

LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS REPORT

- I wish to acknowledge Atty. Michael Cosgrove who has served as Bar Association President this past year. Michael has done a great job communicating between the Bench and the Bar. We appreciate his dedication and service. I wish to welcome Atty. John Mascelli, who will be sworn in as Bar Association President tonight. I look forward to working with him this year.
- I recognize and thank Judge Vito Geroulo for his twenty-one years of service as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. On December 31st he retired from full-time status and is serving as a Senior Judge for us and will continue to oversee Orphans' Court throughout this year.
- We have eight full-time Judges and three Senior Judges serving our Court. With a very busy docket, each Judge continues to focus on particular areas while always being willing to handle any matter that needs assignment or coverage.

Judge Barrasse oversees our Criminal Division

Judge Nealon oversees our Civil Division

Senior Judge Geroulo, oversees our Orphans' Court

I continue to oversee our Family Division

- Retired Senior Judge Harhut is serving as a Hearing Master for Dependency cases. We are very happy for his help and expertise.

- I am happy to report that this past March we launched our juvenile and dependency phase of the e-filing project known as PACfile. This was accomplished in conjunction with the Clerk of Judicial Records Office, the Office of Youth and Family Services, and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. We thank them for their work and collaboration.
- The Court continues to work toward implementing an e-filing system for Civil Court. It is a top priority that remains a work in progress. It is much more difficult and costly to develop a civil e-filing system because there is not a state-run process for civil like there is for criminal and juvenile. So private vendors are being researched and considered.
- This past June we were honored by the visit of the Pennsylvania Superior Court which held a one-day session in Lackawanna County. The three-Judge panel consisted of President Judge Emeritus John Bender, President Judge Emeritus Correale Stevens, and Judge Victor Stabile. Also, in attendance for the opening ceremony was Superior Court President Judge Jack Panella.
- Every ten years, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reviews the Magisterial District Courts in every county to determine caseload and population balance and equity. I am happy to report that upon review the Supreme Court re-established our ten Magisterial District Courts as they presently exist for another 10 years.

- The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts granted the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas a new State-level position within the Court Administrator's Office. This allowed us to create the position of Deputy Court Administrator for Criminal Court. This new position will support and assist the Criminal Case Judges and their staff with the management of our Criminal Docket. I am pleased to announce that Atty. Julie Zaleski who currently serves as our Special Courts Administrator has been appointed to this new position effective January 17th, 2023.
- Based on Julie's transition into this new role, I have appointed Atty. Molly McDonough Loughney to serve as the Special Courts Administrator for the Lackawanna Court of Common Pleas. Molly will assist our Magistrates and their staff with the operations and functions of our ten MDJ offices as well as Central Court.
- I wish to acknowledge the 50-year members who are being honored tonight:

John J. Byrne, Esq.

Hon. Vito P. Geroulo

Robert T. Gownley, Jr., Esq.

Hon. Chester T. Harhut

Anthony J. Piazza, Jr., Esq.

- I wish to recognize the law firms who will receive Equal Access to Justice Awards this evening:

Abrahamsen Conaboy and Abrahamsen
Dougherty Leventhal and Price
Powell Zero and Mundy

- On behalf of the entire Bench, I express our sympathies to the families of those members we remember tonight who we have lost this past year:

Christopher J. Osborne
Henry P. Burke
Irwin Schneider
Ernest J. Gazda, Jr.
Kevin Harcher

- This past year the Court conducted two *en banc* ceremonies of significance, the first held in September was the portrait unveiling of Senior Judge Thomas Munley. His portrait hangs in Courtroom Number 3 of the main courthouse. In December, the Lackawanna Bar Association inducted twelve new lawyers who joined our ranks as practicing attorneys. The Court welcomes them and wishes them every success in their future endeavors.
- I wish to thank the Bar Association in particular, Lee Ann Munley, her staff, and the officers and directors for all their great work throughout the year. We enjoy a wonderful relationship with the Bar Association and are grateful for them.

- Our annual report containing the various statistics will be posted on the Bar Association website in the near future for your information.
- Thank you.

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION
BY THE PRESIDENT JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
THE HONORABLE TRISH CORBETT**

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 2022 REPORT

8,545 Civil cases filed, including 2967 municipal lien cases and 51 professional liability/medical malpractice cases (44 medical, 5 legal, 2 other, 0 dental)

1964 Criminal cases filed

469 Divorces

433 Custody cases

160 Summary appeals

387 PFA contempt/violations

964 PFAs

In our Adult Probation Department there were:

1040 Sentencings

931 PSIs Ordered

458 Gagnon II Hearings

2964 Cases on Active Supervision (216 are ARDs)

539 Defendants on Pre-Trial Services Supervision

208 Defendants on the COLOR Drug Testing System

Treatment Court Participants:

DUI Court:	62
Drug Court:	103
Domestic Violence Court	115
IP/RIP Court	123
Veterans Court	32
Mental Health Court	42

TOTAL number on supervision in our Treatments Courts is 477

IN ORPHANS' COURT, there were:

11	Accounts to Court
68	New Adoptions
78	New Guardianships, Appointments of Guardians
108	Relinquishments/Terminations

Domestic Relations 2022 Summary Report

Lackawanna County Domestic Relations currently has 4,853 open complaints for child support of which 3,740 are actively charging cases with monthly collections of 1.7 million dollars.

In 2022, there were 2,103 conferences held to establish an order for support as well as 1,480 conferences to modify a support order.

1,327 contempt of court proceedings were held before a family court judge to determine if a defendant was willfully disobeying an order to pay support.

Conferences to establish and modify a support order as well of contempt of court proceedings are held in person. Enforcement conferences are held virtually.

Lackawanna County Domestic Relations meets or exceeds the state average in all five of the Federal Performance Indicators, which are: (1) Establishment of a Support Order, (2) Current Collection of a Support Order (3) Collection of Arrears (4) Percentage of Paternity Establishment and (5) Establishment and Enforcement of Medical Support.

The Domestic Relations Diversion Program currently has ten participants, five of whom are working and making consistent child support payments.



Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphans' Lackawanna County
Frances Roland Kovaleski
LCGC at the GLOBE
123 Wyoming Avenue
Suite 521
Scranton PA 18503
570 963 6702

Tracy Diskin Doherty, Esq.
Deputy

Sean Gallagher, Esq
Solicitor

January 4, 2023

RE: Orphans' Court Annual Report

Dear Frank,

The following reports are the total FILINGS and DISPOSITIONS per month for the year 2022. At this time the Orphans' Court has 457 active Guardianships that are reviewed on an annual basis, along with all new 90-day reports.

Frances Kovaleski

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frances Kovaleski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphans' Court



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January 4, 2023

Common Pleas Filings / Dispositions 2022

	ACCOUNTS: Filings	Adoptions Filings	Relinquishments / Terminations Filings	Guardianship Appointments Filings
Jan	0	2	7	12
Feb	0	1	4	5
March	2	2	20	8
April	2	7	10	7
May	0	5	9	4
June	0	8	12	11

	ACCOUNTS: Filings	Adoptions Filings	Relinquishments / Terminations Filings	Guardianship Appointments Filings
July	1	2	10	4
Aug	1	13	6	5
Sept	0	2	12	6
Oct	0	4	7	7
Nov	5	14	4	5
Dec	0	8	7	4
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TOTALS	11	68	108	78



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January 4, 2023

Common Pleas Filings / Dispositions 2022

	ACCOUNTS: <i>Dispositions</i>	Adoptions <i>Dispositions</i>	Relinquishments / Terminations <i>Dispositions</i>	Guardianship Appointments <i>Dispositions</i>
Jan	0	5	14	11
Feb	2	0	3	5
March	2	2	5	12
April	3	3	19	5
May	0	2	9	7
June	2	12	9	5

	ACCOUNTS: <i>Dispositions</i>	Adoptions <i>Dispositions</i>	Relinquishments / Terminations <i>Dispositions</i>	Guardianship Appointments <i>Dispositions</i>
July	0	2	5	3
Aug	2	5	7	9
Sept	0	6	12	3
Oct	0	7	9	10
Nov	0	6	10	8
Dec	1	18	8	7
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TOTAL	12	68	110	85