

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN

A Division of the Court of Common Pleas
93 Public Square, Medina, Ohio

2006 Annual Report



Photo Courtesy of Garnett Publishing

Sharon M. Danko, Court Administrator



MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN

Judge John J. Lohn is one of four judges of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lohn began his term in February 2003. The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as delinquent, traffic offenders, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. In addition to serving as our County's Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Lohn is the Medina County Probate Court Judge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Lohn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greetings from Judge Lohn

I am pleased to present the 2006 Annual Report of the Medina County Juvenile Court. The Court, its staff and our service providers are committed to protecting helpless children, correcting delinquent juveniles and directing parents to their responsibilities.

This report documents the Court's efforts to enhance services and programs for the youth and families of Medina County in 2006. The Court is grateful to the many members of the law enforcement community, the schools, social service agencies and parents who have assisted the Court in its important mission.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2007

Cutting Edge Electronic Monitoring: One of many projects on the table for the Juvenile Court is instituting a reliable and powerful Electronic Monitoring program. Combined with state-of-the-art GPS and cellular technology the new ankle bracelets enable the Court to monitor many forms of potential violations including but not limited to: alcohol consumption, bracelet tampering and physical location. Court personnel can receive instant notification upon any violation. Technology of this caliber is not only more effective, it is also a means of providing safety to our community.

Family Court Model: The Court plans to expand the Drug Court model in order to assist families with their drug and alcohol addictions and/or diagnosed mental health disorders.

Parent Project: The Parent Project is a comprehensive, award-winning model that provides hope for families and communities by offering specific, no-nonsense solutions to the problems parents face today with out-of-control adolescents.

Guardians, Incompetents, and Families Together or GIFT Program: Medina County Probate Court has teamed with the University of Akron to offer voluntary mental health assessments to family members working through the establishment of a guardianship. The GIFT program is expected to begin in the fall of 2007.

Guardianship Training: The Probate Court will begin a quarterly training of all appointed guardians to explain court expectations and paperwork that must be filed in each guardianship case.

Probate Forms Made Available Online: The Probate Court plans to make many commonly used Probate forms available online. By visiting our website, the public will be able to access and fill-out printable forms online using Adobe Reader®. (www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com)

E-Return Receipt: In an effort to remain proactive and efficient, the Juvenile and Probate Court will be coordinating with the U.S. Postal Service and Pitney Bowes for electronic retrieval of certified mailings. A major benefit is a cost savings to taxpayers of more than \$7,000 annually.

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PROGRAMS

Drug Court: The mission of the Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordination of efforts between alcohol and drug counseling and court services. For addicted children, Drug Court is the last and best hope for sobriety and a productive life. Drug Court expanded to include 2 Probation Officers, home-based therapy and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (see EAP). 31 youngsters graduated from the program in 2006.

Juvenile Traffic Night Court: By hearing cases in the evening it becomes more convenient for both parents and teens to attend court. Students avoid absence from classes and extra-curricular activities by coming to Juvenile Traffic Night Court. There were 1,104 Juvenile traffic cases filed in 2006.

Camp Integrity: Combating the idleness and lack of supervision for court-involved youth during the critical hours of 3pm to 9pm, Camp Integrity consists of academic study, physical activity, group discussions, life skills and social responsibility training. In 2006, 78 youth completed the program.

ID-21: Instituted in 2003, this 21-hour intensive detention program held at the Juvenile Detention Center targets parental education, drug and alcohol education and improves family relationships. In 2006, 114 juveniles completed this program.

Truancy Program: To encourage consistent policies throughout the County and reduce truancy the court hosts an annual truancy meeting. Present are representatives from all eight school districts as well as the Prosecutor's Office, Job and Family Services, and the Ohio State University Extension Office. In 2006, 98 truancy cases were filed.

COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement):

Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER program to recoup part of the costs of court services. The parents of juveniles must pay a portion of the cost of court programming. In 2006 nearly \$113,000.00 was collected through COPPER.

Community Service: Nearly 8,250 hours were donated to benefit numerous local agencies and charities.

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP): In October the Court contracted with Trinity Horse Farms. EAP is a rapidly growing field where horses are utilized as therapy partners to improve the emotional, behavioral and mental health of families.

The EAP Team



Catherine Poland, Amy Kathe & Tiffany Shelton

Risk Assessments: Risk assessments are conducted on every youth charged with a delinquent or unruly offense. This risk assessment assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. In 2006, 1,028 risk assessments were completed.

Community Relations: The Juvenile Court has been recognized by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission and is involved in various boards/groups in Medina County including the Medina County Police Chief's Association, Family First Council, Intersystems Community Assessment Teams (ICAT), Share Cluster, Collaborative Family Treatment Program, Medina City Schools Technology School and 2-1-1 Call for Help Initiative. The Court has a Drug Court Advisory Board and a Programming Citizens Advisory Board.

Log on to www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com for details about these and other programs.

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SUPREME COURT STATISTICS

The statistical summary meets all of the statutory requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before both Judge and/or Magistrate in the calendar year 2006. The chart is a breakdown of each type of case that came before the Juvenile Court and how the Court disposed of each case. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence Implementation Manual promulgated by the Supreme Court.

	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect, or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion For Permanent Custody	Custody, or Visitation	Support	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others	Total
New Cases Filed	922	1104	51	178	9	3	94	140	25	11	-	2537
Reactivated, Redesignated, or Transferred In Cases	22	12	-	2	-	-	79	549	17	1	15	697
Total	1194	1219	60	213	9	7	243	828	68	12	17	3870

Terminations By:

Trial By Judge	4	-	9	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	17
Trial By Magistrate	45	36	-	2	-	-	58	33	5	-	2	181
Admit To Judge	9	1	31	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	46
Admit To Magistrate	786	581	2	100	1	1	53	193	15	-	5	1737
Dismissal	72	22	9	36	2	-	26	94	14	-	3	278
Certification / Waiver Granted	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
Transfer	66	209	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	282
Unavailable Party	22	1	-	7	-	-	9	108	7	-	2	156
All Other	1	301	-	24	-	1	5	238	1	12	1	584
Total	1005	1151	51	170	6	7	158	666	42	12	13	3281

TYPES OF CASES HEARD IN JUVENILE COURT

Delinquent Child: A delinquent child is one who commits any act (other than a juvenile traffic offense) that would be a crime under state, municipal, or federal law if committed by an adult, or who fails to obey an order of a juvenile court. In 2006, there were 922 delinquency cases filed in Medina County.

Traffic: A juvenile who violates a traffic law, ordinance or regulation (excluding parking violations) is a juvenile traffic offender. In 2006, there were 1,104 juvenile traffic cases filed.

****Parentage:** Paternity cases determine the parentage of a child. Before Court involvement, an administrative determination must be attempted through the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), or the parents may execute an Acknowledgement that is filed with the Central Paternity Registry. It is necessary to establish the parent and child relationship in order to decide issues of parental rights and support. In 2006, there were 25 parentage cases filed.

****Parental Rights:** These cases include custody and visitation matters between parents and in some cases other people, such as grandparents. The legal right to physical care and control of a child is determined, including the issues of the child's residence, time with each person, monetary support and health care obligations. In 2006, there were 94 custody/visitation cases filed.

****Grandparent Powers of Attorney and Caretaker Affidavit:** The Power of Attorney is used when a parent is available and able to sign the power of attorney to the grandparent. The Caretaker Authorization Affidavit is used when the grandparent is unable to locate or contact the parents. Both allow grandparents to obtain care, physical custody and control over grandchildren without changing legal custody and are in effect for one year. If a renewal is desired, a court hearing must then be held. In 2006, 24 powers of attorney were filed, and 3 caretaker affidavits were filed.

****Child Support:** The biological or adoptive parent of a child is obligated to support the child. The Juvenile Court may establish support orders and enforce these orders. Orders include health care obligations of each parent and allocation of the tax exemption for the child. The Court enforces orders established administratively through the Child Support Enforcement Agency. In 2006, 140 support cases were filed.

Dependency, Neglect and Abuse: Children living in inappropriate environments as defined by state law may be removed from parents or other caregivers. With Juvenile Court involvement, the children may be reunited with their families under supervision, placed in foster care, or placed with relatives while the conditions that caused removal are remedied. In 2006, there were 51 dependency, neglect and abuse cases filed.

Unruly: Any child who commits a status offense (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) is an unruly child. An unruly child includes any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of their parents, teachers, guardian or custodian,

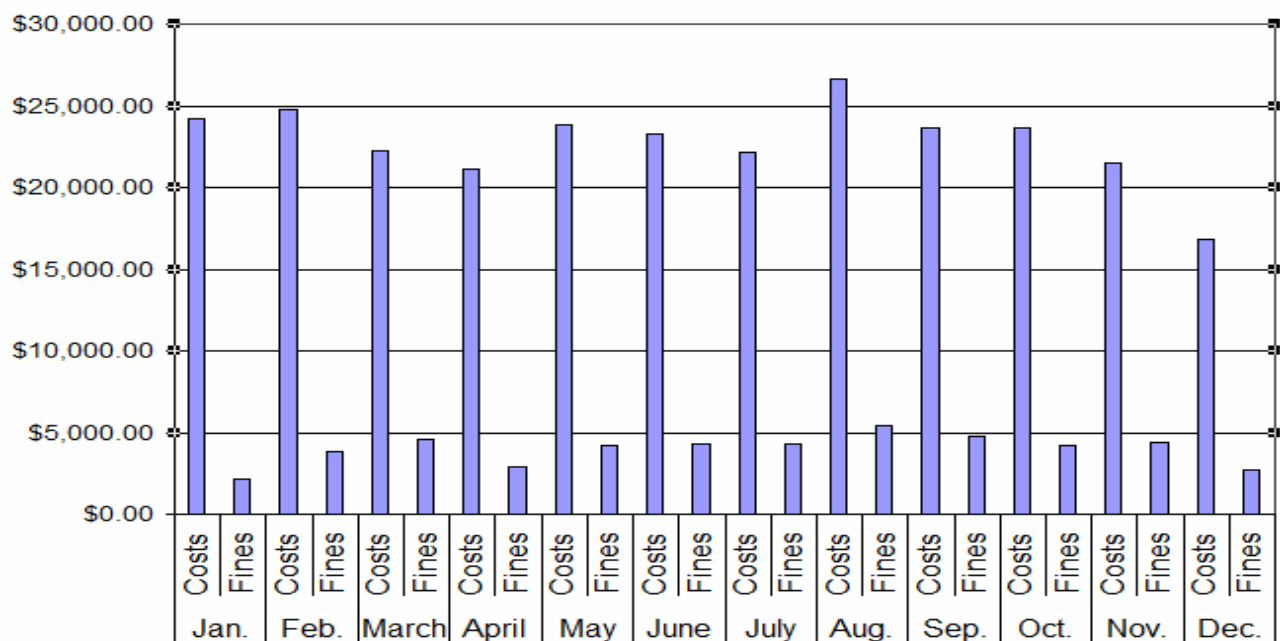
by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient; habitually truant from school; behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger his or her health or morals or the health or morals of others; and, any child who violates a law (other than tobacco and gun violations) applicable only to a child. In 2006, 178 unruly child cases were filed.

Adult: Adults may fall under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court if they commit an act that contributes to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor. Also, an adult may be charged with failing to support their child educationally. In 2006, 9 adult cases were filed in Medina County.

**These case types were transferred to the Domestic Relations Court on March 1, 2007.

2006 JUVENILE COURT COLLECTIONS

The Juvenile Court assesses and collects similar costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for similar services. Court costs are assessed against juveniles found to be delinquent, truant, traffic offenders, or unruly. The fines and costs collected are distributed to the state, county, and local government.



Summary of Collections over the past three years:

Year	Court Costs	Court Fines	Total Juvenile Court Collections
2006	\$273,730.07	\$47,760.03	\$321,490.10
2005	\$243,403.65	\$37,766.97	\$281,170.62
2004	\$125,923.62	\$36,341.21	\$162,264.83

Medina County Juvenile Court Copper Reimbursements: Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER (Cost of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program to recoup part of the costs of court services. In 2006, approximately \$113,303.87 was collected by the Court through COPPER fees.

COPPER Program Costs

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount Charged</u>	<u>How Amount Determined</u>
Camp Integrity	\$150 for program	Length of time ordered into the program may vary between 2-6 weeks.
Community Service	\$10 per 4 hours	Weekday program runs for 4 hours per night. Saturday is an 8 hour program.
Drug Court	\$150 for program	One time fee just to be in drug court for supervision.
Drug Test	\$3.50-\$8.20	The cost of each test, panel and supplies.
Electronic Monitoring	\$65 hook-up \$9.50 per day GPS \$12 per day if breathalyzer	The cost of hook-up and daily monitoring.
ID-21	\$150 for program	The cost of JDC, food, and program providers
Juvenile Detention Center	\$30 per day	Per day cost. Court orders number of days.
Probation	\$150 per Placement	Probation supervision. Length on probation will vary.
Transportation	\$10 per trip	Personnel, gas, vehicle maintenance costs.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center is a maximum-security, 30 bed facility. The 26,000 square foot facility is comprised of 30 individual detention cells, 2 holding cells, 3 classrooms, dining hall, medical office with attached examination room, gymnasium, library, a multi-purpose room and a secured outdoor recreation area.

The juvenile detention facility is reserved for the detainment of youth who have been charged with committing delinquent acts. Detention is used as a last resort and principally for youth who have committed serious offenses and are a risk to himself or herself or the community.



The Detention Center is not a treatment facility, but it is our philosophy that everyone coming in contact with our residents should do the most that they can to make a positive impact on the youth in hopes of diverting them from further trouble.

While we do offer programs to the residents while they are here, the loss of personal choice and freedom cannot be offset by the activities and programming provided through the detention experience.

Residents are required to attend school daily from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. During the Summer Months, residents attend Summer School. With the collaboration of the Medina County Schools, residents receive work from their home schools. Those youth that do not participate in a regulated school curriculum are provided a curriculum designed by the JDC teachers.

370 Juveniles were admitted to the Juvenile Detention Center in 2006.

While at the JDC, youth are provided with programming and voluntary participation in various activities. Speakers from various county agencies provide education and informative information to the residents. Programming and services include but are not limited to the following:

Anger Management

Commissary

Drug and Alcohol

Medical

Girl Scouts – Positive Solutions

Mental Health

Project Learn

Recreation

Health Department - Education

Social Services

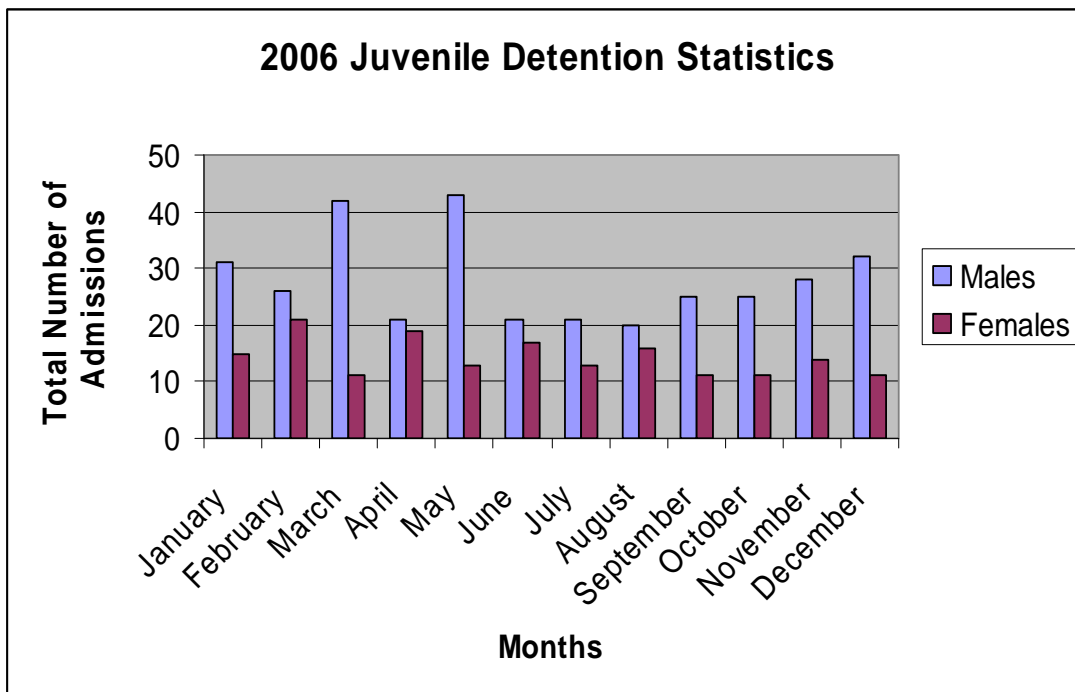
Book Club – Wadsworth Library

Brown-Mackie College

Religious Services

Visitation

Medina Library - Book Discussions



JUVENILE COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The purpose of probation is to hold juveniles accountable for their delinquent or unruly conduct. Juvenile law assumes children are capable of rehabilitation and correction. Probation officers investigate all aspects of the juvenile's case and make recommendations to the court as the best way to protect public safety and to achieve a permanent improvement in a child's behavior.

The juvenile probation officers have difficult jobs because of the many variables which affect a child's behavior. These variables include: the motivation and skills (or lack thereof) of the parent's, the child's interaction with siblings, behavior at school and academic performance, the predominant influence of peers and the high incidence of mental health and social problems of today's teens.

The work of the probation officer is challenging and complicated, but it is also rewarding. The probation department can point to hundreds of youth who have transcended the juvenile justice system to become outstanding people and law-abiding, productive citizens.

The Probation Officers have experience in both juvenile corrections and probation totaling 29 years of experience. The Officers all have Bachelor Degrees in Criminal Justice.

Overview:

152 youth were on Probation as of 01/01/2006
163 youth placed on Probation during 2006
190 youth terminated from Probation during 2006
125 youth on probation as of 12/31/2006

Demographics of 163 probationers:

Gender: 114 boys (70%) 49 girls (30%)
Age: 11 Youngest 19 Oldest 16 Average
Race: 9 Black (6%) 3 Bi-racial (2%) 2 Hispanic (1%) 148 White (91%)
Other 1 (.01%)

School District:

2 Black River (1%) 51 Brunswick (31%) 13 Buckeye (8%) 27 Cloverleaf (17%)
8 Highland (5%) 30 Medina (18%) 29 Wadsworth (18%) 3 Other (2%)

Offense Information:

Felony	43	(26%)
Misdemeanor	92	(56%)
Traffic	8	(5%)
Status Offense	20	(12%)

Type of Offense:

Homicide, Assault Threats	20	(12%)
Sex Offenses	2	(1%)
Arson, Vandalism, Criminal Damaging	9	(6%)
Robbery, Burglary, and Trespass	16	(10%)
Theft and Fraud	22	(14%)
Disorderly Conduct	20	(12%)
Offenses against the Family	13	(8%)
Offenses against Justice	6	(4%)
Drug and Alcohol Offenses	20	(12%)
Weapon Offenses	1	(.01%)
Other Traffic	8	(5%)
Truancy	17	(10%)
Unruliness	9	(6%)

Probation Department



Left to right: Nicole Vale Probation Officer; Stephanie Yockey Probation Officer; Jodi Smith, Chief Probation Officer; Jamie Leonard, Administrative Assistant and Jamie Thomas, Probation Officer

THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICE

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the State agency responsible for youth incarcerated by local juvenile courts. The Department operates eight facilities and contracts with one private facility. Some facilities are dedicated to particular programming needs such as substance abuse or sex offender programming.

Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DYS for the local treatment of youthful offenders. Annual allocations are based on the number of felony adjudications a county reports in relation to the number of felony adjudications statewide; as well as another allocation based on county demographics. Medina County averages about 1% of the statewide felony adjudications during a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. From these allocations, deductions are made based on the Court's projection of the fiscal year commitments. After the courts actual incarceration costs are subtracted from the annual allocation, any remaining funds are paid to the Court for use in community-based programming.

Medina County Commitments: During calendar year 2006, 8 males and 1 female were committed to DYS. In January 2006, the Judge had a mandatory bind over – the youth had previously been bound over by Summit County.

Felony Filings: 118 Felony Cases were filed in 2006.

Gender

Females 14 12%
Males 104 88%

Age

Average 16.6
Youngest 11.1
Oldest 19 (offense occurred before the age of 18)

Felony Levels Filed:

Level	Number	Percentage
F-1	5	4%
F-2	7	6%
F-3	23	19%
F-4	22	19%
F-5	61	52%

Month of Filing:

Month	Number Filed	Percent of Total
January	2	2%
February	6	5%
March	6	5%
April	12	10%
May	14	12%
June	7	6%
July	10	9%
August	11	9%
September	9	8%
October	7	6%
November	13	11%
December	21	18%

Agency Filing Complaint:

Name	Number Filed	Percent of Total
Brunswick Hills PD	2	2%
Brunswick PD	24	20%
Drug Task Force	1	1%
Lafayette PD	1	1%
Lodi PD	4	3%

Medina County Sheriff	25	21%
Montville PD	3	3%
Medina PD	16	14%
Medina Township PD	3	3%
Ohio State Highway Patrol	4	3%
Out of County	6	4%
Seville PD	2	2%
Wadsworth PD	27	23%

2006 Felony Filings – Adjudication Information

Adjudicated Felonies	77
Amended to Misdemeanors	18
Dismissed	4
Disposition Only (Adjudicated Elsewhere)	6
Incorrect Filing	1
Bound over to Adult System	1
On-going	11

Offense	Number	% of Total
Burglary	15	13%
Breaking & Entering	14	12%
Grand Theft	12	10%
Gross Sexual Imposition	10	8%
Vandalism	10	8%
Domestic Violence	8	7%

Receiving Stolen Property	7	6%
Possession of Cocaine	4	3%
Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Ordnance	4	3%
Conveying a Deadly Weapon on School Property	3	3%
Forgery	3	3%
Theft of Dangerous Drugs	3	3%
Trafficking in Drugs	3	3%
Aggravated Arson	2	2%
Assault on School Official	2	2%
Rape	2	2%
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	Less Than 1%
Aggravated Vehicular Assault	1	Less Than 1%
Arson	1	Less Than 1%
Attempted Grand Theft	1	Less Than 1%
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	1	Less Than 1%
Complicity to Breaking & Entering	1	Less Than 1%
Disrupting Public Service	1	Less Than 1%
Drug Abuse	1	Less Than 1%
Failure to Obey a Police Officer	1	Less Than 1%
Felonious Assault	1	Less Than 1%
Inducing Panic	1	Less Than 1%
Kidnapping	1	Less Than 1%
Possession of Dangerous Drugs	1	Less Than 1%
Preparation of Drugs for Sale	1	Less Than 1%
Retaliation	1	Less Than 1%
Trafficking in Marijuana	1	Less Than 1%

MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

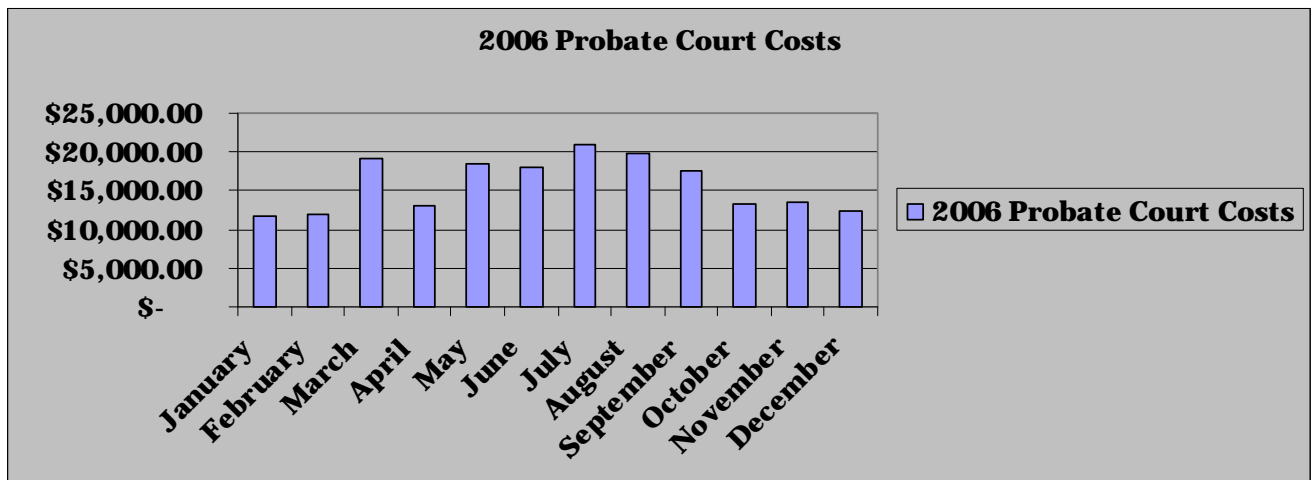
Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP): In 2004, Judge Lohn initiated the VGP to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians for our elderly. Since the inception of the program 28 trained volunteer guardians have served a total of 25 indigent wards.

VGP Board



Top left to bottom right: Mary Vantz, Connie Hanzlicek, Sharon Danko, Michelle Hearn, Kathe Shook, Betty Gabriel, Judge John J. Lohn, Laura Toth, Sherry Barylak, Joyce Giles

2006 Probate Court Collections: The Probate Court assesses and collects similar costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against all Probate cases, which include estates, guardianships, adoptions and trusts. The court costs the Court collects are distributed to the state, the county, and to local government.



Total 2006 Probate Court Collections

\$ 189,995.70

This chart is a summary of all the new filings in Probate Court during 2006.

Estates	570
Adoptions	70
Guardianship of Minors	65
Guardianship of Incompetents	53
Delay Registrations & Correction of births	19
Mental Illness	0
Minor's Settlements	31
Change of Name	81
Civil Actions	22
Conservatorship	3
Testamentary Trusts	8
Wrongful Death	11
Total Cases	933
Marriage Licenses Issued	970

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Medina County JDC



Sharon M. Danko
Court Administrator