



Juvenile Justice Center Newsletter

Court Administrator Marita Kavalec bid the court a Fond Farewell.

March 1, 2015, was the day that Court Administrator Marita Kavalec officially took leave of the Juvenile Court for an “early retirement”.

She shared in an “open letter” to Administrative Judge Kristin Sweeney that “nearly my entire professional career has had a treasured nexus to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas- Juvenile Division. I have been honored to witness it mature into a house of justice and public

service that truly values both the youth and families it serves as well as the dazzling employees who consider this institution their ‘first home’.”

Due to her departure, a Court Administration temporary plan is in place which named Dana Chavers and Timothy McDevitt as Acting Assistant Court Administrators.

Marita requested no “fanfare”.

This is a difficult request, when parties, presents and proclamations are the usual ways to express gratitude and wishes for success in future endeavors.

In her “open letter” she wished all under the auspices of the CCJJC “abundant success, countless celebrations, enduring strength, and unceasing smiles.”

We *all* wish her the same!

Judge Ryan inspires youth @ Black History Program in Opelika, Alabama

Judge Michael J. Ryan took his message on the road at the invitation of the Lee County Youth Development Center located in Opelika, Alabama.

Sherrell Stout, a former Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services worker had heard his inspiring story in Cleveland and asked him to share it with the Lee County Youth Development Center’s school, the Chanticleer Learning Center, where she presently is the Education Coordinator.

Judge Ryan was the key note speaker for their Annual Black History program which was held on February 27th.

The presentation was shared with roughly 90 students who are housed in the Detention holding facility

Judge Ryan shared that upon his arrival he was “immediately brought up to speak because the celebration had begun. I had a warm reception from the kids and staff at the Chanticleer Learning Center.

I spoke to a number of the kids individually after I addressed the group. It was a very good experience and I was appreciative of the invitation.”



Judge Ryan (front left) stands with the audience at the Chanticleer Learning Center.

Our Jurists

Administrative Judge
 Kristin W. Sweeney

Judge Patrick F.
 Corrigan

Judge Alison L.
 Floyd

Judge Thomas F.
 O’Malley

Judge Michael J.
 Ryan

Judge Denise N.
 Rini

Our Mission Statement

To administer justice, rehabilitate juveniles, support and strengthen families.

MAGISTRATE RETANIO RUCKER RECEIVED "THE WHATEVER IT TAKES" AWARD



Magistrate Retanio Rucker proudly displays "The Whatever It Takes" Award. He is surrounded by well wishers (left to right) MST Supervisor Catherine Sheehan-Daly and MST Therapists Leslie Tisdell, Tina Kenney, Leah Johnson and Ralanna Toland.

The Guardian ad Litem Project hosted a meeting, reception and CCJJC tour for **Becky McMahon**, the **Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's** new director and colleagues.

Sue Eller-Clerk's Office, **Tim McDevitt**-Probation Department, **Duane Deskins** – Prosecutors Office, **Sam Amata**-Public Defenders Office, **Mary Davidson**-Court Administration, each shared the inner workings of their respective areas.

The visiting group shared that they were impressed with our presenters, our building, and the work that we do at the CCJJC.



Detention Center Happenings...

Professor Richard Ross, a Professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara is also a Juvenile Advocate. Ross has traveled to numerous Juvenile Detention facilities throughout the country to create awareness of the incarceration of American youth. His works published in two books, "Girls In Justice" and "Juvenile in Justice" give voice to imprisoned children. Ross has visited facilities in 31 states and recently visited our secured facility in April to take images of our detained youth.

Members of the **LeadDIVERSITY** program toured the Juvenile Detention Center earlier this year. The select group of professionals engages with regional leaders and the greater community to raise their awareness of diversity issues, build their leadership skills, and enhance their networks. As part of their legacy project, members of the group decided to provide life and social skill activities for our detained youth.

The sessions held on two Saturday mornings in May included career presentations, resume building, interview skills, financial literacy and cooking lessons. The youths learned how to cook omelets in a bag and create a healthy trail mix snack. (see photo at right)



Dervonda Little was awarded an Associate Degree in Nursing from ITT-Tech-School of Nursing. She shared "this has been a long term goal to become a Registered Nurse. I officially completed this goal when I recently passed the state boards." Dervonda is a Nurse in the Detention Center Medical unit.

DONATIONS NEEDED: CORNERSTONE OF HOPE

(cornerstoneofhope.org) – the leading local grief counseling agency for children, teens and adults, have summer camp programs throughout the summer for children who have experienced grief and loss in one way or another. They are seeking trash bags (13 gallon liners), freezer pops, cases of small bottled water, first aid items, paper products, cleaning products, hand soaps in pumps, juice boxes and individual wrapped snack packs to help sustain them through their summer season. Please contact **Alysia Montanez**, Probation Officer II, @ 443-3591 or amontanez@cu yahogacounty.us to contribute or for questions.



2015 HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN GIFT CARD RAFFLE PALOOZA A SUCCESS!

Harvest for Hunger is an annual community wide food and funds drive that takes place each spring. The goal is to help the Food Bank raise critical dollars, which allows the food bank to provide food to local hunger programs.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets from **Eva Bell, Pat McCutcheon-Bey, Ann Daniel, Mary Davidson, Taahira Kaleem, Sandi McGuire, Paul Miller, Alysia Montanez, Carlos Robinson, Lori Scott, Delores Smith** and **Marva Smith**. Your support allowed us to collect \$1,375.00 for the Harvest for Hunger Campaign.

Ellen Grantham won the \$100 Dave's Grocery store gift card and the gifts cards from the Cheese Cake Factory, Shell Oil, Walmart and Home Depot each with a \$25 value.

Delores Smith won \$25 dollars for selling the winning ticket!



Needless to say, **Ellen Grantham (center)** was surprised to be the **grand prize winner!** **Carlos Robinson (left)** and **Delores Smith (right)** share her joy!

All prizes awarded to the "winners" were obtained from donations from generous contributors!