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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 Thirteenth 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.



Specialized Dockets: Tips for Developing a Competitive Grant Application

Sustainable funding can be a critical need when implementing a certified specialized docket. Stable housing, reliable transportation, food accessibility, and other factors could impact a participant's engagement and overall success. Understanding how to develop a competitive grant application can aid specialized dockets in addressing participants' basic needs while promoting increased engagement and long-term recovery.

Tip 1: Understand Grant Terminology. Familiarize yourself with general grant terminology to aid in the search of a funding source. Visit Learn Grants | Grants.gov to learn more.

Tip 2: Find Open Opportunities. Grants.gov serves as the centralized location to find and apply to federal grants. The Ohio Grants Partnership lists open funding opportunities from state agencies, in addition to training and resources to build Ohio's grant capacity. Be aware that funding opportunities posted on the Ohio Grants Partnership may also be federally funded as many federal grants require a State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply as the only eligible entity for the state. The state agency may then open the opportunity to local entities to apply. Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards may have open funding or partnership opportunities at the local level. Other types of funding sources (for example opioid settlement dollars) can broaden searches. Become familiar with funder priorities that align with the docket's mission. Consider subscribing to newsletters from those entities.

SPECIALIZED DOCKETS: TIPS FOR DEVELOPING A COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION (cont.)

Tip 3: Prepare to Apply. Review the grant announcement in full and identify the purpose, scope of work, and due date. Confirm eligibility and the available funding level to inform budgeting. The grant may require a letter of support (tip: seek this out early). Understand how and where to submit the grant. Familiarize yourself with Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations to understand federal financial assistance requirements. Register with SAM.gov if your entity doesn't already have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. Review any match requirements that the grant may have.

Tip 4: Assemble Writer(s). Identify a lead to oversee the application from draft to submission. Select writer(s) and identify input needed from others (i.e. subject matter experts, epidemiologists, fiscal officers). Compile data to justify the need and identify measurable goals and objectives. Review the scoring criteria, page limits, and formatting requirements. Utilize suggested templates from the funding entity, if applicable. Develop a detailed budget for the planned grant expenses. Review previous award information using USASpending.gov to get an idea of proposals that have been awarded. Many grant opportunities are available on a yearly basis or more than once and you may visit this website to search which entities have been previously awarded and information about each award.

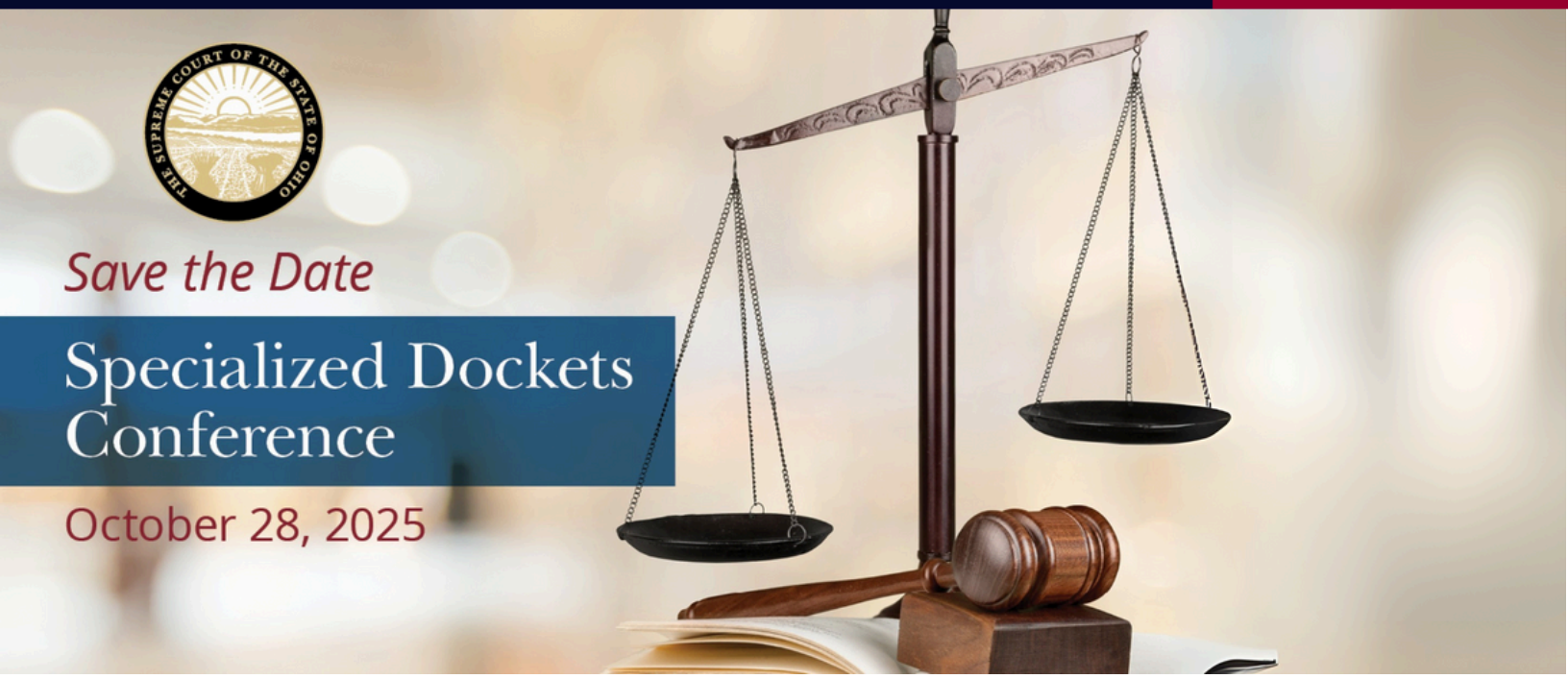
Tip 5: Develop a Timeline. Set a realistic timeline that allows for early submission. Identify any internal review or approval needed prior to submission. Allow time for the lead to compile all components and confirm completeness. Review the grant's reporting requirements, if any, and include appropriate due dates and time needed to prepare reports within the timeline.

Tip 6: Plan for Submission. Retain copies of your materials and confirmation receipts. Contact IT if a submission error is encountered. Report system errors to the funding opportunity point of contact expeditiously as late submissions are not accepted.

Tip 7: Review the Score. Ask the funder for a copy of the score sheet regardless of the outcome. Both awards and rejections are an opportunity for growth and education. If interested in learning more about grant writing or grants in general, many funding opportunities will ask for volunteers to review grant applications in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This is a great way to learn more about grant writing and the application review process.

Securing grant funding is an excellent way to support organizational goals and objectives while meeting the needs of specialized docket participants. Writing and receiving a grant is the first step of many; managing the award, collecting data, and planning for sustainability are key factors to consider throughout the lifecycle of a grant. Keep in touch with your funder and communicate any challenges or changes that need to be made to the grant award during the grant award period.





Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Time: 8:45am-4:15pm

Location: The Ohio Union, 1739 N High St, Columbus, OH 43210

Registration opens: late August

Plenary Speakers:

- Teresa M. Stafford-Wright, CEO of Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center in Akron, Ohio
  - *Bridging Systems: A Human-Centered Approach to Operationalizing Trauma-Informed Practices*
- Hon. Carla J. Baldwin, Youngstown Municipal Court
  - *Legal and Treatment Ethics for Treatment Court Professionals*

Over 20 breakouts to choose from, topics include:

- The Role of Prosecution and Defense in Specialized Dockets
- Due Process and Expediting Time Frames
- Making Your Specialized Docket Your Own
- Locating and Applying for Grants
- Foundations of Severe and Persistent Mental Health Disorders
- Reaching Juveniles: Neurodevelopment, Anxiety, and Trauma in the Age of Social Media
- Peer Supporters in Specialized Dockets
- Drug Testing
- Phase Structure and Phase Advancement
- Multidisciplinary Teams: Know your Role

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED JUDICIAL RESPONSES

by: Judge Theresa Dellick, Mahoning County Juvenile Court



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After earning a B.S. in Business Administration from Youngstown State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo College of Law, Theresa Dellick entered private practice in 1984. She became a partner in a Youngstown law firm and was a civil trial lawyer. In 1999, she became a county court judge, where she implemented the first misdemeanant county drug court. Since 2001, Judge Theresa Dellick has served as judge of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court.

Mahoning County Juvenile Court is the only court in Ohio with six Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets, namely the Treatment Court (Drug and Alcohol), Family Dependency Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Sex Offender Treatment Court, Re-Entry Court, and Education Court. The Court has

A jail diversion study revealed that trauma is nearly universal among individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Among women, 96% reported experiencing trauma during their lifetime, and 74% were currently experiencing trauma. For men, the numbers were similarly high — 89% lifetime trauma and 86% currently experiencing trauma.* These statistics make it clear: most defendants who appear before a court are not only trauma survivors but are often actively living through ongoing trauma.

In addition to trauma, many individuals in the criminal justice system suffer from co-occurring disorders such as mental illness and substance use disorders. The close rates between men and women underscore the universality of trauma in this population. What does this mean for judges? Simply put: it should be assumed that nearly every person appearing in court carries a history of trauma.

Trauma-Informed Practices in the Courtroom

Understanding this reality calls for trauma-informed judicial practices. These practices don't involve leniency or excusing behavior — they focus on ensuring the courtroom does not become another source of trauma. Judges can take simple but powerful steps to reduce the risk of re-traumatization:

- Show respect and dignity to every individual.
- Clearly explain the legal process and each step of the proceedings.
- Create a physically and emotionally safe environment.
- Provide appropriate choices and explain consequences where possible.

These actions can help prevent unexpected outbursts or shutdowns and foster a more orderly, respectful courtroom. They also allow the judge to view the defendant as a whole person, leading to more thoughtful, individualized sentencing.

*The referenced study was conducted by SAMSHA in 2007.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR (cont.)

the only Sex Offender and Education Court Dockets in the state. Judge Dellick is past chairperson of the Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets. She is also a member of Ohio's SSRP Subcommittee that oversees the Supreme Court's Initiative to advance family dependency treatment dockets throughout Ohio.

Judge Dellick has been named a 2016 Champion of Hope by Sandy Hook Promise and has received recognition for her court programs by the Obama White House, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Department of Education. Judge Dellick and the MCHS have been invited to address the United Nations in Summer 2019. She is also a Fellow of the Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Along with all the above, Judge Dellick is a certified SAMSHA GAINS Institute trauma-informed trainer which helps educate criminal justice professionals about the impact of trauma and how to develop trauma-informed responses. Should any Ohio specialized docket be interested in this free training, please contact Judge Dellick at TDellick@mahoningcountyoh.gov or 330-740-2244.

Understanding Trauma and Its Impact

Trauma can take many forms — physical or sexual abuse, neglect, accidents, natural disasters, combat, community violence, and even secondary trauma. It may stem from a single incident or be the result of repeated exposure. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), trauma is defined as an event or series of events experienced as physically or emotionally harmful or life-threatening, with lasting adverse effects on functioning and well-being.

Trauma affects how individuals present in court. A person may appear withdrawn, flat in affect, angry, distrustful, or suspicious. These behaviors may be misinterpreted by court personnel as rudeness, aggression, or indifference — but often they are survival mechanisms developed to cope with past trauma.

Avoiding Jurigenic Harm

"Jurigenic harm" refers to the unintended consequences caused by the judicial system that can worsen a person's condition. As judges, we have an obligation similar to medical professionals: first, do no harm. Ignoring trauma signals or dismissing the emotional state of a defendant can escalate a situation, create fear or confusion, and ultimately compromise courtroom safety and effectiveness.

To reduce jurigenic harm and foster a trauma-informed courtroom, judges should consider the following approaches:

- Begin proceedings on time or explain delays.
- Speak plainly, avoiding legal jargon.
- Look at individuals when speaking, and call them by name.
- Identify all courtroom personnel and their roles.
- Be transparent and explain the purpose of each hearing.
- Acknowledge and respect cultural backgrounds and lived experiences.

These practices uphold the dignity of all participants and align with the Judicial Canons requiring fairness, impartiality, and respect.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED JUDICIAL RESPONSES (cont.)

by: Judge Theresa Dellick, Mahoning County Juvenile Court

The Role of the Judge in Recovery-Oriented Justice

While not every defendant can or will be rehabilitated, trauma-informed responses help create an environment that supports recovery, reduces recidivism, and promotes safer courtroom interactions. This approach does not compromise legal standards or judicial impartiality; rather, it strengthens them.

Ultimately, adopting trauma-informed practices is about ensuring safety, dignity, and effectiveness in our courtrooms. These modest changes in behavior and perspective can make a meaningful difference — for the defendant, the staff, and the judge. A trauma-informed bench leads to better outcomes and reinforces the integrity of the justice system.



IMPAIRED DRIVING SYMPOSIUM

For Judges, Magistrates, Probation Officers, & Specialized Docket Teams

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites - Columbus Airport, 2886 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219

This free Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College course includes lunch and materials. Approval has been requested for 6.00 total Judicial College credit hours.

Register online by logging into OhioCourtEDU. Course registration closes three days prior to course date.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 1 million impaired driving arrests occur each year in the U.S. However, it's estimated that more than 100 million episodes of impaired driving take place annually. Approximately 32% of roadway deaths involve drug and/or alcohol impairment. And yet, those who drive while impaired often differ from other criminal offenders in meaningful ways. This symposium will review the latest trends and emerging issues associated with impaired driving. Judicial officers and probation officers will be provided with a clear understanding of the dynamics of impaired driving, the specific risks associated with repeat offenses, and sentencing and supervision strategies that research has demonstrated are effective with those who drive under the influence.

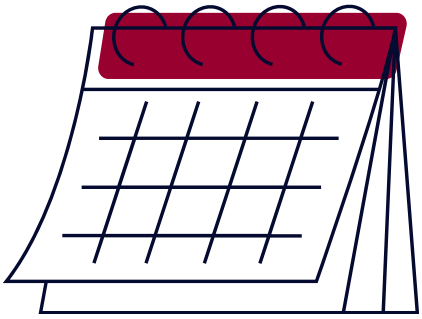
As a result of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of impaired drivers;
- Summarize recent Ohio case law and legislative enactments relating to impaired driving;
- Compare the benefits and challenges of starting an OVI court;
- Explain what drug tests can and cannot tell us about a person's substance use and the current best practices for drug testing; and
- Discuss the rates of mental illness among impaired drivers and the importance of early screening.

Faculty: Hon. Patrick J. Carroll, Retired, *Lakewood Municipal Court*; Hon. Marianne T. Hemmeter, *Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, General Division*; Hon. Mary Katerine Huffman, *Second District Court of Appeals*; Captain Chris Kinn, *Field Operations, Ohio State Highway Patrol*; Amy Miles, *State Toxicologist/Regional Toxicology Liaison-Midwest Region*, *Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene*; Dr. Sarah Nelson, *Director of Research, Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance*; Les Schultz, *Probation Fellow, American Probation and Parole Association*

Any questions? Contact Judicial College staff at OhioCourtEDU@sc.ohio.gov.

SAVE THE DATE



All Rise Treatment Court Institute 2025 Practitioner Training

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

Registration is open.

- Defense Attorneys | Sept. 23-26, 2025

National Judicial College 2025 Courses

Registration is open.

- Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know | September 22-25, 2025 | Sioux Falls, SD





Educating
22.75 CEUs
228 sessions
24 tracks
265 speakers

Representing
50 states + D.C.
3 U.S. territories
8 other countries

Connecting
7,000+ attendees
1,673 judges/attorneys
959 law enforcement
313 mental health court team members
292 alumni
261 exhibitors
938 coordinators
1,422 treatment/service providers/peers

RISE 25
May 28-31, 2025 • Kissimmee, Florida

Over four days in May, more than 7,000 public safety and public health professionals gathered in Kissimmee, Florida, for RISE25, the preeminent training conference on the intersection of substance use, mental health, and justice innovation.



SAVE THE DATE: RISE26!

RISE 26

July 20-23, 2026 • Nashville, Tennessee

VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, LINKS, & RESOURCES



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

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO SPECIALIZED DOCKETS EDUCATION ROUNDTABLES

https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/docs/JCS/specDockets/events/Roundtables.pdf

- Mental Health - Friday, Aug. 29, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Substance Use-Reentry - Friday, Sept. 5, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Coordinators - Thursday, Sept. 11, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Judges - Thursday, Sept. 18, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Specialized Docket Managers - Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Veterans Mentor Roundtables - Wednesday, Oct. 15, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Coordinator Support Meetings - Friday, Nov. 7, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

JUSTICE TO HEALING PODCAST: DESIGNING AN ALUMNI GROUP

https://www.buzzsprout.com/1351483/episodes/16754656

CDC REPORTS NEARLY 24% DECLINE IN U.S. DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2025/2025-cdc-reports-decline-in-us-drug-overdose-deaths.html

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)
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)

