

# First Judicial District

## Testimony

### *Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget*

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

*Date:* April 24, 2018

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, Municipal Court  
Honorable Jacqueline F. Allen, Administrative Judge, Trial Division  
Honorable, Margaret T. Murphy, Administrative Judge, Family Court  
Honorable Matthew D. Carrafiello, Administrative Judge, Orphans' Court  
Honorable Gary S. Glazer, Administrative Judge, Traffic Division  
Joseph H. Evers, District Court Administrator, First Judicial District

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## **The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Testimony of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania**

Good morning 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 Margaret T. Murphy, Administrative Judge Family Court; Honorable Matthew D. Carrafiello, Administrative Judge Orphans' Court; and Honorable Gary S. Glazer, Administrative Judge Traffic Division. Also, in attendance is 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.

This testimony will highlight our progressive diversion programs, our expedited case management programs, our re-entry programs which reduce recidivism, and the supportive services to our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors and children.

During my tenure as Chair of the Administrative Governing Board I have focused on access to justice, on setting goals, and achieving outcomes for which we can be held accountable. Our district-wide Annual Report identifies each of our courts' programs, accomplishments and performance measures. Every member of City Council has received a copy of our previous annual report, and will receive our 2017 report when it is completed. They are also available on our website.

To achieve these goals the Philadelphia Judiciary must be strategically focused and fiscally responsible to provide new and innovative programs from within our budgeted funds, to continue to create efficiencies within our justice system and provide affordable and accessible services to our citizens and those in need.

Outcomes cannot be achieved without a Strategic Plan to identify our goals and objectives and last year I charged an internal high-level working group to prepare a Strategic Plan for the First Judicial District. The goal of this strategic plan was 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 relied on 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 2019 is \$161.7 million dollars which consists of \$109.6 million for the General Fund and \$52.1 million for Grants Revenue and awaits your approval. In large measure, this \$162 million dollar budget request is paid for by the court system itself. In fact, the FJD generates \$44.0 million dollars that is credited to the general fund from filing fees, fines and costs (\$31.2 million) and, reimbursements (\$13.0 million). In addition, the FJD saves the City and its agencies over \$6.0 million annually by waiving filing fees in the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court-as well as \$3.8 million in law library fees. As a consequence, of the total \$162 million dollar budget request, the FJD is in reality only seeking \$55.4 million, or one-third of our total funding for FY19.

Absent from this funding for FY19, is the 3% wage increase for our exempt nonunion workforce. This wage increase was appropriated in our current FY18 budget and has not been released. At this time, I must strongly advocate on behalf of our affected employees to release these funds to our nonunion employees who are earning less than their union counterparts and who are equally deserving of this long-overdue wage increase.

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

<b>FY19 FJD General Fund Budget .....</b>	<b>\$109,556,573</b>
FJD Reimbursements & Grant in Aid from other Governments .....	(\$13,077,000)
Filing Fees, Fines and Costs .....	(\$31,263,000)
Jenkins Law Library Fee Collected and Paid on City's Behalf.....	(\$3,799,185)
Waived Fees for City Agencies .....	(\$6,045,875)
<b>Total Revenue that Offsets General Fund Budget.....</b>	<b>(\$54,185,060)</b>
<b>Net Cost to Fund FJD Courts .....</b>	<b>\$55,371,513</b>

Based on the revenue we generate and fees waived to our partner agencies, the Philadelphia Judiciary's budget is less than 1.2% of the City's overall General Fund budget.

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

The FJD managed to keep our position level at least 100 lower than 2012 and maintain an overtime expense less than one-tenth of one-percent of our Class 100 budget.

For four consecutive years, we have not requested any additional funds in our budget-neutral request and have generated budget savings as we implement new programs and initiatives.

**As a strategically focused partner in government**

In our Strategic Plan we are consistently looking to implement proactive measures to ensure a focused approach to address the issues that affect our courts by constantly reassessing, reaffirming and rededicating ourselves to review our performance and how we administer justice in Philadelphia. Listed below are the five tenets of our Strategic Plan and examples of outcomes addressing these goals.

**Access to Justice**

Goal: to treat everyone fairly, provide equal and open access, to provide safe and accommodating facilities and where possible provide affordable access and fees.

Outcomes:

- Use of Sheriff's deputies provide security support at our facilities;
- Use of *Yondr* bags to alleviate witness intimidation by enclosing our visitors' cellphones in secure pouches;
- On-line filing and access to court dockets, telephone messaging notification of hearings, and
- Resource center for seniors and Help centers for pro-se litigants in need of court services.

**Expedition and Timeliness**

Goal: to improve delivery of justice by eliminating and avoiding delay; to adjudicate cases within established guidelines for timely case processing and disposition by utilizing established time standards, measures of performance and proven case management techniques.

Outcomes:

- Wherever possible maintain clearance rates over 100%, thereby reducing inventory;
- achieving time-to-dispositions rates consistent with nationally and recognized standards;
- multi-level judicial leadership and case managers to track filings, inventory and dispositions;
- utilize diversion and accelerated disposition courts to reduce our dockets, and
- utilize specialty courts where rehabilitation or alternatives to incarceration are the outcome.

## Equality, Fairness and Integrity

Goal: members of our judiciary and court personnel shall ensure every litigant is treated fairly, with respect and receive their day in court in an impartial proceeding where a record is maintained.

Outcomes:

- ongoing customer service and professional development training for court staff;
- interpreters are available for court appearances, and court notices detailing availability of interpreters;
- efforts to treat jurors respectfully, with automated check-in, two reporting sites, with wifi, televisions and snacks during wait times, and
- employee recognition programs to boost morale.

## Independence and Accountability

Goal: to preserve our status as an independent co-equal branch of government while demonstrating accountability to the public, our justice partners and other branches of government.

Outcomes:

- effectively manage resources within budgeted funds;
- consistently advising and engaging justice partners when implementing new programs, and
- remain accessible and accountable to other agencies for our outcomes.

## Public Trust and Confidence

Goal: to achieve the highest level of public understanding, trust and confidence while being innovative and responsive to the changing needs of our citizens.

Outcomes:

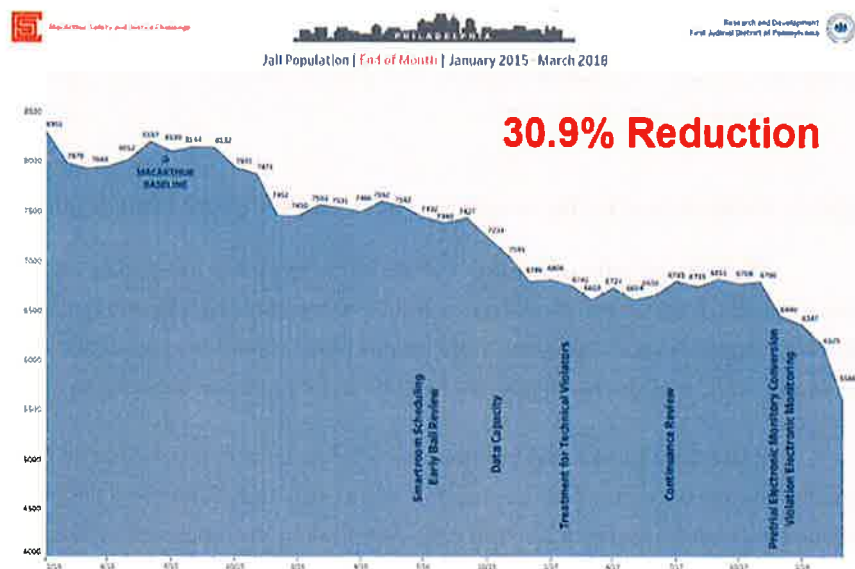
- produce a district-wide Annual Report with case statistics, program outcomes and status of initiatives
- continue to assess deliver of justice through new technologies including e-filings, video-conferencing and electronic evidence display;
- enable fair and accessible outcomes by staying attuned to racial, cultural, socioeconomic, linguistic and age diversity of our population.

## Strategically focused on creating 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 CJAB MacArthur criminal justice reform grant initiative has generated saving by reducing incarceration lengths of stay.

In July 2015, the baseline Philadelphia prison population was 8,082 and on March 31, 2018 the population was 5,586, a reduction of 2,496 inmates or 30.9%. Numerous factors have contributed to this reduction, but FJD-led MacArthur initiatives for early bail review, and reducing release time on electronic monitoring have generated substantial reductions.

As part of the MacArthur initiative, in July 2016, President Judge Marsha H. Neifield and the Philadelphia Municipal Court, in collaboration with the Defender Association and the District Attorney's Office, started

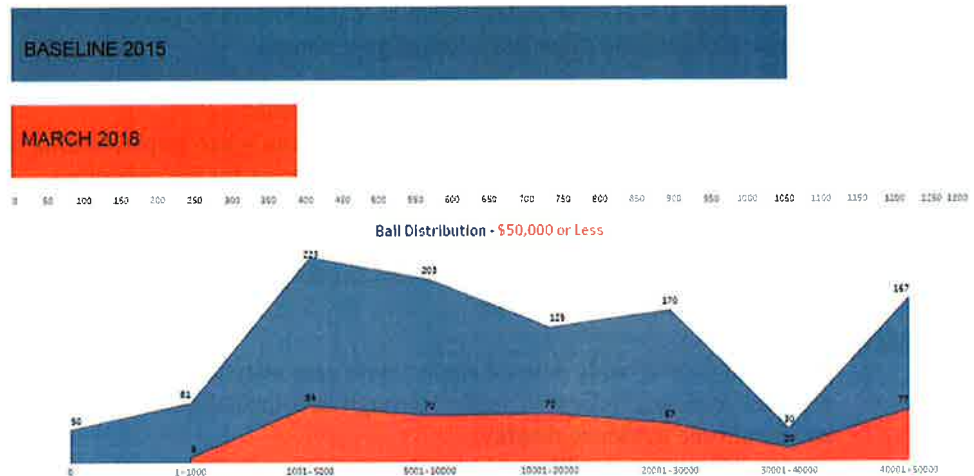




conducting early bail review hearings for individuals in custody on low bail amounts and no other holding matters. This new hearing process provides an early release opportunity for those in custody because they cannot make bail. As a result of Early Bail Review, 616 defendants were released from incarceration in an average of six days which is a reduction of 141 prison days per defendant or a total prison days savings of 86,000 days.

In 2015 when we began our MacArthur efforts, over a thousand people were in prison held on cash bail, with no detainers (1,040), that number has fallen by 64% over the past 3 years. The graphics depict the stark drop of this portion of the prison population. Additionally, the length of stay for many of these individuals is greatly abbreviated due to the Early Bail Review program through which many people obtain pretrial release.

#### PRETRIAL NON-MURDER NO DETAINERS | \$50,000 OR LESS



In 2015, the average number of days in custody prior to being placed on Electronic Monitoring was 37 days, and in 2017 it was 27 days, reducing prison stays by 10 days. Also, in conjunction with MacArthur grant funding, 700 new technologically advanced electronic monitors were activated which can further impact the prison population. Installation time can be reduced as land phone lines are not required and in most cases the new hardware is wireless.

Additionally, we are continuously evaluating other 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 and overtime.

#### Strategically focused on creating access and accessibility to the Philadelphia Justice System:

**Web-based job application** – since 2015, interested job-seekers can apply for posted positions utilizing our on-line job application accessible via our website. Since implemented, we have received 34,000 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 2017, over 900,000 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, 186,000 individuals used our interactive voice response system to



access the status of Traffic Division cases. Currently, over two million (2,000,000) case filings are stored electronically, eliminating the paper file in a majority of our courtrooms.

### **Strategically focused on new justice initiatives**

**Language Access Plan** – on March 27, 2017 the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted a comprehensive plan to improve access to justice for those with limited English proficiency and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Language Access Plan is designed to guide the judiciary in meeting language challenges brought by the growing diversity of Pennsylvania's population. It also further solidifies the Supreme Courts' commitment to fair and equal access to justice by providing quality language access services to non-English-speaking and deaf court users. During Calendar Year 2017, the First Judicial District expended resources and funds to implement the Language Access Plan' requirement to:

- 1) provide telephonic interpreting;
- 2) capture, at the earliest possible time, in the applicable case management system whether a principal party in interest, witness, victim, parent or person who is in need of an interpreter and if so, make arrangement for providing the required interpreter;
- 3) establish a district-specific Notice of Language Rights and include it with all hearing notices and subpoenas;
- 4) translate the Notice in the top 5 languages for which the judicial district most frequently requests interpreters;

**Relocation Adult Probation and Pretrial Services** – in September 2017, the FJD entered into an agreement to relocate these offices from 1401 Arch St to 714 Market St. This location was selected after an extensive two-year search encompassing every sector of the City and was ultimately chosen because of its cost effectiveness, proximity to public transportation and design efficiencies. In preparation, the Landlord will undertake a tenant complete refurbishment including mechanicals, electrical & plumbing systems. These efforts are expected to deliver custom designed offices for the FJD with projected occupancy in early 2019. Increased centralized lobby space will enable clients to wait inside the building, and see their probation officer in the same location. The facility will be wired with cameras and secure access. Also the cashier's window will have street access so clients do not have to assess the building to make payments.

**Attorney/Client Video Same day Interview Program** – in conjunction with FJD and the Sheriff's Department, the Attorney/Client Same Day Video Interview program was instituted on December 4, 2017. This program allows for attorneys to meet via video conference with their custody clients on the day they are scheduled for court. This program saves valuable time as custody defendants need not be brought to the courtroom unnecessarily. In just its first month, 50 defendants were seen by counsel utilizing this new program.

**Cell Phone Restrictions in the Stout Center for Criminal Justice** – Beginning in April 2017 and based on an initiative from Administrative Judge Jacqueline F. Allen, the Administrative Governing Board issued an order requiring 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 was intended to deter witness intimidation and courtroom distractions while addressing safety and security concerns in our courtrooms and after one full year of usage, there have been no complaints of witness intimidation.

**Alternatives to Secure Detention-Evening Reporting Centers** – the Family Court Juvenile Probation Branch under the direction of Administrative Judge Margret T. Murphy implemented Evening Reporting Centers (ERCs) as community based alternatives to detention or placement. ERC programs add an extra layer to community based supervision by coupling GPS monitoring with additional services for youth. Programs are based on a sound understanding of adolescent developmental research which urges practitioners to consider all the ways in which teenagers are

fundamentally different from adults. These programs aim to provide youth with pro-social opportunities to develop autonomous decision-making and critical thinking skills all while abstaining from delinquent behavior.

**Guardianship Monitoring** – the Orphans’ Court protects people of all ages and all stages of life who cannot protect themselves. A guardian is the person assigned to oversee the personal and/or financial well-being of incapacitated person. Under the direction of Administrative Judge Matthew D. Carrafiello the court established a guardian investigator to review each Inventory and Annual Report filed by a guardian, and track guardian compliance with their statutory duty to file reports, thereby ensuring the guardian is working in the best interest of the person they are responsible for.

**Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Program**– during 2017, with funding from the City, the Municipal Court Civil Division created a courtroom navigator to assist unrepresented landlords and tenants with basic information about the court process. The courtroom navigator can also provide referrals to legal services and resources, and put tenants in contact with a financial counselor. The courtroom navigator does not work for the court, is not an attorney, and does not provide legal advice. Also, the court instituted revisions to the landlord tenant complaint to be in compliance with local ordinances. These local ordinances mandate that a landlord have a rental license for every month during which the landlord is seeking rent, provide a certificate of rental suitability and a Partners for Good Housing Handbook to a tenant. The landlord may also be required to provide a certification that the property is either lead free or lead safe.

**Early Bail Review** – is one of the first major initiatives in the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, remains a cornerstone of pretrial reform efforts in Municipal Court. Incarcerated individuals on bail of \$50,000 or less and charged with non-violent misdemeanor or felony charges (with no other holding matters) are added to an early bail review list and scheduled for a hearing within five business days of the preliminary arraignment. Those released from custody are provided detailed instructions from the judge, the assistant district attorney, the public defender and the pretrial service representative to ensure that they satisfy the conditions of their release and appear for the next court date. In 2017, 83% of defendants released after an EBR hearing appeared at their next court date. Again as mentioned earlier, as a result of EBR, 616 defendants were released from incarceration with an average of six days which is a reduction of 141 prison day per defendant or a total prison days savings of 86,000 days.

**Traffic Public Safety Out-Reach Program** – nationally, approximately nine people are killed daily and more than 1,000 injured in automobile accidents involving a distracted driver. The Traffic Division of the Municipal Court under the direction of Administrative Judge Gary S. Glazer has developed and coordinated a program with the Philadelphia School District to speak to Philadelphia-area high schools. So far, the program has been presented to hundreds of students at seven high schools and focuses on driver safety and the perils of distracted and aggressive driving. The court is committed to the welfare of our students, and seeks to broaden the program’s audience.

### **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 \$68 million dollars in back taxes, including more than \$14 million in 2017. Approximately half of this money goes to the Philadelphia School District to help alleviate its funding shortfall.

### **Aging Facility**

Consistent with a strategic plan goal of supporting access to justice by providing safe and secure facilities, the FJD must alert the city-Administration about the declining condition of Stout Center for Criminal Justice. The daily foot-traffic here has taken its toll on the building and put a strain on the mechanical and operating systems, on the elevators and escalators, on courtroom and staff-area carpeting, furniture and furnishing. The building is in need of investment in these

areas and upgrades in its systems and infrastructure. As a tenant in this building, the judiciary expresses concerns for the safety of our employees who work there and the clients and visitors who use this building.

## **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 and savings 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 FY19 General Fund and Grants Revenue budget request. I will take your questions at this time.

## **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 program efficiencies and savings are based on what other criminal justice agencies could incur if these services were not provided.

- **Stout Center Video Conferencing**

- 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 2017, the criminal courts conducted 5,060 video conferences saving the city in police overtime, and prisoner and transportation costs.

- **Video Crash Court**

In addition to the use of video conferencing, the Video Crash Court expedited adjudications of 326 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.

- **Electronic Monitoring**

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**

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**

The Attorney/Client Video Interview Program was instituted in April 2011. In 2016, 754 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 yield prisoner transportation savings.

- **Accelerated Misdemeanor Program**

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 2017, approximately 4,573 listed cases were removed from the standard criminal calendar resulting in savings from reduced police overtime. Also, a total of 19,974 community service hours were completed.

- **Mental Health Court**

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 and the total number of participants in the program to 180. 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 2017, 1,897 juveniles were under the supervision of the Probation Department, and including office, home and community site visits, juvenile probation officers resulting in completed more than 33,591 contacts with youth and their families.

In 2017, 281 youth were awarded a High School Diploma or 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 434 youth participated in 2017, 251 youth were assigned to a Comprehensive or a Transitional School to work on attaining their academic goals. The remaining 181 either completed their educational requirements or were assigned to an alternative school program through the School District of Philadelphia.

Over 30,080 hours of youth Community Service was completed in 2017. This calculates into \$218,080 in services for neighborhoods and citizens in Philadelphia using the current minimum wage scale.

Collections for restitution to juvenile victims totaled \$128,486.

The utilization of GPS Monitoring, as an alternative to placement and detention saved City of Philadelphia taxpayers \$5,404,548 in juvenile justice services.

- **Dependency Court**

3,981 dependency cases were filed in 2017. Or an 11% increase from 2016.

2,878 Dependent adjudicated cases were closed, and terminated from court supervision. A 10% decrease from 2016.

Adoptions increased by 33% in 2017, permanent homes were found for 814 children.

Of the children under the courts supervision at the end of 2017, 50% remained at home or were in kinship care, 37% 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 2017, there were approximately 76,390 total filings in the Domestic Relations Branch (21,894 custody, 31,181 support, 9,423 domestic violence and 13,892 divorce) and more than 85,000 interim and final orders entered (31,999 custody, 23,520 support, 26,564 domestic violence, and 3,446 divorce).

In 2017, 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 2017, support collections totaled more than \$154 million.

- Criminal Trial Division

- Adult Probationers

Total number of offenders supervised by APPD on 12/31/2017: 42,282.

The number of drug tests administered to probation clients totaled 66,187.

- Pre-trial Services / Electronic Monitoring Unit

At the end of 2017, there were 491 clients on active electronic monitoring and the Unit installed 1,315 electronic monitoring devices and conducted 963 field interviews and 1,421 maintenance requests.

- 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 2017

Case Type	Homicide	Felony Majors Program	Felony List Program	Total
New Cases	147	4,025	6,831	11,003
Disposed Cases	213	4,794	7,465	12,472
Clearance Rate	145%	119%	109%	113%

#### Common Pleas Civil Trial Division

Cases	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
New Cases	48,481	34,149	35,888	35,739	35,147	36,227
Disposed Cases	47,267	35,483	37,576	37,314	41,150	41,431
Clearance Rate	97%	104%	105%	104%	117%	114%



<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	4,782	5,484
2017	4,288	4,931
<b>Total*</b>	<b>58,852</b>	<b>69,477 *</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	18,871	19,609	38,480
Disposed Cases	18,890	19,439	38,329
Clearance Rate	100%	99.1%	100%

#### Municipal Court Civil Division

<b>Cases</b>	<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Landlord /Tenant</b>	<b>Statement of Claims</b>	<b>Total</b>
New Cases	38,846	24,856	27,224	90,926
Disposed Cases	29,647	29,666	27,825	87,138
Clearance Rate	76%	119%	102%	96%

- **Municipal Court Traffic Division (updated)**

- 102,414 motor vehicle citations were issued in 2017.
- Traffic Division adjudications totaled 103,446 of which 64% were guilty by trial and 38% of the remainder pleaded guilty.
- 48,460 installment payment plan hearings were conducted to arrange payment of citation fees.
- 11,881 Impoundment hearings for confiscated vehicles.
- Traffic Court collected \$20 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. In 2017, Veterans Court had a total of 127 active participants and 55 individuals (multiple cases) successfully graduated
- **Project DAWN** streamlines prostitution cases to centralize treatment, housing and ancillary services for women in custody on detainees 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. In 2017, Project Dawn admitted 19 individuals, 36 cases and 43 probation matters and recognized 10 individuals, who successfully completed the program.
- **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. In 2017, 62 cases were accepted into the TCY program.
- **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. In 2017, 326 cases were adjudicated through Video Crash Court, which was a slight increase over 2016.
- **Drug Treatment Court** is the first drug court in Pennsylvania, and 2017 witnessed the 20th Anniversary of Philadelphia's Drug Treatment Court. 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 3,203 successful graduates of the program (139 in 2017); of those, 92% 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. In all, 89% of the participants have successfully completed the program. To date, there have been 545 graduates (81 in 2017); of those, 92% were not convicted of a new crime and 86% remained arrest free.
- **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 Parks & Recreation. In 2017, 4,573 cases were diverted to AMP and 19,974 community service hours were successfully 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. The unit approved 2,068 petitions in calendar year 2017 and provided referrals for victim services and emergency referral sites throughout Philadelphia to several thousand non-qualifying petitioners.
- **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 2017, 85 individuals accepted the DV Diversion Program and 105 successfully completed the program.

### **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 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 2017, 46% are still active, 20% have graduated successfully, 12% have had their records expunged, only 7% have been removed for being on bench warrant status for over 21 days, even less than that, only 5% have been removed for being found guilty of a new charge, and only 2% 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. In 2017, over 410 juveniles were reviewed in Crossover Court, resulting in 3,205 hearings.

### **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 2017, the Criminal Trial Division continued its efforts to work with the following organizations as they ex-offenders as they transition to community settings.

  - **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 64,757. Also, 13% 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 2017, 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 155 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 2017 fiscal year (), SJJ has already provided sports programming to 320 court involved youth, amounting to 1,700 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 2017 the program accepted a total of 82 youth, 76 of whom were discharged. Out of those who completed the program, the average length of stay was 66.5 days with a 77.7% success rate.
- **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. In 2017, the Project Penn served 244 clients, a 17% increase or 36 more clients than in 2016 due to the addition of signage.
- **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, 6,579 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 \$10.83, and 45% of those jobs provide medical coverage. Since 2004, obligors who have completed the NEON program have paid more than \$36,000,000 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**
  - **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. In 2017, a total of 187 defendants were scheduled to take the class, and 141 defendants successfully completed the program.

- **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 2,068 petitions in calendar year 2017 and provided referrals for victim services and emergency referral sites throughout Philadelphia to several thousand non-qualifying petitioners

- **Municipal Court Traffic Division**

- **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. The Court hosted two separate groups of law students in 2017, both of which met with Municipal Court Judge Francis Shields and hearing officer Demetrios Semos, Esquire, both of whom provided discourse on the court's legal processes and procedures involving convictions on motor vehicle violations at the Traffic Division and nunc pro tunc appeals to the Court of Common Pleas. As advocates for the probationers, the law students stress the importance of a valid driver license for the newly integrated members of society without which future employment opportunities may be precluded.

**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 2017, 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; over 12,000 individuals responded to the Tax Refund Notice, and \$1,116,519.01 was paid as a result thereof. In fact, over a two-day period of February 23, 2017 through February 24, 2017, this initiative resulted in collections of \$340,000.
- **Interactive Voice Response System** – through the court's Interactive Voice Response system ("IVR"), \$1,057,769 was paid by defendants who were attempting to satisfy their total debt or comply with their monthly payment obligation. Also, approximately 186,490 individuals contacted the Call Center via the call-forwarding feature of the IVR.



**General Fund Financial Summary by Class**

	FY17 Original Appropriations	FY17 Actual Obligations	FY18 Original Appropriations	FY18 Estimated Obligations	FY19 Proposed Appropriations	Difference: FY19-FY18
Class 100 - Employee Compensation	\$97,254,698	\$94,649,818	\$99,505,601	\$97,561,721	\$99,194,666	\$1,632,945
Class 200 - Purchase of Services	\$10,656,574	\$12,062,881	\$9,545,039	\$9,545,039	\$8,130,039	(\$1,415,000)
Class 300/400 - Materials, Supplies & Equipment	\$2,391,868	\$2,386,567	\$2,391,868	\$2,391,868	\$2,231,868	(\$160,000)
Class 500 - Contributions		\$21,587				\$0
Class 700 - Debt Service	\$0					\$0
Class 800 - Payment to Other Funds	\$0					\$0
Class 900 - Advances/Misc. Payments	\$0					\$0
	\$110,303,140	\$109,120,853	\$111,442,508	\$109,498,628	\$109,556,573	\$57,945

**Contracts Summary (Professional Services only)**

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18 YTD (Q1 & Q2)
Total amount of contracts	\$6,154,947	\$6,250,603	\$8,207,310	\$6,609,088	\$7,630,874	\$4,641,842
Total amount to M/W/DSBE	\$3,149,245	\$3,061,432	\$3,674,673	\$3,764,767	\$3,629,115	\$1,923,329
Participation Rate	51%	49%	45%	57%	48%	41%

**Staff Demographics Summary (as of December 2017)**

	Total	Minority	White	Female
Number of Full-Time Staff	2382	953	1429	1473
Number of - Exempt Staff	2382	953	1429	1473
Number of Executive Staff (deputy level and above)	52	13	39	22
Average Salary, Full-Time Staff	\$48,824	\$47,171	\$49,927	\$47,382
Average Salary, Exempt Staff	\$100,361	\$100,251	\$100,398	\$94,917
Average Salary, Executive Staff	\$100,361	\$100,251	\$100,398	\$94,917
Median Salary, Full-Time Staff	\$46,041	\$44,709	\$46,641	\$44,636
Median Salary, Exempt Staff	\$100,348	\$98,860	\$101,836	\$91,750
Median Salary, Executive Staff	\$100,348	\$98,860	\$101,836	\$91,750

**Staff Demographics (as of December 2017)**

Full-Time Staff			Executive Staff		
	Male	Female		Male	Female
<b>African-American</b>			<b>African-American</b>		
Total	235	548	Total	6	5
% of Total	10%	23%	% of Total	12%	10%
Average Salary	\$47,685	\$46,383	Average Salary	\$99,465	\$93,019
Median Salary	\$46,208	\$43,849	Median Salary	\$98,823	\$90,696
<b>White</b>			<b>White</b>		
Total	609	820	Total	22	17
% of Total	26%	34%	% of Total	42%	33%
Average Salary	\$52,448	\$48,053	Average Salary	\$104,201	\$95,476
Median Salary	\$48,659	\$44,709	Median Salary	\$103,093	\$92,204
<b>Hispanic</b>			<b>Hispanic</b>		
Total	34	70	Total	1	0
% of Total	1%	3%	% of Total	2%	0%
Average Salary	\$50,010	\$47,043	Average Salary	\$115,354	\$0
Median Salary	\$46,141	\$47,238	Median Salary	\$115,354	\$0
<b>Asian</b>			<b>Asian</b>		
Total	10	16	Total	1	0
% of Total	0%	1%	% of Total	2%	0%
Average Salary	\$55,548	\$48,022	Average Salary	\$126,025	\$0
Median Salary	\$44,527	\$46,028	Median Salary	\$125,025	\$0
<b>Other</b>			<b>Other</b>		
Total	21	19	Total	0	0
% of Total	1%	1%	% of Total	0%	0%
Average Salary	\$52,541	\$47,903	Average Salary	\$0	\$0
Median Salary	\$50,409	\$48,809	Median Salary	\$0	\$0
<b>Bilingual</b>			<b>Bilingual</b>		
Total	3	3	Total	0	0
% of Total	0%	0%	% of Total	0%	0%
Average Salary	\$48,268	\$50,293	Average Salary	\$0	\$0
Median Salary	\$51,747	\$52,547	Median Salary	\$0	\$0
<b>Male</b>			<b>Male</b>		
Total	909	1473	Total	30	22
% of Total	38%	62%	% of Total	58%	42%
Average Salary	\$51,162	\$47,382	Average Salary	\$104,353	\$94,918
Median Salary	\$47,683	\$44,636	Median Salary	\$102,736	\$91,750

