

About the Cover

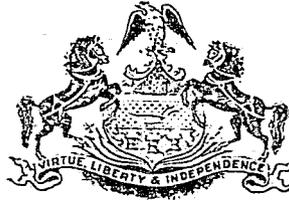
In anticipation of the 1988 Bicentennial observance of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, the cover for the 1987 Annual Report features a reproduction of Architect Henry Hobson Richardson's elevation view of the famous building's Forbes Street facade.

Appropriately, the darkened windows in the upper right are for the Third Floor courtroom which has been restored by the Court Bicentennial Committee to its original appearance of 100 years ago when the building opened.

The elevation is one of a rare collection of original construction documents signed by Architect Richardson and stored in the Hillman Library Archives.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

TO: President Judge Michael J. O'Malley and the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, all Court Personnel and the Citizens of Allegheny County

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County which chronicles the work of this Court during the year 1987.

The statistics, photographs and articles in the Report provide the details of the year's activities by the Judges and Court personnel in fulfilling their responsibilities to the people of Allegheny County.

I wish to express my appreciation to all of the Judges and their staffs, the directors and supervisors of the various Court offices and their personnel for their cooperation in the preparation of this Report.

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Court of Common Pleas
Allegheny County/Pennsylvania

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Sincerely,

Charles H. Starrett, Jr.
Court Administrator

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Increased reliance on the Courts straining the system

The Court of Common Pleas is 199 years old, and we are making preparations for its 200th birthday.

Looking back to the early years, we find that justice moved at a slower pace but was sufficient for the rural life that was in existence in the late 1700's. As the life-style changed to a more urban existence, additional demands were made upon the judicial system which are continuing to the present day.

The simple solution is to add more judges as the population increases but, like all simple solutions, they are just that.

Modern-day demands made upon the judicial system are not directly the result of increased population (which is a factor) but result from other factors.

Today the populace is better educated and more aware of its rights and is less hesitant about exercising them. The makeup of the people is different in that the large immigrant class has been replaced by first and second generation Americans who are less reluctant to get involved in litigation.

The legislature also has created causes of action, many of which didn't exist even ten years ago.

The Court is hearing cases on product liability; medical malpractice; mental health; child abuse and others which are increasing each year.

A perusal of the statistics contained in this report shows the demands made upon our system in 1987.

In each Division and department a maximum effort has been required to keep the system as current as it is.

The system is straining and one wonders if just one more straw will cause it to break down.

I applaud the efforts of the Judges and personnel of our system because without their commitment we would be in more serious trouble.



President Judge



THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
HONORABLE MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY, PRESIDENT JUDGE

CIVIL DIVISION

Hon. Ralph J. Cappy, Administrative Judge

Hon. Ralph H. Smith, Jr.
Hon. Silvestri Silvestri
Hon. Robert A. Doyle
Hon. Marion K. Finkelhor
Hon. Livingstone M. Johnson

Hon. Bernard J. McGowan
Hon. Richard G. Zeleznik
Hon. I. Martin Wekselman
Hon. S. Louis Farino
Hon. Leonard C. Staisey

Hon. Bernard L. McGinley
*Hon. John L. Musmanno
*Hon. Robert P. Horgos

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Robert E. Dauer, Administrative Judge

Hon. Joseph H. Ridge
Hon. John W. O'Brien
Hon. James F. Clarke
Hon. James R. McGregor
Hon. George H. Ross
Hon. Gerard M. Bigley

Hon. Raymond A. Novak
Hon. Alan S. Penkower
Hon. Walter R. Little
Hon. Judith L. A. Friedman
Hon. David S. Cercone
Hon. Patrick McFalls

Hon. Robert A. Kelly
Hon. Donna Jo McDaniel
**Hon. Lee J. Mazur
**Hon. Joseph M. James

FAMILY DIVISION

Hon. R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., Administrative Judge

Hon. Eugene B. Strassburger, III
Hon. Lawrence W. Kaplan

***Hon. William L. Standish
Hon. James H. McLean

Hon. Joseph A. Jaffe

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

Hon. Paul R. Zavarella, Administrative Judge

Hon. J. Warren Watson

Hon. Eunice Ross

SENIOR JUDGES

Hon. Hugh C. Boyle
Hon. Loran L. Lewis
Hon. Maurice Louik

****Hon. William S. Rahauser
Hon. Raymond L. Scheib
Hon. Nathan Schwartz

*****Hon. Henry R. Smith, Jr.
Hon. Frederic G. Weir

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Charles H. Starrett, Jr.
Court Administrator

Robert V. McCarthy
Deputy Administrator

*Transferred from Criminal Division effective May 4, 1987

**Appointed effective May 8, 1987

***Resigned commission November 25, 1987, to take office as a U.S. District Court Judge

****Retired August 1, 1987

*****Assumed Senior Judge status February 6, 1987

The Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County serves the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Fifth Judicial District, which is comprised of Allegheny County.

Orphans' Court Division



Judge Paul R. Zavarella
Administrative Judge

Orphans' Court on the move as caseload climbs

The Orphans' Court Division was on the move in 1987, not only by a large increase in case activity, but literally as well to a new location... the 17th Floor of the Frick Building.

Relocation served the dual purpose of consolidating the Division in its own area and providing courtroom space in the City-County Building for eight Senior Judges who are now working full-time schedules in all other Divisions.

The Frick Building location contains four courtrooms with adjoining judicial chambers, secretary and law clerk offices, and personal library shelving. Also within the new location are separate areas for the decree room and decree clerks,

adoption personnel and the disability section (for civil commitments and incompetents).

There is a separate office for fiduciary investigators' and Register of Wills' use. Provisions have been made for a library for the use of judicial staff and attorneys. A computer room is being designed.

In addition, a lawyers' lounge has been provided and will be maintained by the Probate Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

The reconstruction and relocation was a year in execution and was completed for partial use at year's end. Complete occupancy was scheduled for early 1988.



Judge J. Warren Watson



Judge Eunice Ross

(Continued on Page 6)

AUDIT HEARINGS OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Accounts filed by Executors, Administrators, Trustees and Guardians | 1,942 |
| Small Estates (\$10,000.00 and less) | 411 |
| TOTAL DECREES OF DISTRIBUTION: | 2,353 |

HEARINGS

| | |
|--|------------|
| Hearing on claims of creditors against Estates, Exceptions to Account, and questions of distribution involving construction of testamentary writings | 356 |
| Appeals from Decrees of Register of Wills in grant of Letters of Administration, Inheritance Tax Appraisals and Assessments | 17 |
| Annulment of spouses' election to take against the Will | 12 |
| Will Contest | 8 |
| Sales of Real Estate on Citation and Return Day | 23 |
| Miscellaneous Hearings, including Presumed Decedents, Absentees, correction of Birth and Marriage records | 13 |
| Proceedings against Fiduciaries | 178 |
| Hearings on delinquent Transfer Inheritance Tax Due | 153 |
| TOTAL HEARINGS | 760 |

CIVIL COURT COMMITMENTS January 1, 1987 through December 31, 1987

| | |
|--|--------------|
| PETITIONS PRESENTED | 6,064 |
| Included in the above are: | |
| 5,746 Petitions (Writs of Habeas Corpus, 303,304,305, 406 Petitions, Petitions for Review, Petitions for de novo Hearings) | |
| 204 Petitions - Juvenile Court Cases | |
| 55 Petitions - Criminal Court Cases | |
| 59 Petitions - Criminal Court Cases at Farview State Hospital | |
| PRELIMINARY ORDERS | 124 |
| COMMITMENT ORDERS ENTERED | 5,258 |
| These include judicial orders and those based on Certifications and Recommendations of Mental Health Review Officers | |
| 6,064 Hearings were involved in above cases | |
| 115 Scheduled for Judges | |
| 5,949 Scheduled for Mental Health Review Officers | |
| Which included: | |
| 204 Juvenile Court Cases | |
| 55 Criminal Court Cases | |
| 59 Criminal Court Cases at Farview State Hospital | |
| PETITIONS WITHDRAWN, DISMISSED | 806 |
| OTHER ORDERS | 100 |
| TOTAL DISPOSITIONS | 6,064 |
| TOTAL ORDERS | 6,288 |

PETITIONS FILED

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Additional Bonds | 165 |
| Appointment of Guardians of the Estates of Minors | 65 |
| Appointment of Guardians of the Person of Minors | 35 |
| Lifting of Suspensions of Distribution | 44 |
| Sale of Real Estate | 201 |
| Petitions and Citations against Fiduciaries to file accounts or to show cause why they should not be removed, etc. | 178 |
| Petitions filed by the Attorney General and Citations awarded against Fiduciaries to show cause why they should not file Transfer Inheritance Tax due. (Figure included under Hearings.) | 153 |
| Miscellaneous Petitions and Motions | 689 |
| TOTAL PETITIONS | 1,530 |
| ARGUMENT LIST | |
| Exceptions heard by Court En Banc | 55 |
| OPINIONS FILED | |
| Opinions filed by the Court | 36 |
| PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE | |
| Docketed | 224 |
| RETURN DAYS | |
| Scheduled | 189 |

Orphans' Court Division

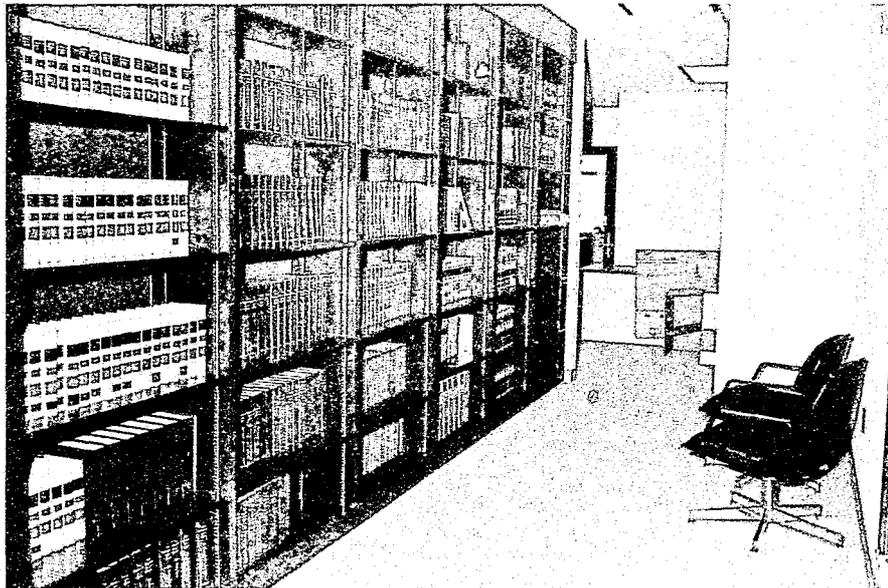
Court on the move

(Continued from Page 5)

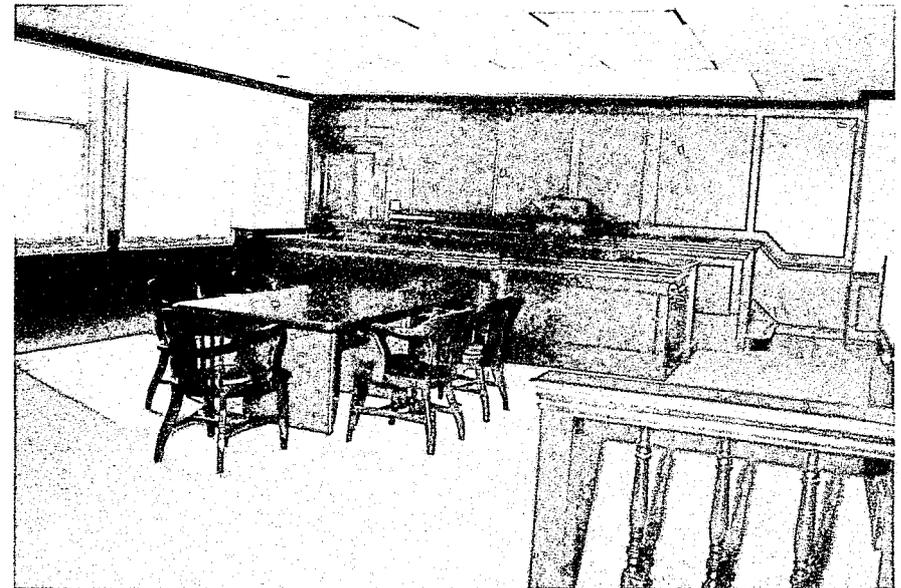
As indicated in the accompanying statistical reports, case filings and dispositions in 1987 increased in the areas of adoptions, incompetency proceedings and civil commitments, with significant increased activity in incompetency proceedings.



ADJOINING EACH courtroom in the new Orphans' Court quarters is the chambers for the judge. This is the chambers of Judge Warren Watson on the Grant Street-Fifth corner of the 17th Floor.

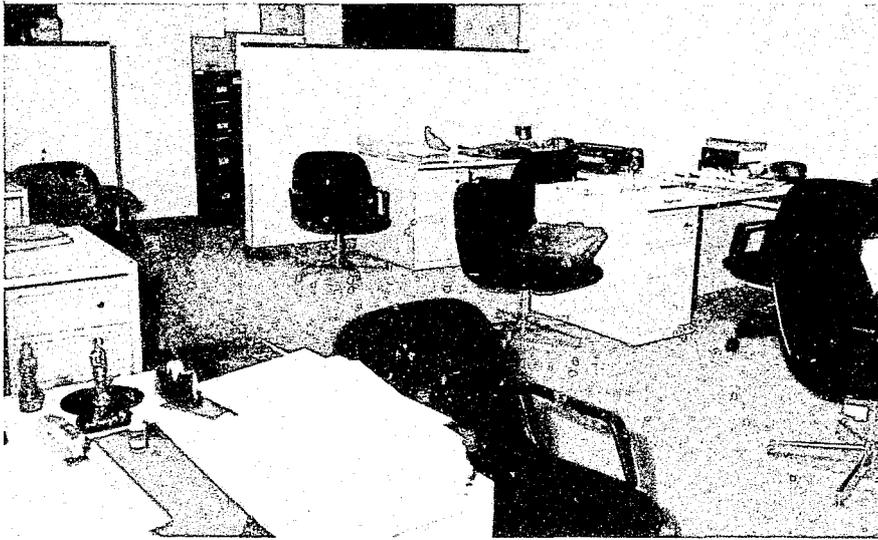


SPACE ECONOMY was achieved with the Judges sharing access to books (that were formerly kept in each courtroom) stacked in a hallway that connects two chambers.



BRIGHT NEW courtrooms are provided for four Judges in the new Orphans' Court facilities in the Frick Building. This is one of the two larger courtrooms in the complex.

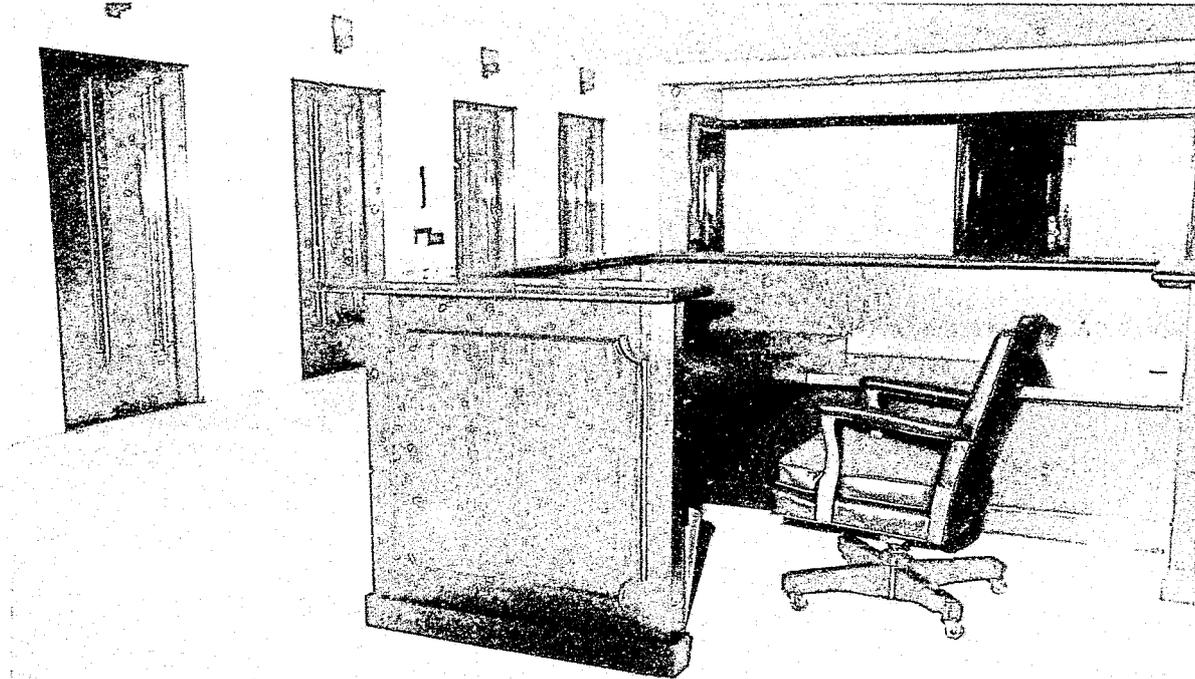
Orphans' Court Division



NEW DESKS AND CHAIRS provide the Decree Clerks pleasant surroundings to work in at the new Orphans' Court home in the Frick Building.



INDIRECT LIGHTING and natural sunlight combine to create a cheerful working location for these employees in the Adoptions Section.



VISITORS IN ORPHANS' Court will be greeted as they come off the elevator by a receptionist at this reception desk and directed to the appropriate office for disposing of their court affairs.

Orphans' Court Division

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION INCOMPETENCY PROCEEDINGS

January 1, 1987, through December 31, 1987

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| No. of Petitions presented | 521 |
| Temporary Guardians Appointed | 144 |
| Permanent Guardians Appointed | 284 |
| Successor Guardians Appointed | 24 |
| Guardians Discharged | 115 |
| Cases Continued | 191 |
| Cases Dismissed | 72 |
| Adjudications of Competency | 0 |
| Bonds Approved | 114 |
| No. of Allowances Entered | 162 |
| TOTAL ORDERS ENTERED | 1,627 |

Total orders include the preliminary orders on the Petitions, appointments of temporary, permanent and successor guardians, allowances, discharge of guardians, dismissals of petitions and approval of bonds.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| TOTAL DISPOSITIONS | 670 |
| NO. OF HEARINGS IN ABOVE CASES | 646 |

In addition to the above, the Court held forty-three (43) hearings including hearings on citations to show cause why:

- assets or property should not be turned over
- trustee should not file an accounting
- guardian should not enter property
- incompetent should not be transferred
- bank accounts should not be sequestered
- trust should not be terminated
- individual should not visit incompetent
- allowances should not be paid
- real estate should not be sold
- change of beneficiary in insurance policy

ADOPTION MATTERS

January 1, 1987 through December 31, 1987

Adoptions:

358 hearings were held during 1987. 356 petitions were originally scheduled for 1987. 372 petitions were presented in 1987. 350 decrees were entered. A total of 372 persons were adopted. 104 petitions involved Involuntary Terminations. 10 adoptions developed into contests during 1987. 3 of these contested adoptions were adjudicated, 0 were withdrawn and 7 were not decreed and are still pending. 3 contested adoptions from prior years were also decreed during 1987 and 0 are still pending. A total of 6 contested adoptions were decreed in 1987. 2 uncontested adoptions are still pending and 1 was withdrawn.

Voluntary Relinquishments:

37 hearings were held during 1987. 40 petitions were originally scheduled for 1987. 41 petitions were presented in 1987. 37 decrees were entered. 1 petition was withdrawn and 2 are still pending. Of the 37 petitions decreed, 13 were to approved agencies and 24 were to adults intending to adopt.

Petitions to Confirm Consent:

134 hearings were held during 1987. 128 petitions were originally scheduled for 1987. 130 petitions were presented in 1987. 126 decrees were entered. 3 petitions were withdrawn, 3 are still pending and 1 was denied. Of the 126 petitions decreed, 69 were to approved agencies and 57 were to adults intending to adopt. 1 petition from previous years is still pending.

Petitions for Voluntary Relinquishment in Conjunction with Involuntary Terminations:

1 hearing was held during 1987. 1 petition was originally scheduled for 1987. 1 petition was presented in 1987. 2 decrees were entered, 1 of which was from 1986. 0 petitions were withdrawn and 0 are still pending. Of the 2 petitions decreed, 1 was to approved agencies and 1 was to adults intending to adopt.

Petitions to Confirm Consent in Conjunction with Involuntary Terminations:

6 hearings were held during 1987. 4 petitions were originally scheduled for 1987. 4 petitions were presented in 1987. 4 decrees were entered, 1 of which was from 1986. 1 petition was withdrawn and 1 (from 1986) is still pending. Of the 4 petitions decreed, 1 was to approved agencies and 3 were to adults intending to adopt.

15,000 out-of-library, there were approximately 1,000 interlibrary loan requests. Through the use of the OCLC computer cataloging system, 225 of these loan requests were filled electronically. Another 160 were filled using conventional paper requests.

Involuntary Terminations:

115 hearings were held during 1987. 94 petitions were originally scheduled for 1987. 93 petitions were presented in 1987. 82 decrees were entered. Of the 82 petitions decreed, 75 were to approved agencies and 7 were to adults intending to adopt. 16 Involuntary Terminations developed into contests during 1987. 1 of these contested terminations has been adjudicated and 15 are still pending. 7 contested terminations from previous years have been adjudicated and 1 was denied. 1 petition has been withdrawn. 5 petitions from previous years are still pending.

PETITIONS PRESENTED IN 1987:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Adoption Petitions | 372 |
| Voluntary Relinquishments | 41 |
| Petitions to Confirm Consents | 130 |
| Involuntary Terminations | 93 |
| Voluntary Relinquishments with Involuntary Terminations | 1 |
| Confirm Consents with Involuntary Terminations | 4 |

TOTAL PETITIONS PRESENTED: 641

PETITIONS DECREED IN 1987:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Adoption Petitions | 350 |
| Voluntary Relinquishments | 37 |
| Petitions to Confirm Consents | 126 |
| Involuntary Terminations | 82 |
| Voluntary Relinquishments with Involuntary Terminations | 2 |
| Confirm Consents with Involuntary Terminations | 4 |

TOTAL DECREES ENTERED: 601

ORDERS OF COURT:

On all petitions presented, continuing hearings, amending petitions, directing publication, accepting jurisdiction, permitting interrogatories, appointing counsel for parents in Involuntary Terminations.....1,071

COMBINED TOTAL DECREES AND ORDERS IN 1987: 1,672

142 requests from adoptive parents or adoptees for verification, adoption certificates or medical information. 37 requests for assistance in securing amended birth certificates on basis of adoptions.

100,000 Library patrons

A major shifting of its book collection to accommodate expansion of the current inventory was undertaken by the Law Library during 1987.

The Library reports there were 100,000 patrons in 1987. In addition to an in-house circulation of 45,000 and

Telefacsimile equipment was used to send 1,215 pages of information and to receive 514 pages. The Law Library is a participant in the statewide Interlibrary Delivery System which provides next day delivery service for the participating 200 libraries.

Child Support Program Among Nation's Best

Dear Mr. Starrett:

I want to thank you for the hospitality and assistance given my staff during their recent visit to your office. Barbara McKenna and Melanie Kelley talked with you and Gary Stout about the Allegheny County child support enforcement program.

Establishing a role for this office with the Illinois child support program is one of my top priorities. I appreciate the assistance you and your staff provided by sharing your ideas and experiences on this issue. I think your program to improve child support enforcement is among the most impressive in the nation. The people, especially the children to whom support is due, in Allegheny County are well served by your efforts.

Please extend my thanks to Gary for his help. Please call me if this office can provide any assistance to you.

Very truly yours,
Samuel D. Conti
Director, Administrative Office
of the Illinois Courts

Court Visit a Big Help

Mr. Bill Pulkowski
Adult Section of Family Division

Dear Bill:

Nadeen Biddinger, Linn Piper and I are all grateful for the opportunity to visit with you and your staff recently. Viewing your child support system and accompanying accounting procedures was important and valuable to us. It will help us in making our decision on new software and hardware purchases. We were also able to bring back with us ideas on improving our manual accounting procedures.

Thank you for the time and effort you spent on our behalf. Please convey our gratitude to your staff.

Sincerely,
Anne Kilinski
Fiscal Deputy of Marion Circuit Court

An Educational Visit

Gary Stout
Court of Common Pleas

The Domestic Relations Branch of the District of

PRAISE from near and far

Columbia Superior Court System would like to express our appreciation for the courtesy shown during our visit to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 11, 1987.

Our visitation to the Court of Common Pleas Allegheny County was most educational. The information gained will further help the development of the D.C. automated system for the Domestic Relations Branch. The suggestions offered by you, as well as your staff will be considered as we continue to develop our own automated system. You have provided us with a good list of things we should avoid, as well as action we should consider during our development.

Overall, the group consensus was, that our day in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will further help the D.C. Domestic Relations Computer System, currently being developed. Our commencement date is September, 1987. Thank you for your time and help and we look forward to hearing and seeing you in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Mark S. Schaffer,
Branch Chief
Domestic Relations Branch

Expresses High Regard for Behavior Clinic

Christine Martone, M.D.
Director of Psychiatry, Behavior Clinic

As my days wind down as Director of the Forensic Center at Mayview, I have this need to write you an expression of my regard for you and your staff at the Behavior Clinic.

In all of our years working together, the relationship between the Behavior Clinic and Mayview has been a cooperative and communicative one. We have resolved many difficult problems and disagreements have been few and always reconciliatory. Your integrity as a psychiatrist has always impressed me but your

warmth and caring demeanor goes way beyond.

Lori Winter and Sharon Campbell are both top-notch and always sensitive and aware of issues and needs. All of you are a tribute to your professions and your commitment to the mentally disordered offenders is impressive.

My warmest feelings and personal regards to all of you with best wishes for all your future endeavors.

Very sincerely yours,
Lillian L. Meyers, Ph.D
Director, Mayview State Hospital
Regional Psychiatric Forensic Center

Praise for Arbitration

Dear Judge O'Malley:

We are in the throes of beginning our court-ordered arbitration project here in North Carolina, so I fear that my thanks have been delayed. However, I do wish to express to you and your staff my sincere appreciation for allowing the North Carolina Bar Association to bring the administrators of our project to Pittsburgh to visit your court.

Walter Lesniak and his staff did an outstanding job of letting us really see how your arbitration system works, particularly from the administrative side. Over and over again, my compatriots marveled at the spirit and enthusiasm of Walter's staff.

Sincerely,
Frank C. Laney
Dispute Resolution Coordinator
North Carolina Bar Foundation

Professionalism Cited

Dear Mr. Starrett:

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the staff of the Family Division for their hospitality during our visit last week. Their complete and thoughtful explanation of the County's child support enforcement program and supporting computer system was extremely informative. Gary Stout and his entire staff demonstrated a professionalism and dedication to this important program which is clearly the foundation of its success.

Sincerely,
Ed Gund
Senior Vice President
Municipal Marketing
DATACOM Systems Corp.

Courtroom restored

Stepping back into the past

Entering the courtroom of Judge George H. Ross in the Allegheny County Courthouse in 1988 and thereafter will be stepping across the threshold of today into the decor and charm of yesterday . . . 100 years of yesterdays, to be exact.

Courtroom Number Three on the Third Floor of the Courthouse has been restored to as it appeared when the building first opened in 1888.

Estimated cost of the project is \$375,000. Funding was provided through contributions from members of the Allegheny County Bar Association and several private foundations and corporations. Allegheny County also made a \$150,000 loan to the Bicentennial Committee to provide seed money for various Committee projects.

The restoration has become the centerpiece of the Bicentennial celebration of the Court (which was established in 1788) and the Centennial observance of the opening of the Courthouse in 1888.

Restoration work was started in the late summer of 1987 under a contract issued by the 1988 Bicentennial Committee of the Court of Common Pleas. The Committee was formed through the efforts of the Allegheny County Bar Association in May of 1984 at the request of President Judge Michael J. O'Malley.

Landau Building Company was the contractor for the restoration work. This included removal of the lowered ceiling and restoring the courtroom to a two-story high room;

relocating the judicial bench, the jury box and spectator seating area; building and installing a chandelier; laying carpeting; exposing the original fireplace behind the courtroom wall paneling and restoring its marble facade; relocating utility lines in the false ceiling; and furnishing the room with authentic chairs and tables from 100 years ago.

The latter, as expected, required a thorough search of the Courthouse, as well as rooms and storage areas in the City-County Building, County Office Building, and even Hartwood Acres in the North Hills.

(Continued on Page 11)



THIS WAS WHAT Courtroom Number Three in the Courthouse looked like (above) before the Bicentennial Committee restoration project started in early Fall. Commissioners Tom Foerster (seated right) and Pete Flaherty (standing right) joined the Committee members in the courtroom for the signing of the restoration contract in September with Landau Building Company. Participating in the event were (seated left to right) President Judge Michael J. O'Malley; Kevin Cotter of Landau; Cloyd R. McLott, Chairman of the Bicentennial Fund Committee; (standing) David Lewis of UDA Architects; and Bicentennial Committee Historian Lu Donnelly.

1988 Court Bicentennial Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| April 8 to 10 15 to 17 | "USA," musical drama version of John Dos Passos' book, by the Robert Morris College Colonial Theatre in Hale Auditorium, Moon Township campus. |
| May 2 | <p>Law Day Program</p> <p>Lawyer/Judge visits to secondary school assemblies begin and continue through Spring and Fall.</p> <p>Bar Association Naturalization Ceremonies in Federal Court</p> <p>Bar Association Law Day Luncheon and Liberty Bell and Ben Franklin Awards.</p> <p>Dedication of Restored Courthouse Courtroom No. 3 and Reception in Gallery/Forum.</p> |
| May 10 to 14 | "Inherit The Wind," special courtroom adaptation and production by the Allegheny County Bureau of Cultural Affairs in Restored Courtroom, featuring Bar Association members and Judges in dramatic roles. |
| June 1 to 19 | "Clarence Darrow" production by the City Theatre Company in the restored Courtroom, starring Bingo O'Malley, in a one-man drama during the Three Rivers Arts Festival. |
| September 22 to 23* | <p>Carnegie-Mellon University New Play Festival</p> <p>"Civil Fights," original musical drama about civil and racial conflict by CMU graduate playwrighting students.</p> |
| September 29 to 30* | "By Reason of an Act of God," original drama of a civil class action suit written by a CMU graduate playwrighting student. |
| November 1 | Red Mass (St. Thomas More Society) at Epiphany Roman Catholic Church (uptown), an annual religious observance for All Souls Day in honor of St. Thomas More, the famous Tudor Age English lawyer and martyr. The 1988 observance will include a special Court Bicentennial dedication. |
| November 1 to 30 | Courthouse/Courtroom of the Future Design Contest display by Carnegie-Mellon University architectural students in the Courthouse Gallery/Forum. |
| December 16 | Special two minute recess in the courtrooms of Common Pleas Court in recognition of the Bicentennial. |
| December 17 | Bicentennial Banquet, William Penn Hotel, 17th Floor Ballroom, Dining and Dancing. |

* Dates Listed are Tentative

Stepping back into the past

(Continued from Page 10)

Surprisingly, the Committee's historian, Lu Donnelly, located a considerable amount of original courtroom furniture.

There had to be fabricating work, however, for some of the courtroom chairs and the judicial bench.

Some of the furnishings in the room were original and, therefore, were used in the restoration. But the railings, the judicial bench and the jury box, while authentic, had been altered over the years. It was necessary to restore them to their original appearance.

While every effort was made to change this courtroom back to the original design by Courthouse architect, H. H. Richardson, the room will not become a museum piece. It will be Judge Ross' courtroom and an operational arena of justice in every sense.

When not in use, however, it is expected to become an area of the Courthouse that is frequently visited by both school children and adults who come to the building to study and observe the judicial process in Allegheny County.

Expedited hearings keep pace in 1987



Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.
Administrative Judge

The expedited hearing process involving the use of the Family Division's Domestic Relations Officers and five Hearing Officers to dispose of support actions continued to serve the Court well in 1987.

Support actions filed in the Adult Section during 1987 totaled 23,467. This exceeded the previous year's filings by 3,089 filings.

Nevertheless, disposing of these cases continued at a steady pace in spite of the 15.1 percent increase. All but 406 of these cases were resolved without the issue going before a Judge.

This system of concentrating the energies of the Hearing Officers and Domestic Relations Officers at the support level accomplishes more than just the speedy disposition of cases.

Equally important, it frees the Family Division Judges to devote their time to the more complex issues of equitable distribution of property, alimony and child custody, and the increasing number of Protection From Abuse cases.

All 23,467 of the support cases listed for disposition in 1987 were scheduled for conferences before the Domestic Relations Officers. A court order was issued at that initial level in 18,470 (78 percent) of those cases. The remaining 4,997 cases were referred to the Hearing Officers, and they disposed of 4,591 (20 percent) with final court orders. The Division Judges resolved the remaining 406.

(Continued on Page 14)



VISITORS FROM AFRICA share coffee, donuts and knowledge with Family Division Administrative Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., (seated right) during a late September morning meeting in Judge Wettick's courtroom. Left to right are: BOUKARI Mahamane of Niger, Citizen TSHIUMA Mbayabo of Zaire, Mrs. Rachel RAFALIMANANA-RAZANAMALALA of Madagascar, U.S State Department interpreter Dr. Joanna Dezio, and Mamadou SYLLA of Guinea. Not shown in the photograph is Juvenile Court Supervisor Beverly Bush, who is seated to the right of Judge Wettick.

Visitors from Africa

Several officials from the justice systems in four African nations spent the better part of a day in late September visiting the Family Division's Adult and Juvenile Sections to observe court proceedings and exchange information.

They were in the United States as part of the African and Caribbean Leaders Program for Family and Juvenile Law, which is sponsored by the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

While in Pittsburgh they were the guests of the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors.

The visitors were accompanied by Dr. Joanna Dezio, an interpreter with the State Department, and had an opportunity to visit other places of interest while they were here.

The visit to the Court began with a session in the courtroom of Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., Administrative Judge of the Family Division. Judge Wettick discussed child support, alimony, divorce procedures and protection from abuse with the visitors and answered their questions.

Later in the morning the delegation visited the Family Division's Juvenile Section in Oakland where they met with

(Continued on Page 13)



Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan



Judge Eugene B. Strassburger



Judge William L. Standish



Judge James H. McLean



Judge Joseph A. Jaffe

Family Division-Adult Section

Family Division support effort leads nation

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services has informed the Adult Section of the Family Division that in child support payments during 1987, it achieved the nation's highest rate of collections per full time staff equivalent.

During the Federal Government's 1987 Fiscal Year, the Family Division's support payment collections were in excess of \$56 million. This amounted to \$496,426 per full time staff equivalent, according to Health and Human Services.

The Federal Government year ends in October. For the Court calendar year 1987, Family support collections and disbursements reached a record high of \$58,129,386 in Allegheny County. This is an increase of \$6,437,503 over 1986.

Of the total amount collected, \$25,134,735 was through court-ordered wage attachments. Another \$1,356,882 in support payments was collected through the Federal Internal Revenue Service Intercept Program.



A PLAQUE THAT proclaimed him the "Outstanding Manager" was presented last January to Gary Stout, Manager of Administrative Services for the Family Division's Adult Section, by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement in Region III. Viewing the award with Mr. Stout (center) are Family Division Administrative Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., (left) and Common Pleas Court President Judge Michael J. O'Malley. The award was presented by Regional Director Daniel Fascione in recognition of Mr. Stout's leadership, innovation and cooperation with State and Federal officials and for assisting other jurisdictions in the child support enforcement program.

Visitors from Africa

(Continued from Page 12)

Director of Court Services Joseph Dagerdas and viewed court proceedings in the courtroom of Judge Joseph A. Jaffe.

The visitors were: BOUKARI Mahamane, President Judge of the Court of Appeals of Niamey, Niger; Mrs. Rachel RAFALIMANANA-RAZANAMALALA, Deputy District Attorney of Superior Court of Madagascar; Mamadou SYLLA, Advisor to the Supreme Court of Guinea; and Citizen TSHIUMA Mbayabo, Legal Advisor for the Mama Mobutu Foundation in Zaire.

DIVORCE DECREES GRANTED

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| FAULT CONTESTED | | |
| 201-A | 68 | 81 |
| FAULT—UNCONTESTED | | |
| 201-A | 77 | 78 |
| FAULT—UNCONTESTED | | |
| INDIGENT 201-A | 17 | 2 |
| NO FAULT | | |
| 201-C 201-D | 3,789 | 3,552 |
| TOTAL | 3,951 | 3,713 |

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY

I NEW FAMILY CASES ASSIGNED FOR JUDICIAL CONCILIATION

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| a) Equitable Distribution/Alimony | 441 | 358 |
| b) Full Custody | 367 | 383 |
| c) Paternity | 77 | 26 |
| d) Divorce (201-d, Contested) | 67 | 73 |
| e) Other | 22 | 29 |

II CASES LISTED FOR JUDICIAL HEARING

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| a) Equitable Distribution | 210 | 160 |
| b) Full Custody | 90 | 29 |
| c) Partial Custody | 386 | 366 |
| d) Paternity | 6 | 10 |
| e) PFA (Temporary) | 1,140 | 1,597 |
| f) PFA (Final) | 1,119 | 1,395 |
| g) PFA (Contempt) | 124 | 115 |
| h) Divorce | 35 | 8 |
| i) Contempt Hearings/Support | 53 | 61 |
| j) Other | 35 | 45 |

III MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| a) Arguments/Exceptions of General List | 620 | 583 |
| b) Post Trial Motions | 40 | 22 |
| c) Motions | 5,769 | 7,099 |
| d) Support related Orders reviewed and entered | 16,922 | 16,475 |

Family Division-Adult Section

COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT MONIES

| | Total Received and Disbursed | Dollar Increase Over Prior Year |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1987 | \$58,129,386 | +\$6,437,503 |
| 1986 | \$51,691,883 | +\$6,670,397 |
| 1985 | \$45,021,486 | +\$3,168,990 |
| 1984 | \$41,852,496 | +\$3,497,679 |
| 1983 | \$38,354,817 | +\$4,678,306 |
| 1982 | \$33,676,511 | +\$4,203,950 |
| 1981 | \$29,472,561 | +\$4,367,046 |
| 1980 | \$25,105,515 | +\$2,572,836 |
| 1979 | \$22,532,679 | +\$2,207,000 |
| 1978 | \$20,325,679 | +\$2,496,786 |

SCHEDULING CASES

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Scheduling Interval between filing new Support cases before Hearing Counselor and/or Court Hearing | 6 Weeks | 5 Weeks |
| Scheduling Interval between Petitions for Modification of P/C Order and Court Hearing | 10 Weeks | 10 Weeks |
| Scheduling Interval between Custody/Equity cases and Court Hearing | 8 Weeks | 8 Weeks |
| Scheduling Interval for Protection From Abuse | Immediately on Filing | Immediately on Filing |
| Scheduling Interval for Final Hearing on Protection From Abuse | Not more than 10 Days | Not more than 10 Days |

Expedited hearings keep pace

(Continued from Page 12)

At year's end there were 561 support cases pending, 56 custody and partial custody cases, and 31 Protection From Abuse cases. Divorce cases pending totaled another 3,461.

One significant achievement in the Family Division's disposition of support cases is the practice of conducting both the conference with a Domestic Relations Officer and the hearing before a Hearing Officer on the same day. This occurs in almost every instance.

The Judges of the Court were involved in considerably more Protection From Abuse hearings in 1987 than the previous year. Temporary hearings increased from 1,140 in 1986 to 1,597 in 1987. The increase in Final Hearings also was up from 1,119 to 1,395.

The number of motions filed increased from 5,769 in the previous year to 7,099.

Visitors study support system

The Court-managed child support system in the Family Division's Adult Section was observed by two visitors from the office of the Illinois State Court Administrator on December 16.

Community Resource Coordinator Barbara McKenna and staff member Melanie Kelly of the Illinois State Courts Office visited with Court Administrator Charles H. Starrett, Jr., and Gary Stout, Manager of Administrative Services in the Family Division.

The Illinois Courts are attempting to determine if their child support system should remain under administrative control or whether more responsibility for the system should be assumed by the Courts, as in Allegheny County.

Another area of interest was the expedited process for hearing child support cases in this Court through the use of quasi-judicial personnel (hearing officers) in the disposition of support cases.

The two Illinois Court representatives visited several metropolitan courts in making their evaluations.

DISPOSITION OF FAMILY DIVISION CASES REQUIRING ACTION IN 1986-1987 AT EACH LEVEL OF THE EXPEDITED HEARING PROCESS

(The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure have introduced a "diversionary procedure" into actions for support. This procedure relieves the judiciary of the need to hear support cases in the first instance and passes this responsibility to permanent attorney hearing officers. This exhibit lists the results of this procedure at each level of the process.)

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|--------|--------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES LISTED FOR DISPOSITION | 20,378 | 23,467 |
| CASES SCHEDULED FOR CONFERENCE BEFORE DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICERS | 20,178 | 23,467 |
| CASES RESULTING IN COURT ORDER AFTER DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S CONFERENCE | 16,154 | 18,470 |
| CASES REFERRED TO A HEARING OFFICER AT CONCLUSION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S CONFERENCE | 4,224 | 4,997 |
| CASES RESULTING IN FINAL COURT ORDER AFTER A HEARING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION | 3,822 | 4,591 |
| CASES IN WHICH EXCEPTIONS ARE FILED BEFORE A JUDGE AFTER HEARING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION | 402 | 406 |

PERCENTAGE OF CASES RESOLVED AT EACH LEVEL OF THE EXPEDITED HEARING PROCESS

| | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|--|--------|------|--------|------|
| DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICERS HEARING OFFICERS | 16,154 | 79% | 18,470 | 78% |
| JUDGES | 3,822 | 19% | 4,591 | 20% |
| | 402 | 2% | 406 | 2% |
| TOTAL | 20,378 | 100% | 23,467 | 100% |

Family Division-Juvenile Section

(Continued from page 17)

Alcohol Assessment and Educational Program was formally established. Four probation officers were assigned full time to this work.

Since the caseload for each probation officer is approximately 15, face-to-face contact is maintained twice a month with each client and monthly contact is made with each family. Additionally, weekly phone contact is maintained with each client and treatment provider.

Youths assigned to the Intervention group must attend six two-hour sessions, plus individual entry and exit sessions with the probation officer and the offender's parents.

At the conclusion of each Intervention Group, each youth is classified by the degree of drug and alcohol usage. Those with serious problems are assigned to special caseloads and supervised by the Drug and Alcohol Unit.

| DELINQUENT REASONS FOR ALL REFERRALS | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| TYPE | NUMBER |
| Simple Assault | 461 |
| Burglary | 392 |
| Theft by Unlawful Taking | 329 |
| Auto Theft | 229 |
| Receiving Stolen Property | 206 |
| Receiving Stolen Property (Auto) | 155 |
| Criminal Mischief | 152 |
| Robbery | 136 |
| Criminal Trespass | 122 |
| Failure to Adjust | 122 |
| Harassment | 120 |
| Aggravated Assault | 112 |
| Probation Violation | 109 |
| Non-Payment of Fine | 100 |
| Retail Theft | 98 |
| Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle | 95 |
| Possession of Weapon in School | 90 |
| Terroristic Threats | 57 |
| Possession of Marijuana | 54 |
| Harassment by Phone | 51 |
| Transfer From Other Court | 40 |
| Indecent Assault | 33 |
| Recklessly Endangering Another Person | 33 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 31 |
| Driving Under Influence | 29 |
| Arson | 28 |
| Escape | 27 |
| Prowling at Night | 18 |
| Prostitution | 14 |
| All other charges | 996 |
| Reviews | 1,593 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 6,032 |

DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CASELOAD AS REPORTED BY THE PROTHONOTARY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cases Pending - January 1, 1987 | 623 |
| Awaiting Hearing | 186 |
| Continuations | 214 |
| Deferred Dispositions | 223 |
| New Cases Filed | 3,499 |
| New | 1,836 |
| Recurrent | 1,663 |
| Cases Disposed Of | 3,520 |
| Commitments | 727 |
| Children & Youth Services Supervision | 575 |
| Probation | 504 |
| Informal Probation | 238 |
| Suspended Commitment | 13 |
| Dismissed | 893 |
| Discontinued | 539 |
| Transfer to Criminal Division | 2 |
| Transfer to Other County | 29 |
| Cases Pending - January 1, 1988 | 602 |
| Awaiting Hearing | 237 |
| Continuations | 152 |
| Deferred Dispositions | 213 |

Aftercare for serious offenders

For the young offender, the most difficult time in the rehabilitation process is the period immediately following his or her institutionalization.

Returning to the very same environment which frequently contributed to the original delinquency, there is a need for support to avoid continued lawlessness.

Recognizing this need, Director of Court Services Joseph Daugerdas established a new Aftercare Program in October to provide special probation services to all youths released from several institutions.

They are: Abraxas, George Junior Republic, Harborcreek Youth Services, Loysville Youth Development Center, New Castle Youth Development Center, and VisionQuest.

The program provides intensive probation services to serious offenders during the critical 90 days that follow their release from one of these institutions. Intensive probation involves three personal contacts with the youth and family every week during the probationary period.

Before the individual is released, an aftercare contract is prepared that outlines his/her obligations after returning to the home community. It includes such specifics as frequency of contacts, curfew, school and/or work requirements. It is signed by the youthful offender, family, probation officer, and supervisor.

When the 90-day period is concluded, the ex-offender continues on probation and receives the traditional probation services.

Aftercare contract violations are sanctioned in accordance with the Court's guidelines regarding probation violations.

1987 DISPOSITIONS AT COURT HEARINGS

| | NUMBER | PERCENT |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| Dismissed | 731 | 16% |
| Discontinued | 506 | 11% |
| Consent Decree | 1 | -% |
| Probation | 504 | 11% |
| Dismissed After Continuation | 124 | 3% |
| Informal Probation | 226 | 5% |
| Suspended Commitments | 21 | -% |
| Commitments - Public Institutions | 82 | 2% |
| - Private Institutions, Group, and Foster Homes | 868 | 19% |
| Certified to Criminal Court | 3 | -% |
| Other | 84 | 2% |
| Reviews - Closed | 54 | 1% |
| Reviews - Remain in Placement | 737 | 17% |
| Reviews - Probation | 580 | 13% |
| TOTAL - FINAL COURT HEARINGS | 4,521 | 100% |
| TOTAL - INTAKE/PROBATION ADJUSTMENTS | 1,511 | |
| TOTAL - 1987 DISPOSITIONS | 6,032 | |

Young offenders join in Highland Park cleanup

A small army of this County's young people who had failed to measure up to society's behavioral standards took several positive steps in another direction on October 24 when they conducted a cleanup effort in Pittsburgh's Highland Park.

Under the direction of their Juvenile Court Probation Officers, they worked for more than two hours picking up trash, bottles, and other disposable objects.

This effort was viewed by the Court as a symbolic act of repayment for the harm, damages, and losses that were caused by their prior unlawful acts.

"Community service is a way for youths who have violated the law to make social restitution for their delinquent behavior," said Administrative Judge R. Stanton Wettick of the Family Division.

"This behavior has not only inconvenienced or harmed an innocent victim, but also the community," he continued. "By doing public service work the youth pays back some of the damage caused and learns he or she must take responsibility for that behavior."

The date of the cleanup was significant. It occurred at the end of Juvenile Court Week (October 18 to 24) as designated by Governor Robert Casey.

Young people who come before the Juvenile Court Judges throughout the year are directed to perform public service as part of their probationary terms. The number of hours is based on the type of offense and the damages caused by the delinquent act.

The Highland Park Cleanup last October was an extension of this practice.

Other work sites are selected in the City and the suburbs during the year through an endeavor called Friends Indeed. This is a juvenile justice project of the Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jewish Women.

Community service also is a part of the restitution policy at Juvenile Court when an effort is made to restore financial loss incurred by the victims of juvenile offenses. Youths on probation are expected to pay back the victims of their acts within reasonable limits before the probationary sentence is terminated.

Individuals who cannot obtain employment or are too young to work must perform community service in lieu of restitution. In some instances an offender is directed to perform both community service and make financial restitution.



THE COMMUNITY of the Highland Park area in Pittsburgh benefited from the services of some 250 juvenile probationers on October 24 when they undertook the cleaning up of the park as a public service. The young people worked under the direction of the Juvenile Court staff.

SEX AND RACE ANALYSIS OF DISPOSITIONS

| SEX | 1985 | | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male | 3,868 | (83%) | 5,315 | (86%) | 5,104 | (85%) |
| Female | 783 | (17%) | 860 | (14%) | 928 | (15%) |
| Total | 4,651 | | 6,175 | | 6,032 | |
| RACE | 1985 | | 1986 | | 1987 | |
| Black | 2,238 | (48%) | 3,358 | (54%) | 3,274 | (54%) |
| White | 2,383 | (51%) | 2,769 | (45%) | 2,717 | (45%) |
| Other | 30 | (1%) | 48 | (1%) | 41 | (1%) |
| Total | 4,651 | | 6,175 | | 6,032 | |

AGE OF CHILD AT TIME OF REFERRAL BASED ON FINAL COURT HEARING

| Age | Referrals | Percentage |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 10 | 24 | 1% |
| 11 | 48 | 1% |
| 12 | 98 | 2% |
| 13 | 255 | 6% |
| 14 | 541 | 12% |
| 15 | 845 | 19% |
| 16 | 1,152 | 25% |
| 17 | 1,186 | 26% |
| 18 & Over | 360 | 8% |
| Unknown | 12 | 0% |
| TOTAL | 4,521 | 100% |

Family Division-Juvenile Section

Drug/Alcohol unit in national study

The Drug and Alcohol Program of the Family Division's Juvenile Section was one of four such programs in the United States to be included in a study conducted last year by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Rockville, Maryland.

It was chosen, along with programs in Baltimore County, Maryland; Lucas County, Ohio; and San Diego County, California, because of its unique effort in identifying and treating substance abuse among teenagers.

The results of the study were published in a special report in the fall of 1987 and included an analysis of the program's early identification and assessment of youths with substance abuse problems.

This Court's program attracted the researchers' attention because of the effort that is made to screen all referrals who come to the Court for drug and alcohol problems, not just those who are apprehended for drug/alcohol law violations.

Representatives of the National Institute visited the Court in the spring of 1986 and personally observed the local program in operation, including the screening techniques that are used by the Drug/Alcohol Unit.

They also made firsthand observations of the two treatment agencies to which most juvenile offenders are referred at St. Francis General Hospital and the Abraxas Foundation.

The response of the Juvenile Section to drug and alcohol abuse was changed partly in response to a survey of local teenage substance abuse problems by the University of Pittsburgh in 1982. The survey focused on the high school class of 1982 and revealed the following:

Of those surveyed, 46.3 percent said they had at least five drinks at one sitting sometime during the two weeks that preceded the interview.

1987 INFORMAL DISPOSITIONS

| | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Withdrawn | 350 | 23% |
| Adjustment | 965 | 64% |
| Warning Letters | 2 | 0% |
| Referral to Social Agency | 10 | 1% |
| Referral to Another Authority | 181 | 12% |
| Interstate Courtesy Supervision | 3 | 0% |
| TOTAL | 1,511 | 100% |

During the same period, 14.1 percent of those interviewed said they were drunk two or three times. Daily smoking of marijuana was admitted by 6.3 percent of those interviewed.

These findings, along with Pennsylvania's 1983 drunk driving law affecting teenagers, convinced the Juvenile Court Judges and their staffs to revise the system for handling drug and alcohol abuse referrals.

In 1984 this led to the formation of a special probation-based unit to work with youths with substance abuse problems and to explore the possibility of drug/alcohol abuse with every likely referral.

A group of 14 probation officers underwent three days of training at the Adolescent Chemical Dependency Unit at St. Francis on intervening with juvenile substance abusers. A formal juvenile counseling program followed at Juvenile Court with the goal of informing offenders and their parents of the dangers of substance abuse and assessing chemical abuse among the participants.

In September of 1984, after a year of operating with probation officer volunteers, the Juvenile Court Drug and

SOURCE OF ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT

| POLICE REFERRALS | Number | % |
|------------------|--------|-----|
| Pittsburgh | 1,661 | 28% |
| Suburbs | 1,386 | 23% |
| County Police | 232 | 4% |
| Subtotal | 3,279 | 55% |

ALL OTHER SOURCES

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Social Agency | 54 | 1% |
| Child Welfare | 8 | 0% |
| Probation Officer | 199 | 3% |
| District Magistrate | 8 | 0% |
| Other Courts | 192 | 3% |
| Parents/Relatives | 127 | 2% |
| Injured Party | 409 | 7% |
| Non-Injured Party | 68 | 1% |
| School | 93 | 2% |
| Self | 2 | 0% |
| Subtotal | 1,160 | 19% |
| Reviews | 1,593 | 26% |
| TOTAL | 6,032 | 100% |

CARE FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Dispositions by Intake Department

| Dispositions | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Withdrawn | 18 |
| Adjustment | 317 |
| Referral to Social Agency | 20 |
| Referral to Other Authority | 25 |
| TOTAL INTAKE | 380 |

DELINQUENT 1987 TOTAL REFERRALS FOR THE COURT

| | Delinquent | Dependent | Total |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Unofficial Intake | 1,511 | 380 | 1,891 |
| Final Court Hearings | 2,928 | 733 | 3,661 |
| Reviews | 1,593 | 3,877 | 5,470 |
| TOTAL REFERRALS | 6,032 | 4,990 | 11,022 |

1987 Dependent RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN FOR ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY COURT

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Pittsburgh | 428 |
| Suburbs | 285 |
| Elsewhere in Pennsylvania | 14 |
| Outside Pennsylvania | 6 |
| TOTAL | 733 |

SOURCE OF ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT

| | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| POLICE REFERRALS | |
| Pittsburgh | 21 |
| Suburban | 8 |
| County | 2 |
| Constable | 2 |
| ALL OTHER SOURCES | |
| Social Agency | 77 |
| Child Welfare | 949 |
| Parents/Relatives | 35 |
| Other Courts | 2 |
| School | 4 |
| Other Sources | 13 |
| TOTAL | 1,113 |

Family Division-Adult Section

National audience for Family Division

Starting in January and continuing throughout the year, representatives of the Family Division's Adult Section were meeting to explain this Court's child support system with representatives of jurisdictions from various parts of the country.

In January a delegation from the State of Virginia visited the Family Adult Section to observe the local system. Virginia's child support delivery system has been administratively-based in the Welfare Department, but the State is contemplating a change to a court-based system similar to that in Allegheny County.

The visit was arranged through Daniel Fascione, then Eastern Regional Director for the Federal Child Support Program. While here, the delegation viewed the operation of the Family Division's new child support computer system as well as other procedures in the Adult Section.

In September Susan D. Ferrante, Court Administrator for West Palm Beach, Florida, was a visitor in Pittsburgh and took the opportunity to tour the computer facilities for the child support system in the City-County Building.

She was in Pittsburgh to attend a computer seminar sponsored by the National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges at the William Penn Hotel.

* * *

On May 28 Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan was accompanied by two members of the Family Division staff in an appearance before the Family Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association to explain this Court's operations.

Participating with Judge Kaplan were Hearing Officer Mary K. McDonald and Gary E. Stout, Manager of Administrative Services.

* * *

The National Child Support Enforcement Association's 36th Annual Conference on August 23 to 27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, had a decided Allegheny County identification when three members of the Family Division figured prominently in the presentations.

Judge Kaplan was part of a judicial panel discussing several child support issues, and Mr. Stout spoke to the gathering on the subject of managing a computer installation project (like the system installed in this Court in 1986) and on the Allegheny County Child Support guidelines.

William Pulkowski, Manager of Family Support Systems in the Family Division, was in charge of a presentation at the conference on the use of personal computers in a child support environment for internal departmental matters such as use of staff, statistics, and management reports.

FAMILY DIVISION CASELOAD

| | 1986 | | | 1987 | | | Pending Dec. 31 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------|----------|--------------------|
| | Pending Jan. 1 | Filed | Disposed | Pending Jan. 1 | Filed | Disposed | |
| Support | 554 | 15,793* | 15,850 | 497 | 16,861* | 16,797 | 561 |
| Custody/Partial Custody | 58 | 1,400 | 1,426 | 32 | 1,538 | 1,514 | 56 |
| Protection from Abuse | 31 | 1,207 | 1,214 | 24 | 1,317 | 1,310 | 31 |
| Divorce | 2,138 | 4,493 | 3,951 | 2,680 | 4,494 | 3,713 | 3,461 |
| TOTAL | 2,781 | 22,893 | 22,441 | 3,233 | 24,210 | 23,334 | 4,109 |

*This figure includes all new referrals, modification petitions, review employment cases, Alimony Pendente Lite cases, and exceptions filed before a Judge. For 1986, 4,911 AFDC complaints and 3,134 NON-AFDC Complaints have been filed. For 1987, 6,624 AFDC complaints and 2,860 NON-AFDC complaints have been filed.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Requests to find Absent Parents Through Federal Parent Locator Service | 2,302 | 2,551 |
| Support Orders Reviewed | 520,950 | 683,955 |
| Petitions for Contempt | 4,593 | 5,020 |
| Computer Delinquency Wage Attachments | 1,026 | 2,232 |
| Unemployment Compensation Wage Attachments | 2,091 | 3,196 |
| Wage Attachment Referrals from DRO's, Phone Operators, and Enforcement Processors | 4,213 | 6,258 |
| Court Ordered Wage Attachments | 4,113 | 4,819 |
| Employment Review Cases Scheduled for Hearing | 4,314 | 3,286 |
| 10 Day Letters Issued | 1,599 | 828 |
| Amount Collected Through Wage Attachments | \$21,497,245 | \$25,134,735 |
| Amount Collected Through Unemployment Compensation Intercept Program | \$ 865,884 | \$ 969,072 |
| Amount Collected Through Internal Revenue Service Intercept Program | \$ 1,028,956 | \$ 1,356,882 |
| Amount Forwarded to Department of Public Welfare | \$ 6,308,200 | \$ 7,269,640 |
| Total Collections | \$51,691,883 | \$58,129,386 |

Family Division-Juvenile Section

Court staff honored by Youth Center

Two members of the Juvenile Court staff were honored on November 14, 1987, at the Youth Development Center's Annual Awards Banquet in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania, for contributions to the rehabilitative efforts of the Center.

Rosa Davis, an Eastern District Probation Officer, and Victim Coordinator Samuel P. Grott received the Governor's Board of Trustees Award.

The award is presented by the Youth Development Center treatment staff to the Juvenile Probation Officers who are the most supportive during a student commitment and who were the most effective in assisting the Center staff with the youth's reentry into the community.

Ms. Davis was honored for her support on the treatment process involving the Girls' Unit. Mr. Grott was honored for past support and cooperation with the staff in Youth Development Center's Secure Services for the emotionally disturbed program.



THE COMMISSIONERS of Allegheny County paused for a few moments last October to join in honoring the "Probation Officer of the Year" for Juvenile Court, Robert Robinson-Dassel. He accepted a County Proclamation which noted his 15 years of service to the youth of Allegheny

County from (left to right) Commissioners Pete Flaherty, Tom Foerster and Barbara Hafer. Also there for the presentation were Joseph Daugerdas, Director of Court Services in Juvenile Court (standing at left), and Juvenile Court Judge James H. McLean.

Judge Wettick chairs JCJC

The duties of Chairman of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission of Pennsylvania were added to his responsibilities as Administrative Judge of the Family Division for Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., in 1987.

Judge Wettick was elected to the post at the July meeting of the Commission.

He succeeds Judge W. Richard Eshelman of Berks County, who had been chairman of the Commission since 1984.

Record number of cases in 1987



Judge Joseph H. Ridge



Judge Donna Jo McDaniel



Judge Walter R. Little



Judge Robert A. Kelly

A record number of cases were held for Court in 1987 by the District Justices and City of Pittsburgh Magistrates. The new cases totaled 14,049, compared to 13,339 the previous year, an increase of 710.

Because there was a decline in the number of Judges available in the Criminal Division during the year, according to Administrative Judge Robert E. Dauer, dispositions did not keep pace. The Judges disposed of 12,940 cases, increasing the Criminal backlog from 6,039 at the end of 1986 to 7,111.

The manpower shortages were due to the loss of services of two experienced jurists, Judges John L. Musmanno and Robert P. Horgos, who were transferred to the Civil Division, and the retirement of Senior Judges Samuel Strauss and William S. Rahausser.

Judges Lee J. Mazur and Joseph M. James, who are experienced magistrates, were named to replace the Judges who were transferred. The services of the senior judges, however, were lost.

Not all of these cases pending at the end of the year were awaiting trial. Many of the defendants were scheduled for ARD hearings or had been tried and were awaiting post-trial hearings or sentencing.

The cases held for court have almost doubled in the past ten years. In 1978 the total was 7,412.

According to Judge Dauer, studies of judicial records over the past ten years have demonstrated that the average disposition rate per assigned judge is 35 to 40 cases per month. Based on the



Judge Robert E. Dauer
Administrative Judge

present case filings, he believes the Criminal Division needs 18 Judges merely to stay abreast of its caseload. This is one more than the number assigned in 1987.

A change in Rule 1100 by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on the last day of 1987 will have some bearing on the Court's backlog in future years. Called the "Speedy Trial Rule," it originally required the disposition of all criminal cases within 180 days of arrest.

Now Rule 1100 directs that defendants in jail awaiting trial must be tried before those who have been placed on pre-trial bail. The 180-day limitations for disposing of these cases still prevails. But the criminal justice system now has 365 days to bring to trial those individuals who are out on bail.

Judge Dauer believes the new regulations will create some problems for the Division's Individual Calendar System because the Judges schedule cases months in advance. He cites as an example an individual who has been out on bail for more than 180

(Continued on Page 21)



Judge James R. McGregor



Judge Gerard M. Bigley



Judge Alan S. Penkower



Judge David S. Cercone



Judge George H. Ross



Judge James F. Clarke



Judge Judith L. A. Friedman



Judge John W. O'Brien



Judge Patrick McFalls



Judge Lee J. Mazur



Judge Joseph M. James



Judge Raymond A. Novak

Criminal Division

Record number of cases

(Continued from Page 20)

days, but is arrested and reincarcerated for a bail violation before his trial date.

He says an effort will be made to clarify each of these cases prior to assignment to a judge. But he raises the possibility that without further clarification of the Supreme Court rule, the Court faces the possibility of having to dismiss cases without trial.

In 1979 the Criminal Division disposed of its cases on an average of 104 days from the date of arrest. That average has been increasing ever since, and in 1987 it reached 134 days.

Judge Dauer credits the Individual Calendar System of the Criminal Division for the continuing decline in the number of jury trials. There were 409 in 1987 as compared to 470 in the previous year.

He says this is directly attributable to the pre-trial conferences which are an integral part of the Individual Calendar System.

The Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Program continued to be an effective program for disposing of criminal cases in 1987. There were 3,004 defendants placed on ARD probation, reducing court trials by that number in what amounts to a second chance for first-time offenders.

The program's low rate of recidivism not only attests to the merit of ARD, says Judge Dauer, but also to the thorough screening, interrogations, and investigations conducted by the ARD Section in the District Attorney's Office.

Judge Dauer recommends the program be extended to include more serious nonviolent crimes, including an increase in the probation limitation from two to five years. It would require the Supreme

Court to change the Rules of Criminal Procedure, but he believes the change would help alleviate the problem of overcrowded prisons.

The use of court-appointed counsel has been monitored closely by the Judges of the Criminal Division in recent years because of the expense of program.

That vigilance was rewarded in 1987 when these costs dropped from \$730,205 in 1986 to \$551,814, a reduction of 42 percent. Judge Dauer credits the filling of vacancies on the Public Defender's staff for much of the savings.

CRIMINAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|--------|--------|
| 1. Defendants Pending - January 1 | | |
| (a) Defendants Awaiting Pre-Trial Conference | 902 | 1,169 |
| (b) Defendants Awaiting Trial | 4,214 | 3,962 |
| (c) Defendants Awaiting Sentence | 822 | 908 |
| TOTAL DEFENDANTS PENDING FIRST OF YEAR | 5,938 | 6,039 |
| 2. Defendants Transcripts Received (Complaints Filed) | 13,339 | 14,049 |
| 3. Adjustments | -127 | -151 |
| 4. Active Defendants in Calendar Year | 19,150 | 19,937 |
| 5. Pre-Trial Dispositions | | |
| (a) ARD | 3,466 | 3,004 |
| (b) Disposition in Lieu of Trial | 0 | 0 |
| (c) Information Quashed | 7 | 7 |
| (d) Nolle Prossed | 1,235 | 1,211 |
| (e) Dismissed | 251 | 249 |
| TOTAL PRE-TRIAL DISPOSITIONS | 4,959 | 4,471 |
| 6. Disposed Through Trial and Sentenced | | |
| (a) Guilty by Jury | 289 | 247 |
| (b) Guilty by Court | 777 | 743 |
| (c) Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere | 6,522 | 6,762 |
| (d) Probation Without Verdict | 196 | 221 |
| (e) Acquitted by Jury | 150 | 112 |
| (f) Acquitted by Court | 139 | 173 |
| (g) Demurrer Sustained | 79 | 97 |
| TOTAL TRIAL DISPOSITIONS | 8,152 | 8,355 |
| 7. Defendants Pending - December 31 | | |
| (a) Defendants Awaiting Pre-Trial Conference | 1,169 | 1,165 |
| (b) Defendants Awaiting Trial | 3,962 | 4,899 |
| (c) Defendants Awaiting Sentence | 908 | 1,047 |
| TOTAL DEFENDANTS PENDING END OF YEAR | 6,039 | 7,111 |

CRIMINAL DIVISION CASE FILINGS RACE AND SEX ANALYSIS 1985—1986—1987

| SEX | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Male | 10,581 (85.1%) | 10,113 (84.04%) | 11,025 (78.5%) |
| Female | 1,847 (14.9%) | 1,920 (15.95%) | 2,180 (15.5%) |
| Unknown | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (.01%) | 844 (6.0%) |
| TOTAL | 12,428 (100%) | 12,034 (100%) | 14,049 (100%) |
| RACE | | | |
| Black | 4,607 (37.1%) | 4,626 (38.44%) | 4,799 (34.2%) |
| White | 7,802 (62.8%) | 7,367 (61.22%) | 7,772 (55.3%) |
| Unknown | 19 (0.1%) | 41 (.34%) | 1,478 (10.5%) |
| TOTAL | 12,428 (100%) | 12,034 (100%) | 14,049 (100%) |

Criminal Division

| OFFENSE CATEGORY | Complaints Filed | PRE-TRIAL DECISIONS* | | | | ARD | Disposition In Lieu of Trial | Information Quashed | Nolle Prossed No Information Filed | Nolle Prossed Information Filed | Dismissed | Probation Without Verdict |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| | | Information Filed | Information Filed | Information Filed Charges Modified** | Nolle Prossed Requested | | | | | | | |
| Criminal Homicide | 65 | 63 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | |
| Robbery | 498 | 321 | 151 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 36 | 4 | 0 | |
| Aggravated Assault | 414 | 258 | 120 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 57 | 10 | 0 | |
| Simple Assault | 631 | 449 | 105 | 74 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 53 | 20 | 0 | |
| Burglary | 1,020 | 604 | 302 | 41 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 51 | 29 | 17 | 1 | |
| Theft | 2,062 | 1,644 | 235 | 135 | 177 | 0 | 2 | 136 | 86 | 53 | 1 | |
| Auto Theft | 33 | 28 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| Embezzlement, Fraud | 228 | 155 | 37 | 26 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 5 | 16 | 0 | |
| Forgery/Counterfeit | 468 | 296 | 135 | 44 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 17 | 39 | 0 | |
| Rape | 198 | 152 | 22 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 29 | 2 | 0 | |
| Commercialized Vice | 345 | 320 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | |
| Other Sex Offenses | 123 | 106 | 14 | 8 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | |
| Narcotics/Drug Laws | 1,305 | 1,217 | 149 | 15 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 36 | 20 | 164 | |
| Offensive Weapons | 175 | 138 | 32 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 2 | 4 | |
| Liquor Laws | 30 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Driving Intoxicated | 4,335 | 4,375 | 64 | 20 | 2,417 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 27 | 24 | 1 | |
| Other Vehicle Laws | 201 | 61 | 5 | 53 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 5 | 3 | 0 | |
| Disorderly Conduct | 164 | 109 | 16 | 41 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 4 | 2 | 4 | |
| Gambling | 80 | 76 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| All Other Offenses | 1,674 | 1,160 | 214 | 176 | 183 | 0 | 1 | 168 | 77 | 32 | 45 | |
| TOTAL | 14,049 | 11,548 | 1,623 | 691 | 3,004 | 0 | 7 | 711 | 500 | 249 | 221 | |

*The District Attorney makes the final decision on offenses charged after holding a Pre-Trial Conference hearing with key prosecution witnesses.

**Includes those informations which have had some charges added and those which have had some charges nolle prossed.

Criminal Division

Caseload still rising for Adult Probation

While the size of the Adult Probation Office staff remained constant in 1987, its caseload continued to grow. The number of probation and parole cases referred to Adult Probation in 1987 reached 14,184.

The number of officers available to supervise this caseload was 38, which means the caseload per officer in 1987 averaged 374. The standard recommended by the American Correction Association, according to Criminal Division Administrative Judge Robert E. Dauer, is 50 cases.

The caseload over the past five years has increased by 65 percent, as indicated here, without any increase in the number of probation officers:

| | |
|------|--------|
| 1983 | 8,596 |
| 1984 | 10,151 |
| 1985 | 11,899 |
| 1986 | 12,822 |
| 1987 | 14,184 |

The Adult Probation Office also conducted numerous investigations at the direction of the Court in 1987 and provided the Court with 4,121 presentence reports.

The workload included preparation of 2,763 probation violation reports sent to the Court, resulting in 1,656 probation violation hearings at which the probation officer appears as a witness.

In spite of this increasing responsibility, the office has continued to meet the requests of the Judges for presentence reports within five weeks after conviction for individuals in the County Jail and eight weeks for those who have been convicted but are on bail.

Bail forfeitures decline

For the second straight year, the number of appeals made to the Court for reductions of bonds declined in 1987. The total was 2,606 as compared to 2,702 in 1986 and 2,853 in 1985.

Bail was reduced to nominal in 36 percent of these appeals.

There was a slight increase in bail forfeitures in 1987. The Bail Agency reports 1,387 forfeitures for the year. The total in 1986 was 1,348. The 1987 total, however, is still well below the high water mark of 1984 when forfeitures reached 1,740.

In the most important category, there was a decline in trial forfeitures from 363 in 1986 to 331.

1987 VERDICTS RETURNED

| Demurrer Sustained | Acquitted By Jury | Acquitted By Court | Guilty By Jury | Guilty By Court | Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere | Probation | Institutionalized | Suspended/ Costs/ Fine Only |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 16 | 27 | 6 | 26 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 52 | 48 | 236 | 52 | 170 | 17 |
| 6 | 24 | 8 | 27 | 52 | 173 | 103 | 103 | 23 |
| 5 | 11 | 18 | 7 | 83 | 317 | 230 | 81 | 66 |
| 7 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 62 | 693 | 261 | 325 | 73 |
| 23 | 9 | 24 | 14 | 93 | 1,242 | 612 | 440 | 136 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 117 | 62 | 31 | 17 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 240 | 154 | 66 | 15 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 26 | 15 | 66 | 32 | 42 | 5 |
| 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 223 | 184 | 28 | 5 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 69 | 61 | 8 | 2 |
| 10 | 1 | 11 | 14 | 81 | 817 | 444 | 228 | 96 |
| 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 111 | 61 | 58 | 15 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 11 | 24 | 39 | 106 | 1,568 | 9 | 1,283 | 100 |
| 0 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 42 | 16 | 22 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 67 | 25 | 29 | 16 |
| 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 60 | 17 | 2 | 49 |
| 21 | 17 | 21 | 32 | 76 | 805 | 475 | 246 | 103 |
| 97 | 112 | 173 | 262 | 709 | 6,895 | 2,815 | 3,197 | 753 |

Criminal Division

ADULT PROBATION OFFICE 1987

| | Probation | Parole | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Total Cases January 1, 1987 | 10,147 | 2,675 | 12,822 |
| Received from Court in 1987 | 5,895 | 1,563 | 7,458 |
| Discharged During 1987 | 4,822 | 1,274 | 6,096 |
| Total Cases December 31, 1987 | 11,220 | 2,964 | 14,184 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| ARD Total Cases January 1, 1987 | 8,907 | | 8,907 |
| ARD Received from Court in 1987 | 3,222 | | 3,222 |
| ARD Discharged During 1987 | 6,309 | | 6,309 |
| ARD Total Cases December 31, 1987 | 5,820 | | 5,820 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| STATE Total Cases January 1, 1987 | 2,371 | 404 | 2,775 |
| STATE Received from Court in 1987 | 917 | 165 | 1,082 |
| STATE Discharged During 1987 | 562 | 122 | 787 |
| State Total Cases December 31, 1987 | 2,623 | 447 | 3,070 |

PROBATION/PAROLE

| | Cases | Officers |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|
| Administrative Unit | 5,187 | 4 |
| Special Services | 2 | |
| East Liberty Field Office | 1,591 | 6 |
| McKeesport Field Office | 1,442 | 5 |
| North Side Field Office | 1,899 | 8 |
| Oakland Field Office | 1,803 | 7 |
| South Hills Field Office | 2,260 | 8 |
| | 14,184 | 38 |

ARD

| | Cases | Officers |
|------------------------|-------|----------|
| Alternatives | 596 | 1 |
| Mon/Yough | 299 | 1 |
| St. Francis | 609 | 1 |
| St. Johns | 334 | |
| Non-DUI | 583 | 1 |
| DUI Non-Compliance | 328 | 1 |
| Non DUI Non-Compliance | 196 | |
| Administration: | | 1 |
| Costs Owing | 475 | |
| Non Reporting | 1,173 | |
| Process | 612 | |
| Inter-City Coops Out | 348 | |
| Inter-State Coops Out | 134 | |
| Mail/Special Cases | 133 | |
| | 5,820 | 6 |

INVESTIGATION REPORTS COMPLETED IN 1987

| | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Presentence Investigations | 1,390 |
| Judge's Specials | ----- |
| Parole Applications | ----- |
| Violation Reports | 2,763 |
| DUI Presentence Investigations | 31 |

BEHAVIOR CLINIC PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS 1985 - 1986 - 1987

| | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Remands* | 85 | 58 | 66 |
| Murder | 106 | 159 | 107 |
| Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 37 | 61 | 67 |
| Aggravated Assault | 145 | 156 | 154 |
| Minor Assault | 76 | 98 | 97 |
| Burglary, Breaking/Entering | 43 | 53 | 65 |
| Larceny | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Auto Theft | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Embezzlement/Fraud | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen Property | 16 | 67 | 64 |
| Forgery/Counterfeit | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Rape | 137 | 162 | 200 |
| Commercialized Vice | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Sex Offenses | 261 | 346 | 320 |
| Narcotics/Drug Laws | 11 | 19 | 33 |
| Deadly Weapons | 0 | 32 | 27 |
| Non-Support/Neglect | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Liquor Laws | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Driving Intoxicated | 12 | 10 | 15 |
| Other Vehicle Laws | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Disorderly Conduct/Vagrancy | 79 | 113 | 43 |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surety of Peace | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All Other Offenses | 333 | 355 | 469 |
| Commitments to Mental Hospitals | 108 | 140 | 143 |
| Administrative Cases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Court Orders for Discharge of Mental Prisoners | 50 | 105 | 120 |
| Violation of Parole/Probation | 28 | 10 | 45 |
| Rule 64 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Arson | 59 | 99 | 105 |
| TOTAL | 1,595 | 2,062 | 2,151 |

*NOTE: Convicted persons are remanded by the trial judge to the Behavior Clinic for psychiatric examinations prior to sentencing whenever it is deemed appropriate.

Criminal Division

Revisions needed in Sentencing Guidelines

Insufficient jail cells to house prisoners in the criminal justice system appears to be a local concern in Allegheny County because of the problems the County Commissioners have had in dealing with a Federal Court order limiting the population in the County Jail.

It is, however, a problem of much broader dimensions. Indeed, it is one of national significance.

Judge Robert E. Dauer, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division, cites recent statistics issued by the United States Department of Justice which show state prison populations have increased by 50 percent in the past decade.

In Pennsylvania, as in other states, overcrowding has a direct effect on prisoner transfers from local jails to state penal institutions. For Allegheny County, says Judge Dauer, the problem has reached the critical stage.

He suggests part of the solution can be found in amending the mandatory sentences in Pennsylvania and the sentencing guidelines.

"Because some of the mandatory sentences enacted by the state legislature are relatively short," he says, "and because of shorter sentences recommended in the Sentencing Guidelines, some judges feel constrained to sentence convicted defendants in these cases to either the County Jail or Mercer (State Correctional Institution)."

Noting that the State Department of Corrections frequently closes Mercer to new admissions because of its own population problems, Judge Dauer points out that many Allegheny County defendants who are sentenced to Mercer, therefore, must remain in the County Jail.

In addition, Judges are inclined to assign a defendant who is gainfully employed to a work release program both to preserve the individual's employment and to keep his/her family off the welfare rolls.

These are the primary reasons for the escalating jail population, according to Judge Dauer. Solutions which he suggests are:

New alternatives to incarceration through legislation.

A decision by the State Department of Corrections to start accepting its prisoners.

A minimum security facility for nonviolent offenders in Allegheny County.

Judge Dauer believes there should be legislation to give judges discretion to impose alternative sentences rather than incarceration. Legislation should allow for creative and innovative sentences by the trial judge to fit the crime, he adds, while at the same time impressing the defendant with the harm he has caused.

FAILURE TO APPEAR

Failure to Appear for:

| | TOTAL 1985 | TOTAL 1986 | TOTAL 1987 | % INCREASE/ DECREASE FROM 1986 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Preliminary Hearing | 206 | 162 | 201 | + 24% |
| Formal Arraignment | 448 | 390 | 436 | + 12% |
| Confirm Counsel | 187 | 168 | 164 | - 3% |
| Pre-Trial Conference | 120 | 107 | 102 | - 5% |
| Trial | 433 | 363 | 331 | - 8% |
| Sentencing | 80 | 53 | 50 | - 6% |
| Other (Rule 1100) | | | | |
| Probation, Costs, Etc. | 86 | 105 | 103 | - 2% |
| TOTAL | 1,560 | 1,348 | 1,387 | + 3% |

BONDS POSTED IN 1987*

| Bond Amount | Nominal/ROR | Property | Cash | 10% | Surety | Total | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| None | 7,082 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,082 | 69.2% |
| \$500 or less | 0 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 30 | .3% |
| \$501 - \$1,000 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 536 | 42 | 631 | 6.2% |
| \$1,001 - \$2,000 | 0 | 2 | 92 | 738 | 100 | 932 | 9.1% |
| \$2,001 - \$5,000 | 0 | 17 | 211 | 698 | 237 | 1,163 | 11.4% |
| \$5,001 - \$10,000 | 0 | 14 | 113 | 53 | 61 | 241 | 2.3% |
| \$10,001 - \$20,000 | 0 | 14 | 25 | 15 | 18 | 72 | .7% |
| \$20,001 or more | 0 | 8 | 42 | 17 | 16 | 83 | .8% |
| TOTAL | 7,082 | 55 | 556 | 2,067 | 474 | 10,234 | 100% |
| Percentage | 69.2% | .5% | 5.4% | 20.3% | 4.6% | 100% | |

*These do not include the bonds on cases disposed of by District Justices or City Court.

Librarian heads Library Center

The Court of Common Pleas' Law Librarian, Joel Fishman, was elected President of the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center in 1987.

The Center is a regional network of more than 100 academic, special, school and public libraries that fosters interlibrary cooperation in the sharing of library resources.

Civil Division



Judge Marion K. Finkelhor



Judge Bernard J. McGowan



Judge Robert A. Doyle



Judge Ralph H. Smith, Jr.



Judge Leonard C. Staisey



Judge Livingstone M. Johnson



Judge I. Martin Wekselman



Judge Richard G. Zeleznik



Judge S. Louis Farino



Judge Bernard L. McGinley



Judge Silvestri Silvestri



Judge Robert P. Horgos



Judge John L. Musmanno

Civil Division gets new look

The Civil Division of Common Pleas Court was reshaped in 1987 for the purpose of expediting cases in the face of increased filings and a decreased number of judges.

Changes included a new procedure for the assignment and disposition of tax assessment appeals; an intensive two-week endeavor by several judges to settle negligence suits; an accelerated system for disposing of Statutory Appeals; and a non-judicial conciliation program for asbestos/silicon cases.

The results achieved during a non-trial period in December in settling a large number of negligence suits were encouraging to Administrative Judge Ralph J. Cappy and his fellow Civil Division Judges.

At its conclusion, Judge Cappy likened the case dispositions to the equivalent of a full six-week trial term. Of the 351 cases listed by the defendant insurance companies, 201 were settled during the conciliation period and another 20 or more were resolved immediately thereafter.

In addition, a reported 100 additional suits were settled prior to coming to court in the spirit of compromise that was generated by the Court's special settlement effort.

A similar effort will be made in June of 1988, but it will be expanded when some plaintiffs will be invited to list their cases along with the defendants. During the initial effort in December, only the defendants were invited to list cases they were willing to settle.

Joining Judge Cappy in these conciliations were Judges Bernard L. McGinley, Bernard J. McGowan, Silvestri Silvestri, Leonard C. Staisey, I. Martin Wekselman, and R. Stanton Wettick, Jr.

The new approach in settling tax assessment appeals involved the assignment of these appeals to hearings before the Board of Viewers.



Judge Ralph J. Cappy
Administrative Judge

In prior years, every case where the assessed value in dispute was less than \$100,000 was assigned to Civil Arbitration. Quite a few of these cases were appealed, and a full hearing had to be granted in the Civil Division.

In lieu of the Arbitration program, Judge Cappy charged the attorneys who serve as chairman on each of the three Viewers' Boards as Special Masters with the responsibility of seeking to achieve a settlement through conciliation at the outset. If that endeavor was unsuccessful, the appeal was heard by the three-member board, and after full trial the Special Master made findings of fact, conclusions of law, and filed a recommendation with Judge Cappy.

Any party in the dispute was entitled to file exceptions to the Master's recommendation and Judge Cappy, after full hearing, made the final adjudication.

The fruits of this labor in 1987, according to Judge Cappy, were that 57 percent of the tax appeals that reached the Civil Division of the Court were disposed of without judicial involvement.

On November 1, the Civil Division embarked on a new procedure for the disposition of Statutory Appeals in order to cope with the increased filings which have exceeded the capacity of one judge to dispose of them.

Statutory Appeals are now scheduled when they are filed, as are petitions in motions court. The appellant is assigned a hearing date, with all motor vehicle cases being assigned to Senior Judge Raymond L. Scheib and all other appeals to Judge S. Louis Farino.

Pending Statutory Appeals cases increased from 1,674 to 1,891 at year's end in 1987. Judge Cappy and the Civil Division, however, are expecting the trend to begin to go in the other direction with the implementation of the new procedure.

Finally, Judge Cappy signed two administrative orders creating a non-judicial, mandatory, pre-trial conciliation program for asbestos/silicon cases.

Beginning with the May 1988 trial list, no asbestos/silicon case can be listed for trial in this jurisdiction without first having been submitted to this conciliation process. The Court is hopeful that the program will begin to resolve, without Court intervention, many of the more than 1,000 cases presently filed in Allegheny County.

Another increase which the Division intends to reverse is the average age of cases disposed by the Civil Division. This figure has been increasing in recent years. In 1987 the average age of cases from filing to date of disposition increased from 20.3 months in the

(Continued on Page 29)

Civil Division



WHILE TOURING the United States as part of the International Visitor Program sponsored by the United States Information Agency, Luis Lozano (left), Argentina's Director General for Legal Affairs and Inter-Institutional Relations, came to the County Courthouse to view firsthand the Civil Arbitration system in January of 1987. Welcoming him to the Court is Civil Administrative Judge Ralph J. Cappy (right).

ANALYSIS OF ARBITRATION AND STATUTORY APPEAL CASES

| | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Filed | % | Disposed | % |
| Arbitration | 71 | 1.9% | 45 | 1.2% |
| Arbitration Appeals | 1,261 | 33.4% | 887 | 24.2% |
| Statutory Appeals | 2,443 | 64.7% | 2,735 | 74.6% |
| TOTAL | 3,775 | 100% | 3,667 | 100% |
| Statutory Appeals Open | <u>1/1/87</u> | | <u>12/31/87</u> | |
| | <u>1,674</u> | | <u>1,891</u> | |

*1 case added to inventory from previous years.

DISPOSED CASES FOR 1987*

| Method of Disposition | Number | Percent | Average Age by Month from Case Filing to Disposition | Average Age by Month from Date at Issue to Disposition |
|--|--------------|---------------|--|--|
| Transfer to Arbitration by Court Order | 204 | 2.4% | 16.8 | .9 |
| Settled in Conciliation | 86 | 1.0% | 23.6 | 8.4 |
| Non-Jury Trial, Case Reported Settled | 510 | 6.0% | 21.5 | 24.4 |
| Non-Jury Trial, Case Settled by Court | 408 | 4.8% | 22.5 | 27.2 |
| Non-Jury Trial, Findings by Court | 727 | 8.6% | 21.6 | 21.5 |
| Jury Trial Cases Reported Settled | 1,268 | 14.9% | 31.0 | 20.6 |
| Jury Trial Cases Settled by Court Before Trial | 604 | 7.1% | 32.8 | 21.4 |
| Jury Trial Cases Settled Before Verdict | 41 | .5% | 32.8 | 22.0 |
| Jury Trial Cases Tried to Verdict | 339 | 4.0% | 34.0 | 24.5 |
| Cases Not Yet Listed Settled by Court | 803 | 9.5% | 17.5 | 20.5 |
| Cases Not Yet Listed Settled by Parties | 955 | 11.2% | 15.1 | 11.0 |
| TOTAL | 5,945 | 70.0% | | |
| Statutory Appeal Cases Disposed | <u>2,543</u> | <u>30.0%</u> | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 8,488 | 100.0% | | |

The average age of all cases from filing date to disposition was 23.8 months.

The average age of all cases from issue date to disposition was 18.6 months.

These averages are separately calculated and are not merely the average of the individual figures above.

*Included in these figures are trial ready cases and those cases disposed before being certified ready for trial.

BOARD OF VIEWERS - 1987

Eminent Domain Cases

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| New Petitions | 169 |
| Hearings | 89 |
| Views | 111 |
| Reports Filed with Prothonotary | 53 |
| Conciliations | 92 |

Tax Appeal Cases

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Cases Assigned to Board of Viewers | 403 |
| Conciliations | 54 |
| Cases Settled | 91 |
| Hearings | 72 |
| Cases Pending | 175 |
| Reports Filed | 11 |

Civil Division

Long career in Civil Division ends for Chief Clerk Doak

A career of public service that began midway through the Twentieth Century came to an end on April 30, 1987, when G. Foster Doak left the Civil Division of the Court for the last time as the Chief Minute Clerk.

A veteran of 35 years in the Civil Division, Mr. Doak served as the Division's top nonjudicial employee for 16 years.

The Allegheny County Board of Commissioners marked the occasion on July 9 when the Commissioners presented a "Community Citation of Merit" to the

former Chief Clerk at the Board meeting that day.

Mr. Doak started with the Court in 1952. When he became the Chief Minute Clerk in 1972, he assumed primary responsibilities for overseeing both jury selection and management of the Civil Division's personnel.

He is a resident of the Rosslyn Farms community of Allegheny County, where he resides with his wife, Annah Margaret.



RETIRING G. FOSTER DOAK (third from left), departing Chief Minute Clerk of the Court's Civil Division, accepts a "Community Citation of Merit" from County Commissioner Tom Foerster, Chairman of the Board, and Commissioners Pete Flaherty (left) and Barbara Hafer (right). Present for the occasion were Mrs. Doak (second from right) and Common Pleas Court President Judge Michael J. O'Malley (second from left).

CIVIL DIVISION STATUTORY APPEALS 1986-1987

1987

| | 1986 Dispo- sitions | Open Cases 12/31/86 | New Cases Filed | 1987 Dispo- sitions | Open Cases 12/31/87 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Workmen's Compensation | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Zoning Board | 100 | 109 | 54 | 78 | 85 |
| Civil Service | 4 | 18 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle Code Suspensions | 851 | 259 | 655 | 666 | 248 |
| Liquor Control Board Appeals | 15 | 16 | 32 | 31 | 17 |
| Summary Conviction Appeals | 1,337 | 820 | 1,516 | 1,294 | 1,042 |
| Miscellaneous | 427 | 452 | 503 | 456 | 499 |
| TOTALS | 2,735 | 1,674 | 2,760* | 2,543 | 1,891 |

1986 1987

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| New Cases Filed | 2,443 | 2,760 |
| Dispositions | 2,735 | 2,543 |
| Cases Pending | 1,674 | 1,891 |

The average disposition time for each appeal was 202.6 days from date of original filing to final disposition.

*1 case added to inventory from previous years.

CIVIL DIVISION-ARBITRATION

| | 1986 | 1987 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pending on January 1 | 6,466* | 7,885 |
| New Cases Filed | 11,428 | 12,334 |
| Transferred from Civil Division | 1,096 | 403 |
| Cases Disposed | 11,105* | 11,999 |
| Awards by Boards | 5,594 | 5,365 |
| Disposed by Court/Rule 1901** | 527 | 990 |
| Settlements, Non-Pros, etc. | 4,222 | 4,903 |
| Trial List Cases Disposed by Judges | 762 | 741 |
| Pending as of December 31 (Awaiting Trial) | 7,885 | 8,623 |
| Appeals Filed | 1,261 | 1,340 |
| Rate of Appeals | 22.54% | 30.5% |
| Number of Arbitration | | |
| Boards Served (1,000) - Arbitrators | 2,688 | 3,000 |
| Arbitrators Fee Per Day | \$ 150.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| Total Arbitrators Fee | 403,200.00 | 450,000.00 |
| Less Non-Recoverable Appeal Fees Paid | 127,300.00 | 128,562.00 |
| TOTAL COST | \$ 275,900.00 | \$ 321,438.00 |
| Average Arbitrators Cost per Case | \$ 49.32 | 59.91 |

*Data corrected from what appeared in 1986 Report.

**Cases are closed every year without notification to the Court, but are discovered and removed from the active inventory count in an annual purge.

Civil Division

Arbitration Hosts Visitors

A delegation from the North Carolina Bar Association visited Common Pleas Court on January 8 to observe the Court's Civil Arbitration system in operation.

The visitors were headed by Attorney Frank C. Laney, Dispute Resolutions Coordinator for the North Carolina Bar, which is assisting the State Court system with the installation of an arbitration system. Other members of the delegation were the clerks of courts and court administrators who are involved in establishing the system.

They met with Arbitration Director Walter Lesniak and his staff during their visit, as well as Court Administrator Charles H. Starrett, Jr.

Civil Division new look

(Continued from Page 26)

previous year to 23.8 months. The increase in the average age of cases from date of readiness for trial to disposition climbed from 16.3 months to 18.6 months.

While the Judges of the Civil Division have clearly set their sights on reducing those averages, Judge Cappy calls attention to the shortage of available judges in the Civil Division as the major cause. For most of 1987, there were only eight judges hearing cases, although this increased to 11 at the end of 1987. The judges of the Division are relying on a much larger com-

plement of judges in the future to help in reducing the Division's case inventory.

Changes in the Civil Division during 1987 also included several personnel shifts that were occasioned by the retirement of veteran Chief Minute Clerk G. Foster Doak.

Thomas J. Witkowski, who had been serving as Supervisor of Minute Clerks, was appointed Chief Supervisor of the Civil Division, and Raymond F. Przybycin was named Minute Clerks Supervisor. Phillip Sullivan also was named Motions Clerk, and Bertha Petite was appointed Minute Clerk Two.

PROTHONOTARY RECORDS CASE FILINGS PER YEAR

| | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Appeal Tax Assessments | 846 | 603 | 907 | 337 | 226 |
| Appointment of Viewers | 71 | 97 | 85 | 114 | 69 |
| Assumpsit | 977 | * | | | |
| Change of Name | 124 | 123 | 117 | 105 | 124 |
| Declaration of Taking (Eminent Domain) | 89 | 111 | 100 | 116 | 67 |
| Ejectment: | | | | | |
| Amicable | 69 | 76 | 80 | 84 | 91 |
| Complaint | 67 | 78 | 106 | 107 | 111 |
| Equity | 453 | 485 | 411 | 483 | 462 |
| Foreign Attachment | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Mandamus | 28 | 16 | 32 | 19 | 28 |
| Mechanics Lien Complaint | 24 | 17 | 13 | 22 | 31 |
| Mortgage Foreclosure | 1,092 | 948 | 1,481 | 1,417 | 1,563 |
| Petition: | | | | | |
| Amend Tax Lien | 9 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Strike Tax Lien | 8 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| Quiet Title | 36 | 48 | 64 | 39 | 49 |
| Replevin | 110 | 115 | 139 | 97 | 124 |
| Rule to Show Cause | 295 | 254 | 200 | 88 | 267 |
| Trespass: | | | | | |
| Complaint | 1,691 | * | | | |
| Writ of Summons | 1,043 | * | | | |
| Assumpsit and Trespass | 754 | * | | | |
| Civil Actions | | 4,410 | 4,703 | 5,540 | 5,376 |
| TOTAL | 7,788 | 7,391 | 8,457 | 8,582 | 8,610 |

*By order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1984, cases formerly filed under the categories of Assumpsit, Trespass and Assumpsit Trespass are now filed as Civil Actions.

CASES PENDING BEFORE THE COURT (Ready for Trial)

| | 1/1/87 | 12/31/87 | % of Change |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|----------------|
| Trespass - General | 1,634 | 1,545 | - 5.4% |
| Trespass - Motor Vehicle | 1,130 | 997 | - 11.8% |
| Assumpsit | 2,363 | 1,682 | - 28.8% |
| Equity | 190 | 99 | - 47.9% |
| Tax Appeals | 272 | 379 | +39.3% |
| Eminent Domains | 59 | 55 | - 6.8% |
| Miscellaneous | 490 | 803 | + 63.9% |
| TOTAL | 6,138 | 5,560 | - 9.4% |

CASES CERTIFIED FOR TRIAL AND DISPOSED Analysis Of Trial Ready Cases

| | 1986 | | 1987 | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Certified for Trial | % | Disposed | % |
| Trespass - General | 1,119 | 23.0% | 967 | 27.8% |
| Trespass - Motor Vehicle | 893 | 18.4% | 723 | 20.8% |
| Assumpsit | 1,891 | 38.9% | 1,101 | 31.7% |
| Equity | 105 | 2.1% | 91 | 2.6% |
| Tax Appeal | 370 | 7.6% | 372 | 10.7% |
| Eminent Domain | 45 | 1.0% | 113 | 3.2% |
| Miscellaneous | 439 | 9.0% | 111 | 3.2% |
| TOTAL | 4,862 | 100% | 3,478 | 100% |

Special Courts

29 District Justices take oath together

The oath of office was administered on December 30 to 29 district justices who were elected or re-elected in the November 3, 1987, general election in Allegheny County.

The ceremony took place in the Court's Civil Division Assignment Room in the City-County Building.

President Judge of Common Pleas Court, Michael J. O'Malley, presided.

District Justices and the municipalities they serve who participated in the ceremony were:

- Lee J. Mazur - Plum Borough;
- Donald H. Presutti - Bellevue, Ben Avon, Emsworth, Kilbuck, Ohio, and Avalon;
- James H. Bowen - Etna and Shaler;
- Rinaldo J. Secola - Penn Hills;
- Eugene B. Yarnel - Monroeville and Pitcairn;
- Betty Lloyd - Braddock Hills, Braddock, North Braddock, Swissvale, and Rankin;
- A. Kenneth Mann - Wilkinsburg;
- Richard J. Terrick - Homestead, Munhall, and West Homestead;
- Mary Grace Boyle - South Park, Jefferson, and Pleasant Hills;
- Jules C. Melograne - Castle Shannon, Whitehall, and Baldwin Township;
- Russell L. Kimberland II - Bethel Park;
- Elaine M. McGraw - South Fayette, Bridgeville, Collier, and Heidelberg;
- Dennis R. Joyce - Crafton, Carnegie, Ingram, Rosslyn Farms, and Thornburg;
- Nicholas A. Diulus - Pittsburgh (Oakland);
- Charles M. Morrissey - Pittsburgh (Lower North Side, Manchester, Troy Hill, and Allegheny Center);
- Jacob H. Williams - Pittsburgh (Downtown and Hill District);
- Theodora A. Connery - Pittsburgh (Morningside, Stanton Heights, Highland Park, and Garfield);
- Robert E. Tucker - Pittsburgh (Squirrel Hill, Swisshelm Park and Point Breeze);
- James J. Hanley - Pittsburgh (Hazelwood, Hays, Lincoln Place, and Greenfield);
- Bernard J. Regan - Pittsburgh (Upper North Side and Perrysville);
- John E. Swearingen - Robinson, Kennedy, Pennsbury, Pittsburgh (Crafton Heights, Broadhead Manor, and Westgate);
- Regis C. Welsh, Jr. - Richland, Pine, and Hampton;
- James E. Russo - Leetsdale, Leet, Sewickley, Sewickley Hills,

(Continued on Page 32)



THE OLD YEAR of 1987 ended on a positive note for 29 members of the District Courts in Allegheny County on December 30 when they took the oath of office following their election in November. Twenty-nine of the district justices participated in a special ceremony conducted by President Judge Michael J. O'Malley of Common Pleas Court in the Civil Jury Assignment Room.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT JUSTICE CASELOAD 1987 TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF

| Type of Case | Trial | Guilty Plea | Prosecution Withdrawn | Other | Total |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Traffic | 24,760 | 76,811 | 5,779 | 12,138 | 119,488 |
| Non-Traffic Summary | 9,156 | 15,353 | 3,695 | 7,559 | 35,763 |
| Civil | | | | | 25,160 |
| Criminal | | | | | 12,875 |
| TOTAL | 33,916 | 92,164 | 9,474 | 19,697 | 193,286 |

Special Courts

Caseload up in Special Courts

The 55 District Courts in Allegheny County experienced a substantial increase in caseload in 1987, disposing of 3,490 more cases than the previous year.

More than half of the cases (119,488) involved summary traffic cases, and there were another 35,763 non-traffic summary cases. Criminal cases disposed of totaled 12,875, and there were 25,160 Civil dispositions.

Cash receipts also increased by \$614,972.94, as the total receipts for the year reached \$10,551,474.71.

Allegheny County's share of those receipts, including the State's annual subsidy of \$1,375,000, was \$3,762,664.82. This was \$75,423.41 higher than the 1986 receipts. Expenditures also increased, however, to a total of \$3,965,972.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED*

| | |
|------|---------|
| 1987 | 193,286 |
| 1986 | 189,796 |
| 1985 | 192,594 |
| 1984 | 193,954 |
| 1983 | 177,623 |
| 1982 | 188,154 |
| 1981 | 167,698 |
| 1980 | 165,028 |
| 1979 | 145,677 |
| 1978 | 144,032 |
| 1977 | 134,533 |

*Excludes cases handled in Pittsburgh Magistrate Court.

Court activity in 1987 included the disposition of 33,201 felony and misdemeanor charges, with 8,103 cases held for court and 4,772 dismissed. Motor vehicle violations continue to be the most frequent felony/misdemeanor offense. In 1987 these included 5,571 Driving While Intoxicated incidents and 5,031 Other Motor Vehicle offenses.

DISTRICT COURTS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY 1985—1986—1987

Cash Receipts and Expenses From District Courts*

| RECEIPTS | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1986-1987 Increase/ Decrease |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Municipalities | \$2,016,112.25 | \$2,144,785.27 | \$ 2,198,773.02 | \$ 53,987.75 |
| Commonwealth of Pennsylvania | 3,155,038.60 | 3,526,935.71 | 3,877,501.48 | 350,565.77 |
| County of Allegheny-Violation cases | 1,653,961.38 | 1,708,221.71 | 1,770,628.51 | 62,406.80 |
| County of Allegheny-Civil cases | 539,907.05 | 598,765.45 | 616,164.04 | 17,398.59 |
| Other Funds Held in Escrow | 1,605,791.31 | 1,952,539.38 | 2,087,535.39 | 134,996.01 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 15,054.26 | 5,254.25 | 872.27 | (4,381.98) |
| TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS | \$8,985,864.85 | \$9,936,501.77 | \$10,551,474.71 | \$614,972.94 |
| COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY | | | | |
| Receipts-Violation Cases | \$1,369,349.83 | \$1,392,303.69 | \$1,431,093.67 | \$ 38,789.98 |
| Receipts-Civil Cases | 539,907.05 | 598,765.45 | 616,164.04 | 17,398.59 |
| Fines | 165,574.81 | 187,201.51 | 220,610.34 | 33,408.83 |
| Postage | 119,036.74 | 128,716.51 | 118,924.50 | (9,792.01) |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 15,054.26 | 5,254.25 | 872.27 | (4,381.98) |
| TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS (Fines & Costs) | \$2,208,922.69 | \$2,312,241.41 | \$2,387,664.82 | \$ 75,423.41 |
| DISTRICT COURTS SUBSIDY— COMMONWEALTH OF PA | \$ 687,500.00 | \$1,375,000.00 | \$1,375,090.00 | \$ 0 |
| EXPENSES OF DISTRICT COURTS | | | | |
| Salaries | \$1,954,389.00 | \$2,089,342.00 | \$2,244,964.00 | \$155,622.00 |
| Fringe Benefits | 556,907.00 | 573,983.00 | 615,660.00 | 41,677.00 |
| Miscellaneous Services (Rent, Telephones, Postage, Etc.) | 822,930.00 | 812,072.00 | 924,517.00 | 112,445.00 |
| Supplies, Printing & Duplicating | 75,096.00 | 98,378.00 | 126,988.00 | 28,610.00 |
| Repairs | 2,109.00 | 2,457.00 | 3,839.00 | 1,382.00 |
| Equipment (Office Furniture/Fixtures) | 25,831.00 | 32,827.00 | 36,343.00 | 3,516.00 |
| Travel, Insurance, Law Subscriptions | 7,161.00 | 10,191.00 | 13,661.00 | 3,470.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY | \$3,444,423.00 | \$3,619,250.00 | \$3,965,972.00 | \$346,722.00 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES | \$ (548,000.31) | \$ 67,991.41 | \$ (203,307.18) | \$271,298.59 |

*Revenues from Pittsburgh City Court are not included in this report.

MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY CHARGES DISPOSED 1987

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Major Assault | 2,087 |
| Minor Assault | 1,721 |
| Rape | 174 |
| Other Sexual Offenses | 496 |
| Burglary | 1,282 |
| Robbery | 418 |
| Theft | 3,102 |
| Retail Theft Court Charges | 892 |
| Embezzlement & Fraud | 1,071 |
| Receiving Stolen Property | 1,768 |
| Forgery | 654 |
| Nonsupport & Neglect | 72 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 635 |
| Gambling | 18 |
| Commercialized Vice | 0 |
| Firearms | 284 |
| Driving While Intoxicated | 5,571 |
| Other Motor Vehicle Court Charges | 5,031 |
| Narcotics/Drug Laws | 2,678 |
| Liquor Law Violations (Charges) | 93 |
| Surety of the Peace | 0 |
| All Other Court Charges | 5,154 |
| TOTAL CHARGES | 33,201* |
| Cases Held for Court | 8,103 |
| Cases Dismissed | 4,772 |

*In prior years these figures represented total cases disposed. The 1987 total is for charges disposed.



TWO NEW JUDGES of the Court (at right) are welcomed by their colleagues following the May 8 ceremony in the Civil Assignment Room where they took the oath of office. The new Judges (at right) are Joseph M. James and Lee J. Mazur. Greeting them are Orphans' Court Administrative Judge Paul R. Zavarella (at left) and Civil Division Judge Bernard J. McGowan.



A NEW JUDGE, W. Terrence O'Brien, ends the old year of 1987 by donning a new judicial robe with the assistance of his wife, Marion. Judge O'Brien took the oath of office at a special ceremony in the Civil Division Jury Assignment Room on December 29.



Judge Frederic G. Weir



Judge Loran L. Lewis



Judge Henry R. Smith, Jr.



Judge Raymond L. Scheib



Judge Maurice Louik



Judge Hugh C. Boyle



Judge William S. Rahausser



Judge Nathan Schwartz

EIGHT SENIOR JUDGES (left) served the Court in 1987, serving in all of the Divisions. Judge Henry R. Smith, Jr., assumed Senior Judge status on February 6. Judge William S. Rahausser retired as a Senior Judge on August 1.

29 District Justices Take Joint Oath

(Continued from page 30)

Sewickley Heights, Osborne, Aleppo, Bell Acres, Edgeworth, Glenfield, and Haysville;
 Mary Ann Cercone - McKees Rocks and Stowe;
 Robert W. Kubit - Pittsburgh (Lawrenceville and Arsenal);
 Edward A. Tibbs - Pittsburgh (East Liberty);
 Daniel R. Diven - Pittsburgh (West End, Sheridan, and Elliot);
 Richard K. McCarthy - Millvale and Reserve; and
 Richard H. Zoller - Oakmont and Verona.

Several other District Justices arranged individual ceremonies in their home communities. They were:

Sarge Fiore of Clairton; Paul Komaromy, Jr., of Elizabeth, West Elizabeth, and Forward; Andrew Kurta of Glassport, Port Vue, Liberty, and Lincoln; Albert Belan of West Mifflin, Dravosburg, Duquesne, and Whitaker; Robert R. Graff of Brentwood and Baldwin Borough; Ralph C. Freedman, Jr., of McCandless, Bradford Woods, Franklin Park, and Marshall; Anthony J. Clark of Harrison, Fawn, Tarentum, and Brackenridge; Arthur Sabulsky of Harmar, Cheswick, and Springdale; and Frank Comunale, III, of Churchill, Forest Hills, Wilkins, Edgewood, and Chalfant.