

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Michael L. Buenger, Administrative Director
Stephanie Hess, Director of Office of Court Services

FROM: Judge James Shriver, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Commission on Specialized Dockets 2015 Annual Report

The Commission on Specialized Dockets was created 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, which includes thirteen judges, two magistrates, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, three program coordinators, and two probation officers. 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. Judge James Shriver of the Clermont County Probate / Juvenile Court served as the chair of the Commission and Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court served as the vice-chair.

The commission met six times in 2015. During these meetings the commission focused on the certification of specialized dockets pursuant to Sup. R. 36.20 *et. seq.* The commission approved 88 specialized dockets for final certification in 2015. The commission has three active subcommittees, (1) a subcommittee to review the certification process and make recommendations for revisions and, (2) a subcommittee to support the education efforts for specialized dockets, (3) a subcommittee to develop the data collection process indicated in Standard 12 of the Specialized Docket Standards. Work of the three active subcommittees is ongoing. The subcommittee to review the appropriateness of a magistrate presiding over a specialized docket completed their work and was dissolved.

The Commission on Specialized Dockets held its last meeting of the year on December 11, 2015. Since that time, the Specialized Dockets staff conducted site visits for an additional 6 specialized dockets

and will recommend those courts for final certification at the January 2016 meeting of the Commission. With the certification of those additional dockets, the total dockets receiving final certification will be 94. An additional 4 dockets have site visits scheduled prior to the January 2016 meeting of the Commission. Another 34 dockets are in the certification or re-certification process. As of December 31st, there were 206 dockets that were certified or in the process of certification. Now that the initial wave of re-certifications have been completed, the Commission and the staff of the Specialized Dockets Section will work to refine and streamline the process for the future.