational Services (JEVS) 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 Warrant Court.** Bench Warrant Court was established in April 2012. The Court is designed to provide 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. FTA rates have been steadily declining over the past seven years. In 2007, the annual event-based FTA rate for Municipal Court was 9.16%, which fell to 5.24% in 2013 - a 43% decrease. Similarly, the rate at which pretrial defendants failed to appear in Municipal Court decreased by 39% from 2007 (24.61%) to 2013 (15%). The most prominent decrease occurred after the implementation of Bench Warrant Court on April 16th, 2012.
- **Veterans Court.** In conjunction with the District Attorney’s Office, Defender Association and veterans’ agencies, the Court continued its successful problem solving endeavor to divert cases involving veterans. The program assists justice-involved veterans struggling with mental health, substance abuse or other re-integration issues.

Building on the success of established treatment court programs in Philadelphia, the Veterans Court oversees a range of services offered to qualified veterans involved in the criminal justice system. The judicial branch recognizes the tremendous service veterans provided to our country, and believes it is the Court's obligation to provide them with programs and services to overcome challenges that are unique to their experiences.

- **Municipal Court Traffic Division**

- **Public Service Outreach Program.** This is a community awareness program for high school and young drivers to educate students on proper driver rules and to promote safe driving habits. The presentation also discusses teenage distracted driving and teenage driving. This is an ongoing project for the Court.
- **E-Citation Program.** Full implementation of the eCitation pilot program was effectuated in the Seventh Police District in 2013 and, regular meetings are being held to assess the viability of city-wide implementation of the program. The Police, the Department of Technology for the City of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are all participating in this endeavor. The City of Philadelphia is willing to invest in this program to automate the writing of the citations, while the Department of Transportation has a vested interest to gather the statistical data.
- **New Case Flow Process.** The Court is revamping the current case flow process for the Traffic Division. This includes hiring new hearing officers, having a District Attorney prosecute the cases, making changes to the courtrooms, and implementing system changes to eTIMS. The new process will use hearing officers, instead of judges, to adjudicate traffic cases. Furthermore, a Municipal Court Judge will hear citations that carry possible incarceration if the defendant is found guilty. The State will fund the hiring of the new hearing officers.
- **Ethics Training.** The Traffic Division conducted ethics classes via round-table discussions for all employees in order to reinforce the need to be governed by sound, moral principles. Emphasis was placed on public perception, how to address situations involving family members or friends who are facing court proceedings, and the importance of reporting behavior that is in direct violation of the Code of Conduct Policy of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
- **Teleprompters in the Lobby of the Building.** The installed three lobby monitors to display public service announcements relative to motor vehicle citations, impounded vehicles, the Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the policies of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. In 2013, additional videotapes regarding the danger of distracted driving, texting while driving, and aggressive driving were added to the daily menu. These informative videos have assuaged the temperaments of the often disgruntled defendants who have interaction with our Court.
- **Interactive Voice Response System.** The Traffic Division is implementing a new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to allow a defendant to retrieve information pertaining to their case file or to pay their citation via a telephone call to the Traffic Division. Through interaction with the Court's database, the following information can be captured electronically and retrieved by the defendant: (1) the amount due on the record; (2) the case status; and (3) the payment due date.

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
BUDGET SUMMARY AND OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS**

Financial Summary by Class

	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2014	Fiscal 2015	Difference
	Actual Obligations	Original Appropriations	Estimated Obligations	Proposed Appropriations*	FY14 - FY15
Class 100 - Employee Compensation	\$91,827,883	\$92,760,968	\$93,470,219	94,536,312	1,775,344
Class 200 - Purchase of Services	\$16,480,296	\$10,320,360	\$10,320,360	12,116,767	\$1,796,407
Class 300 - Materials and Supplies	\$2,017,927	\$1,620,944	\$1,620,944	1,934,944	\$314,000
Class 400 - Equipment	\$327,474	\$270,924	\$270,924	775,034	\$504,110
Class 500 - Contributions	\$177,000	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 700 - Debt Service	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 800 - Payment to Other Funds	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
Class 900 - Advances/Misc. Payments	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$0
TOTAL	\$110,830,580	\$104,973,196	\$105,682,447	\$109,363,057	\$4,389,861

*Includes FJD Requested Increase

Staff Demographics Summary*

	Total	Minority	White	Female
Full-Time Staff	2313	39%	61%	61%
Executive Staff	39	18%	15%	41%
Average Salary - ES	\$94,793	\$89,837	\$95,877	\$91,311
Median Salary - ES	\$94,031	\$87,670	\$97,548	\$87,809

Employment Levels*

	Budgeted	Approved	Filled
Full-Time Positions	#	#	1,780
Part-Time Positions	#	#	#
Executive Positions	#	#	39

Contracts Summary*

	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14*
Total amount of contracts	\$5,070,703	\$5,983,208	\$6,313,226	\$6,328,348	\$6,154,947	\$4,159,794
Total amount to M/W/DBE	\$1,889,823	\$2,842,501	\$3,068,943	\$2,895,610	\$3,149,245	\$2,149,547
Participation Rate	37%	48%	49%	46%	51%	52%

*As of February 2014

Staff Demographics

	Full-Time Staff		Executive Staff		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Total	899	1414	23	16	
% of Total	39%	61%	59%	41%	
African-American		African-American		African-American	
Total	217	528	4	2	
% of Total	24%	37%	17%	13%	
White		White		White	
Total	624	789	18	14	
% of Total	69%	56%	78%	88%	
Hispanic		Hispanic		Hispanic	
Total	37	66	1	0	
% of Total	4%	5%	4%	0%	
Asian		Asian		Asian	
Total	8	13	0	0	
% of Total	1%	1%	0%	0%	
Other		Other		Other	
Total	13	18	0	0	
% of Total	1%	1%	0%	0%	
Bi-lingual		Bi-lingual		Bi-lingual	
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
% of Total	%	%	%	%	