

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Stephane E. Hess, Interim Administrative Director
Stephanie Nelson, Director Court Services Division

FROM: Judge Theresa Dellick, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets
Monica Kagey, Manager, Specialized Dockets Section

DATE: January 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Commission on Specialized Dockets 2018 Annual Report

In accordance with Rule of Superintendence 36.11, please accept this annual report detailing the activities and accomplishments of the Commission on Specialized Dockets for 2018.

The Commission on Specialized Dockets was created on November 13, 2012 with the adoption of Rule of Superintendence 36.02. The purpose and duties of the Commission are defined in Sup. R. 36.03(A):

The Commission on Specialized Dockets shall advise the Supreme Court and its staff on all of the following: (1) the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts; (2) the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel; (3) the consideration of any other issues the commission deems necessary to assist the Supreme Court and its staff regarding specialized dockets in Ohio courts.

The Commission is comprised of twenty-two members. Appointments were made based on specific roles defined in Sup. R. 36.04(A). The Commission met for the first time on April 10, 2013. During 2018, Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court served as the chair of the Commission and Judge James Shriver of the Clermont County Probate/Juvenile Court served as the vice-chair.

In 2018, the Commission met four times which included one telephonic meeting for certification. The Commission activities included:

- recommending the certification of specialized dockets;
- planning and executing the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference;
- working on Commission subcommittees; and
- developing and disseminating guidance to local dockets pertaining to emerging issues.

Certification Recommendations

As of December 31, 2018, the Commission approved 68 specialized dockets for final certification during 2018. Re-certifications accounted for 54 of the dockets, and 14 of the dockets were new programs. Currently, there are 242 operational specialized dockets in Ohio that have achieved either initial or final certification with an additional six dockets that have more recently submitted their applications.

Additionally, the Commission has been working on developing specific guidance for certified dockets and those seeking certification concerning implementation of the Ohio Certification Standards. Specifically, constitutional and due process rights guidance was issued by the Commission during 2018, detailing case law from across the county.

Annual Specialized Dockets Conference

On October 11 and 12, 2018, the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference was held at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University Campus. Over 600 specialized docket professionals and stakeholders attended from across Ohio. Conference participants were offered 60 educational breakout sessions along with a plenary session that provided an interactive, moderated discussion with graduates from four of Ohio's certified dockets, highlighting how the application of the Ten Key Components impacted their individual experiences in a specialized docket, as well as their ultimate success.

Commission Subcommittees

The Education Subcommittee met twice during 2018. The Subcommittee assisted with the planning and implementation of the 2018 Annual Specialized Dockets Conference. Post conference, the entire Commission worked with Section Staff to debrief the event, and the Subcommittee assisted with the groundwork and curriculum development for the November 21 and 22, 2019 conference.

The Data Collection Subcommittee's efforts to implement the data reporting requirements of Certification Standard 12-Effectiveness Evaluation continued throughout 2018. The Specialized Dockets Section Staff continued meeting with the Supreme Court of Ohio's IT Division to develop and test a technology solution through which dockets will report the required data.

The Process Review/Certification Review Subcommittee's work to draft proposed amendments and additions to Sup. R. 36.20-36.28 and its Appendix continued throughout 2018. The purpose of the recommended modifications are threefold. First, the Commission would like to more clearly and directly communicate what is required and needed for certification. Second, the goal is to promote uniform fidelity to the model across the State by aligning state practice with National Best Practice Standards for each type of docket. Finally, maintaining the capacity for local flexibility and innovation is critical for local communities to plan and implement programs that meet their needs and align with available resources.

Thank you for your support and the continued opportunity to promote the advancement and provision of specialized docket services to Ohio courts. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the work of the Commission.