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INNOVATIVE SPECIALTY COURTS *QUARTERLY*

QUARTERLY NEWS, GRANT SOURCES, AND TRAINING EVENTS

The Innovative Specialty Courts Committee exchanges ideas, discusses issues and recommends policies related to the operation and administration of Ohio courts with specialty dockets (mental health courts, drug courts, re-entry courts, etc.). The Innovative Specialty Courts Committee is working to identify additional resources available to these courts and to develop a procedural framework in order to facilitate the continued operation of these dockets.

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Fifteenth Edition of the Innovative Specialty Courts Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide articles, training opportunities and resources and to foster collaboration among our community of specialized docket judges.

MOTIVATING MISDEMEANOR PARTICIPANTS IN A SPECIALIZED DOCKET PROGRAM

by: Hon. Nanette DeGarmo Von Allman, New Philadelphia Municipal Recovery Court Program

> *"There is only one way under heaven to get anybody to do anything: by making them want to do it." Dale Carnegie, How to Win Friends and Influence People, Simon and Schuster, 1936.*

O.R.C. 2929.21 provides that the overriding purpose of misdemeanor sentencing is to protect the public from further offense and to punish the offender. A jail sentence meets both of those purposes, at least during the term of the sentence. But the effectiveness of incarceration to modify human behavior is limited, particularly when addiction is a factor. Finding a way to sustainably protect the public is the issue. The use in a court setting of intermittent, positive reinforcement, which creates a dopamine-driven response to reward, and which can become highly resistant to extinction over time, may be one answer. Can the same brain pathways that lead to addiction and criminal behavior be rewired to support sobriety and a productive life? How can we motivate participants in misdemeanor specialized dockets to go beyond compliance and explore life-changing alternatives?

MOTIVATING MISDEMEANOR PARTICIPANTS IN A SPECIALIZED DOCKET PROGRAM

by: Hon. Nanette DeGarmo Von Allman, New Philadelphia Municipal Recovery Court Program

Charles, a participant in the New Philadelphia Municipal Recovery Court recently summed up the power of a treatment court: "I have been in and out of jail my entire life. The easiest thing for me to do would have been to just stay in jail again. I know where I come from and it is not a good place. But this program provides me with an extra layer of accountability. It is a safety blanket against my self-destructive thoughts. I am learning to let people in and to let go of the chaos."

Every successful program begins with selecting the right applicants. A recovery court program is designed for high-need, high-risk offenders like Charles, who had numerous OVI and criminal convictions, childhood trauma and juvenile court involvement. When screening applicants, follow program guidelines and recovery science, not personal beliefs or feelings about the applicant. Consider accepting applications from defendants who have otherwise not been successful under conventional (carrot and stick) supervision: those who have received significant jail sentences yet continue to re-offend, or who relapse despite repeated stints in IOP or even inpatient treatment.

Participation in the program must be voluntary. Willingness to participate should be bona fide and continuously reinforced by emphasizing that "you are in this program only if you choose to be here." Does voluntariness mean that the participant initially has more than the binary choice between a rock and a hard place? Maybe not. But we should accept the premise that making the first, right choice could lead to more.

Consider adding a diversion track to your program, if allowed by law for the offense, permitting the successful graduate to avoid conviction and seal or expunge the record. Diversionary opportunities may not carry the weight that they do in felony programs, but represent another tool that can really motivate certain defendants.

A key component of a successful recovery court lies in educating local defense attorneys, prosecutors and probation staff about the requirements and benefits of the program. Identify someone at the jail who can talk to the inmates and provide answers to questions about participation. Seek out jail employees, re-entry coordinators, peer support or the jail chaplain as potential sources of information for inmates considering the opportunity to participate in the recovery court.

A successful recovery court requires the adherence to substantial structure on every aspect of the program and providing participants several orientation weeks to acclimate to the busy schedule. Set fair and attainable goals for earning incentives. Reward every accomplishment, however small, with verbal praise, both by program staff and in the courtroom. Also provide consistent tangible rewards. The New Philadelphia Municipal Recovery Court uses cheap plastic coins with a sobriety message (Oriental Trading Company) that can be saved up and traded for $10 gas or restaurant gift cards. Purchase the gift cards with special court funds or available grant funds. Participants earn one token for every week of full compliance. Consider holding a special drawing in court if there were no sanctions that week, and provide an intangible reward, such as a telephone (instead of in-person) meeting with the probation officer.

Recovery courts are not about coercion. To that end, minimize the use of jail as a sanction and never talk about imposing jail in a threatening or coercive manner. The goal is to de-normalize jail and remove the immediate fight or flight response when a violation or relapse occurs. Instead, focus on the benefits of a law-abiding life by acknowledging sobriety dates or the number of months since the defendant was last incarcerated. During a hearing, consider saying "you are doing so well, it is clear to me that you don't need to be in the jail, so please don't send yourself there ever again." Participants

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know that jail is what they have chosen when they make a bad decision.

Perhaps the most important component to motivating participants is to invest time and resources into a solid treatment team. Find the movers and shakers: the people who actually get things done and genuinely care about other people. Don't settle for a mediocre counseling agency if you have choices. The New Philadelphia Municipal Recovery Court team includes the re-entry coordinator from the county jail, chief probation officer/program coordinator, a peer mentor, counseling supervisor or case manager, the city health director (medication assisted treatment), prosecutor, public defender and two OOD job specialists.

Each team member holds a unique key to helping participants remain engaged and motivated. The re-entry coordinator helps identify possible candidates, distributes program materials, counsels inmates about program benefits and obligations, and assists with applications. If participants do receive a jail sanction, she meets with them to plan next-steps upon release. The probation officer uses motivational interviewing to help participants recognize how program requirements align with their personal goals, such as housing, child custody, education and employment. Counselors meet regularly with participants to address trauma, criminal thinking and personal mental health issues. Treatment providers also refer participants for psychiatric evaluation and medication assisted treatment, as needed. The case manager eliminates barriers, such as transportation or insurance issues. The peer supporter is a sober role model and social support who is available to participants outside of court hours. Job counselors help with all aspects of employment, from GEDs and adult education, to filling out applications and acquiring appropriate work clothing.

Team members must remain informed and engaged by being provided "best practices" training opportunities. The program coordinator regularly shares online educational opportunities with team members. I encourage participation and acknowledge those who take advantage of training. We have participated as a team in both on-site and virtual mentor court visits and a three-day online program evaluation and refresher, all provided free of charge by All Rise. We try to send at least one or two team members to the Ohio Supreme Court's Specialized Docket Conference every year. Last year, for the first time, we used special project funds to send the program coordinator and counselor to the All Rise conference in Orlando. We have also conducted several team retreats to combat mission fatigue, foster goodwill and keep the team up to date on relevant issues such as funding challenges and revised treatment court best practices.

Remember to acknowledge and value what each team member brings to the table. Be humble and recognize that mental health and addiction treatment are disciplines to which a law degree can be profoundly

MAY IS NATIONAL TREATMENT COURT MONTH. GATHER YOUR TREATMENT TEAM AND START PLANNING YOUR EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE PARTICIPANTS ON YOUR SPECIALIZED DOCKET. FOR IDEAS AND REFERENCES, PLEASE SEE THE ALL RISE WEBSITE.

irrelevant. At the same time, encourage the prosecutor and defense counsel to share their perspectives on community safety and constitutional protections. When I hear the team prosecutor talk about second chances and the defense attorney mention accountability, I know we are on the right path. Allow each team member the opportunity to speak at the team meetings and in court, if appropriate. Encourage team members to stay for the court hearings each week if time allows.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, treat everyone with dignity and respect.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share these ideas from my misdemeanor alcohol and drug recovery court program. I truly hope that you find something here that you can use. Don't give up and keep fighting the good fight.



NEW CHALLENGES FOR JUDGES & PROBATION OFFICERS WITH OPEN ACCESS TO CANNABIS

by: Hon. Patrick Carroll (Ret.), Lakewood Municipal Court

The increased access and use of medical and adult use (recreational) marijuana poses challenges to both judges and probation officers. Although still classified as a drug of abuse,[1] legal use of marijuana is similar to alcohol. Both are mind altering substances with conditional use and can be openly purchased at retail stores or dispensaries. The terms themselves create confusion, including the misconception that because marijuana is now readily available, it is also safe.

Medical marijuana is obtained by a medical directive, not a prescription, and purchased at a dispensary, not a pharmacy.[2] A prescription is typically for a fixed period of time and renewable by order of the prescribing authorized medical professional. With a medical marijuana card, however, continued use is at the discretion of the user without supervision. Some courts in Ohio have recognized the medicinal benefits of marijuana, but it still remains a controlled substance under federal law.[3]

Trial courts often struggle with dealing with marijuana when imposing community control supervision/probation conditions as part of a criminal sentence. The purpose of sentencing is not only to punish the defendant but also to protect the public from future crime and rehabilitate the defendant.[4] In the past and prior to a statutory change, probation conditions were limited to:

1. being reasonably related to rehabilitating the offender,
2. having some relationship to the crime of which the offender was convicted, and
3. relating to conduct which is criminal or reasonably related to future criminality and serving the statutory ends of probation.[5]

Because all three requirements had to be satisfied, trial courts were hampered when there was not a direct relationship between the convicted offense and substance abuse, or due to other, prescribed medication, use of either alcohol or marijuana was counterproductive. Thus, when a defendant was convicted of an offense that was not directly alcohol or drug related, without more, a court could not impose a probation condition restricting the use of alcohol or marijuana, even though the criminal history or presentence report showed a substance abuse history.[6] A nexus was required between alcohol or drug use with the convicted offense.

Since the decision in *State v. Jones*, the laws governing probation conditions for felony and misdemeanor offenses were amended to specifically include:

- Day reporting. R.C. 2929.17(A), R.C. 2929.27(A)(1).
- House arrest R.C. 2929.17(B), R.C. 2929.27(A)(2)
- Electronic monitoring(with possible house arrest). R.C. 2929.17(B), R.C. 2929.27(A)(2).
- Continuous alcohol monitoring R.C. 2929.17(B), R.C. 2929.27(A)(2).
- Drug treatment R.C. 2929.17(D), R.C. 2929.27(A)(4).
- Drug and/or alcohol monitoring with urine screens R.C. 2929.17(H), R.C. 2951.05, R.C. 2929.27(A)(8)
- Curfew R.C. 2929.17(I), R.C. 2929.27(A)(9).
- Obtain or maintain employment R.C. 2929.17(J), R.C. 2929.27(A)(10).
- Obtain or maintain education or training R.C. 2929.17(K), R.C. 2929.27(A)(11).
- Counselling. R.C. 2929.17(N), R.C. 2929.27(A)(14).
- Sex offense treatment R.C. 2929.17(O).[7]

The specific statutory conditions do not limit a court's discretion to impose additional conditions based on the facts of a case as long as the conditions comply with the standard set out in *Jones*.

In *State v. Ballish*, 2026-Ohio-503, the Ohio Supreme Court held the statutory conditions set out above, enacted after *Jones*, were not limited by the three requirements in *State v. Jones* and could be imposed at the court's discretion. The effect of the *Ballish* decision is to provide courts broader authority to impose conditions specifically authorized by R.C. 2929.27(A). A court's authority to prohibit alcohol or drug use is implicit with the court's authority to require alcohol and/or drug monitoring and screens. Alcohol and drug treatment,

prohibition, monitoring, and screening may be imposed as probation conditions when the court recognizes a substance use issue, but the convicted offense did not directly involve alcohol or drugs.[8]

Medical marijuana poses additional issues for judges and probation officers when a defendant seeks to continue to use marijuana for medicinal purposes while on probation or in a treatment program. Consumption is difficult to monitor. A drug screen does not distinguish between medical and recreational marijuana.

Because of its therapeutic properties, use of medical marijuana on probation or in a treatment court is more compelling than the use of recreational marijuana. Medical marijuana, however, can be overused and abused similar to any other prescription medicine. The issuance of a valid medical marijuana card, even when issued for pain relieving purposes, does not automatically prevent a judge from prohibiting all marijuana use as a probation condition.[9] It is not unreasonable for a court to require a defendant to attempt other methods of pain relief with medical marijuana as a last resort instead of a first response.

Somewhat more latitude is given to treatment courts because of the voluntary nature of participation. Restrictions on medical marijuana, however, are still subject to a nexus with the participant's charged offense or condition. In *State v. Reichert*, 2025-Ohio-2965 (7th Dist.), the court found an abuse of discretion by dismissing a defendant from a diversion program for medical marijuana use. Although the defendant's possession of a medical marijuana card did not bar the trial court from requiring the defendant to refrain from using marijuana, the defendant was not precluded from raising the use of medical marijuana in compliance with a valid medical marijuana card. Citing *State v. Lynn*, the court noted the rehabilitative purpose is not served when the probation condition restricts the lawful use of marijuana for medical purposes any more than it is served by the lawful use of a prescription drug. Although a diversion program differs from a treatment court program, they share the common element of voluntary participation.

RESTRICTION ON PLACES

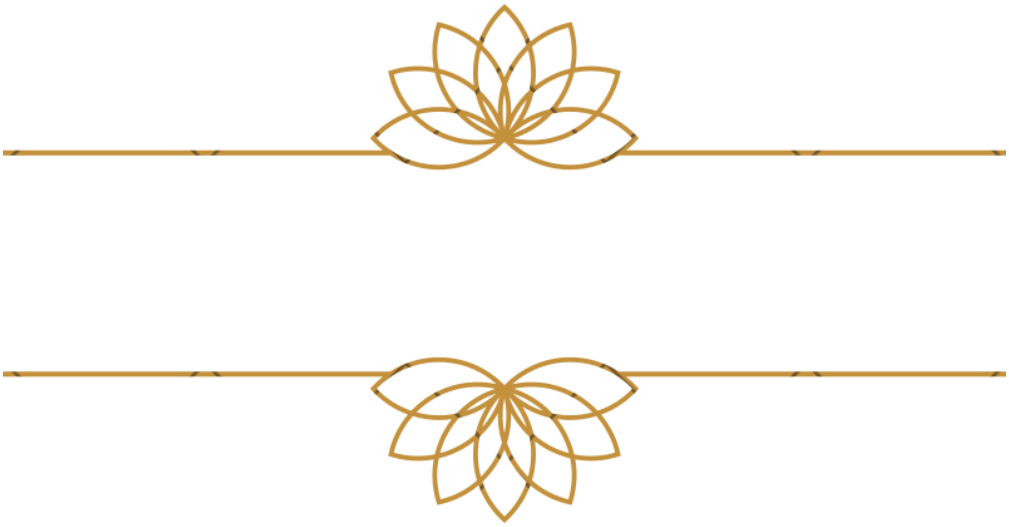
Usually accompanying a no alcohol/no drugs probation condition is a prohibition from being in places where alcohol or drugs are sold or otherwise available. Although the Court in *Ballish* upheld the no alcohol/no drug conditions, it did not address the restriction to stay out of bars except for work purposes.[10] Alcohol related conditions limit a defendant's choices and freedom of movement but have been recognized as valid probation conditions if they are both reasonable and not overbroad.[11] If, however, a "no bars" condition is imposed, it must be reasonably limited to avoid being overburdensome on the defendant and enforceable through the courts.

In *State v. Bradley*, 2026-Ohio-232, the court reversed a probation condition prohibiting the defendant from entering any establishment that serves alcohol without the approval of the supervising officer as overly broad. The court found the prohibition included restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores, which had no relationship to the convicted offense, was not related to criminal conduct or reasonably related to future criminality. The concurring opinion in *Bradley* noted the expansive restrictions included dining or picking up a take-out meal at any restaurants, pizza shops, and family-friendly restaurants and would also include any sports venues, wedding-reception sites, or concert halls where alcohol might be served. Such conditions impose a heavy burden on the honest probationer who wants earnestly to comply with a trial court's orders and with the directions of a probation officer.

The appellate court recognized it should avoid second guessing a trial court's discretionary probation conditions. On the other hand, a trial court should exercise caution with the scope of a probation condition to determine the most effective ways to supervise probationers and to protect the public, punish the guilty, change harmful behaviors, and promote effective rehabilitation.

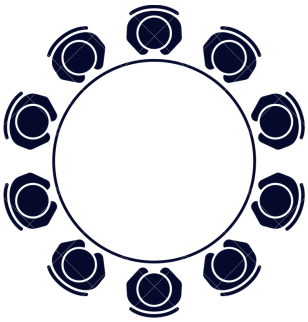
CONCLUSION

Although the limits on restricting alcohol or marijuana use have been loosened under *Ballish* and recent statutory enactments, courts must still show some reasonable nexus between any restriction and the defendant's criminal behavior. It is critical that probation officers provide the judge with sufficient information, whether by prescreening for drug court participation or a presentence report, as to the defendant's prior alcohol or drug use, criminal history of alcohol/drug related offenses, and prior treatment. It is equally critical that the judge uses this information to make a record to support any alcohol or drug restrictions.



CITATIONS FOR JUDGE CARROLL'S CANNABIS ARTICLE

[1] R.C. 3719.011(A).
[2] *State v. Ryan*, 2021-Ohio-4059 (11th. Dist.)
[3] *State v. Lynn*, 2023-Ohio-4429 (5th Dist.)
[4] R.C. 2929.18(A) [felony] and R.C. 2929.28(A) [misdemeanor].
[5] *State v. Jones*, 49 Ohio St.3d 51 (1990).
[6] *City of Strongsville, v, Feliciano*, 2011-Ohio-5394 (8th. Dist.).
[7] A trial court also has statutory authority to 1) prohibit ownership, possession, or use of a firearm, deadly weapon, ammunition, or dangerous ordnance, 2) prohibit the person from being within a specified structure or geographic area; 3) confine the person to a residence, facility, or other structure; 4) prohibit the person from contacting or communicating with any specified individual; 5) prohibit the person from associating with a specified individual; and 6) require that the person not ingest or be injected with a drug of abuse, submit to random drug testing, and a negative drug screen. R.C. 2951.08(A).
[8]*State v. Rivera*, 2021-Ohio-1343 (6th. Dist.).
[9] *State v. Smith*, 2024-Ohio-2854 (12th. Dist.); State v. Bourne, 2023-Ohio-2832 (11th. Dist.).
[10] While the cases addressing these restrictions are related to alcohol, due to the relatively recent availability of marijuana, the conditions apply to marijuana dispensaries also.
[11] *State v. Bright*, 2025-Ohio-725 (5th. Dist.).



2026 Specialized Dockets Roundtables

Registration is open for the 2026 Ohio Specialized Dockets Roundtables. All roundtables will be held online and can be registered for here.

Coordinators	Friday, May 22: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Probation Officers	Wednesday, July 8: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Veterans	Thursday, June 25, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
****New** Legal Professionals**	Friday, April 24, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Judges	Tuesday, Sept. 8, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Mental Health	Monday, April 20, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Substance Use-Human Trafficking	Tuesday, June 16, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Specialized Docket Managers	Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Veterans Mentor Roundtables	Thursday, Aug. 6, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Substance Use-Reentry	Wednesday, May 13, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT

MEET A DIFFERENCE MAKER – MARISSA L. CORNACHIO
WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE



The Innovative Specialized Docket Newsletter has a recurring feature to highlight a judge working collaboratively to motivate change for treatment court clients and to share experiences of the judge with other specialized docket judges.

This month, the Innovative Specialized Docket Newsletter Editors, interviewed Judge Marissa L. Cornachio, who has served on the Willoughby Municipal Court, Willoughby, Ohio, since 2018. Among her many professional accomplishments, Judge Cornachio presides over the Willoughby Veterans Treatment Court.

The Willoughby Veterans Treatment Court: A Municipal Court Perspective

Municipal courts serve on the front line of Ohio's justice system and often represent an individual's first point of sustained judicial intervention. For many defendants, the municipal court represents the earliest opportunity to address underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behavior before those issues escalate into more serious offenses.

Lake County is home to nearly 15,000 veterans. Although veterans have served our country and earned the respect of our communities, they are not immune from the challenges that may lead individuals into the criminal justice system. In municipal court, veterans may appear on charges ranging from OVI, theft, and drug possession, to offenses involving violence such as assault or domestic violence. The specialized docket provides an important option for those veterans whose circumstances make them suitable for the program.

Ohio law recognizes the relevance of military service in sentencing, directing courts to consider an offender's military background under R.C. 2929.12 and R.C. 2929.22. The Veterans Treatment Docket builds upon that recognition by providing a structured framework that combines judicial supervision, treatment resources, and peer mentorship.

INTERVIEW WITH JUDGE MARISSA L. CORNACHIO, WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COURT

What was your background before taking the bench?

Prior to taking the bench, I served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and later as a Special Prosecutor in criminal cases, working closely with law enforcement, victims, and community partners.

That experience reinforced my respect for the rule of law and the importance of accountability within the justice system. Problem-solving courts do not replace accountability; rather, they incorporate structured interventions designed to address underlying factors contributing to criminal behavior while ensuring that public safety remains paramount.

What is your experience presiding over a specialized docket?

In 2021, the Willoughby Municipal Court received initial certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio for its Veterans Treatment Docket. The program is the first specialized docket in Lake County dedicated specifically to the needs of veterans and operates in accordance with the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Docket Certification Standards.

Our docket relies on a multidisciplinary team that includes probation officers, treatment providers, defense counsel, the prosecutor's office, Veteran mentors, and a Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialist assigned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The VJO plays a critical role in connecting eligible participants with treatment services available through the VA system and helping ensure that veterans appearing before the court have access to the clinical resources they may need.

What were your initial expectations in presiding over a specialized docket, and how have they changed?

When the Veterans Treatment Docket was first established, the goal was to create a structured program that could connect veterans appearing before the court with treatment resources, supervision, and peer support.
With experience, it has become clear that the effectiveness of the docket depends not only on access to services, but also on consistent judicial engagement and strong collaboration among the treatment team. In the municipal court setting, the court must be deliberate at each stage of the program to reinforce accountability, treatment engagement, and progress toward stability.

What is the most rewarding aspect of presiding over a specialized docket?

The most rewarding aspect is witnessing meaningful progress in the lives of participants. When a veteran enters the program facing significant challenges, whether related to substance use, trauma, or instability, and ultimately completes treatment, secures employment, reconnects with family, and graduates from the program, it demonstrates the impact of structured accountability paired with support. These outcomes benefit not only the individual participant but also the safety and stability of the broader community.

Are there any challenges you have experienced as a specialized docket judge in a municipal court?

The municipal court environment operates somewhat differently from felony courts because the amount of potential jail time for a sanction is less than a felony offense. For example, lock-down treatment on a violation

is not typically an option in most municipal court settings. As a result, the program must be structured carefully so that each stage of the docket reinforces accountability, treatment engagement, and progress toward stability.

Municipal courts frequently encounter individuals at the earliest stages of system involvement, which creates an important opportunity for early intervention. By combining structured judicial supervision with treatment resources and peer mentorship, the court can address underlying issues while maintaining accountability to the law.

Can you share a story of a participant in your court that highlights the benefits of a specialized docket?

There are many participants who come to mind, and they each share a similar story. I recall more than one veteran entering the program struggling with a substance use disorder and mental health issues. At the outset, each faced significant instability and uncertainty about the future. Through structured supervision, treatment engagement, and the support of a veteran mentor who understood these experiences, the veteran gradually began to rebuild stability in his life. Over time, they secured employment, reconnected with family members, and ultimately graduated from the program.

From your perspective, what is the most important quality or attribute necessary for a specialized docket judge?

Consistency and patience are essential. Participants in a specialized docket are working through complex challenges, and progress does not always occur in a straight line. A judge must exercise patience and understanding while maintaining clear expectations and accountability. Consistency ensures that participants know the court will respond fairly and predictably, recognizing progress while addressing setbacks in a proportionate manner.

What is one thing that you did not know before presiding over a specialized docket and have since learned?

Presiding over the Veterans Treatment Docket has deepened my understanding of trauma and its impact on behavior. Many veterans who appear before the court carry service-related trauma that may intersect with substance use or other challenges.

Education in trauma-informed practices has strengthened the court's ability to respond in a way that maintains accountability while also encouraging meaningful engagement in treatment.

What new ideas, programs, or procedures have you implemented in your specialized docket that make it unique?

Participation in the Veterans Treatment Docket is voluntary and requires a significant commitment from the veteran. Individuals enter the program through a referral and screening process that includes legal and clinical eligibility considerations.

One of the defining features of a Veterans Treatment Docket—and a key distinction from other specialized dockets such as drug courts or mental health courts—is the peer mentor component.

Veteran mentors provide participants with guidance and encouragement from individuals who share the

experience of military service. This peer relationship helps recreate the sense of camaraderie, accountability, and mutual support that many veterans experienced during their time in the service. In many cases, the mentor relationship becomes one of the most influential factors in a participant's success on the docket.

The mentoring team is led by Al "Sarge" Raddatz and The Sub Zero Mission, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting individuals experiencing homelessness, with a particular focus on identifying and assisting homeless veterans. Through their leadership and the commitment of volunteer mentors, participants in the program are connected with a strong network of peer support within the community.

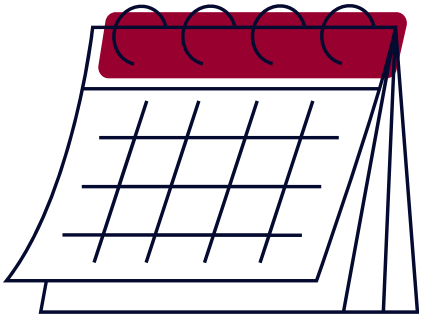
Programs such as the Veterans Treatment Docket demonstrate that municipal courts can play a meaningful role in addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior while maintaining accountability and protecting public safety.



THE EDITORS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!! PLEASE SUBMIT AN ARTICLE WITH PICTURES VIA EMAIL TO JUDGE HUFFMAN OR JUDGE PRATT (CONTACTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER) SO WE MAY HIGHLIGHT YOUR SPECIALTY COURT IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER.



SAVE THE DATE



All Rise Treatment Court Institute 2026 Practitioner Training

at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown | 1 N Broadway Street, Oklahoma City, OK

Registration is open.

- Court Coordinators | May 19-22, 2026
- Prosecutors | September 22-25, 2026

The National Judicial College

Registration is open.

- Judicial Decision Making | April 27 -30, 2026 | Chattanooga, TN
- Ethics and Judging: Reaching a Higher Ground | June 8 - 23, 2026 | Webinar
- Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills | July 20 -23, 2026 | Reno, NV

The 2nd Annual Ohio Impaired Driving Symposium -2026

Columbus, Ohio - October 22, 2026 - Location to be determined. Continue to check the Ohio Judicial College website.

All Rise RISE26 Conference

2026 RISE will be held in Nashville, TN, on July 20-23, 2026.

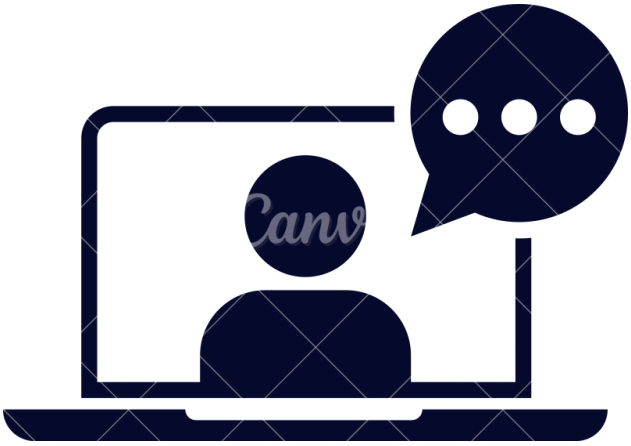
The 2026 National Alliance on Mental Illness Conference (NAMICon 2026)

NAMICon will be held *IN PERSON* in Atlanta, GA on May 27- 30, 2026.

The 2026 Ohio Specialized Docket Conference | October 14, 2026

at the Ohio State University | The Ohio Union at 1739 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio

VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



ALL RISE E-LEARNING CENTER

https://allrise.org/trainings/e-learning/

SAMHSA'S PRACTIONER TRAINING

SAMHSA's practioner training offers tools, training, and technical assistance to practitioners in the fields of mental health and substance use disorders.
https://www.samhsa.gov/resource-search/tta

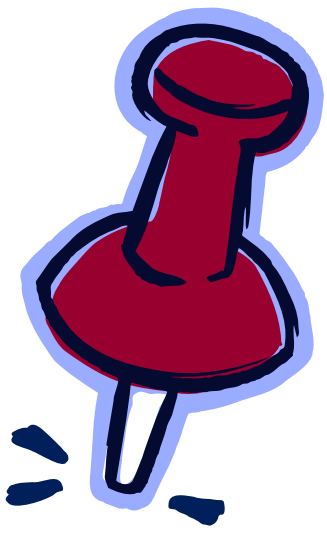
2026 NATIONAL TREATMENT COURT MONTH TOOLKIT

https://allrise.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/All-Rise-2026-NTCM-Toolkit_final.pdf

2025 IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH TOOLKIT FOR TREATMENT COURTS

https://allrise.org/news/impaired-driving-prevention-month-toolkit-2/





GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

ODMHAS – SD Subsidy Project Funding
Link: Specialized Dockets | Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ohio.gov)
Note: Cover payroll costs for specialized docket staff members or for clinical services provided by OhioMHAS certified addiction and/or mental health providers, medication assisted treatment (MAT) medications, urinalysis and recovery supports. Must be in the process of certification or certified by SCO.

ATP (Addiction Treatment Program) Funds
Link: Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ohio.gov)
Note: Contact your local ADAMH board for what is available to your court program participants.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
Link: Grants and Grantees | SAMHSA
Note: Search grants by state and type to see past funded awards. Deadlines vary.

NDRC (National Drug Court Resource Center) (For Adult, Veteran, Family & Juvenile Treatment Courts)
Link: Grant Solicitations - National Drug Court Resource Center (ndcrc.org)
Note: Lists solicitations from various sources.

Grants.gov
Link: Home | GRANTS.GOV
Note: Search for local/private funding, state and national funding opportunities. Deadlines vary.

State Justice Institute
Link: State Justice Institute (sji.gov)
Note: Application deadlines are: November 1; February 1; May 1; and August 1, and correspond with the federal fiscal year quarters.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Link: Grant Information & FAQs - The Annie E. Casey Foundation (aecf.org)
Note: Funding opportunities for juvenile justice. Rolling deadlines.

Grant and Funding Webinars:
Funding Webinars | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)
Training Events, Videos, and Reference Materials for Applicants and Grantees | SAMHSA
Grant Writing Basics – Grants.gov Community Blog (wordpress.com)

