

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 2021 REPORT

5644 civil cases filed, including 42 professional liability/medical malpractice cases.

2410 criminal cases filed.

513 divorces and 679 custody cases.

190 summary appeals.

182 PFA contempts/violations.

924 PFAs.

In our Adult Probation Department there were:

1,137 Sentencings.

973 PSIs Ordered.

380 Gagnon II Hearings.

3,109 Cases on Active Supervision (201 are ARDs).

545 Defendants on Pre-Trial Services Supervision.

240 Defendants on the COLOR Drug Testing System.

Treatment Court Participants:

DUI Court 80

Drug Court 91

Domestic Violence Court 73

IP/RIP Court 64

Veterans Court 27

Mental Health Court 39

Total number on supervision in our Treatments Courts is 374.

IN ORPHANS' COURT, there were:

11 Accounts to Court

53 New Adoptions

102 New Guardianships, Appointments of Guardians

67 Relinquishments/Terminations



**Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphans' Court
Lackawanna County Government Center
123 Wyoming Avenue
Suite 521
Scranton Pa 18503
570-963-6702
570-963-6377 (fax)**

Frances M Kovaleski
Register of Wills
Clerk of Orphans Court

Tracy Diskin Doherty, Esq.
Deputy

RE: Annual Reporting

January 26, 2022

Dear Frank,

The following report is the total fillings per month in the Orphans' Court of Lackawanna County year 2021:

	Accounts	Adoptions	Relinquishments/ Terminations	Guardianship Appointments
Jan.	0	2	9	10
Feb.	3	2	0	7
March	0	6	5	8
April	1	4	0	13
May	0	1	5	5

June	1	9	9	11
July	0	7	9	9
August	1	1	11	10
Sept.	0	7	7	7
Oct.	2	3	4	7
Nov.	0	7	10	6
Dec.	3	4	2	9
TOTALS 2021	11	53	67	102

Very Truly Yours,

Frances M Kovaleski

Frances M Kovaleski
Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphans' Court

Domestic Relations 2021 Summary Report

Lackawanna County Domestic Relations currently has 4,901 open complaints for child support of which 3,918 are actively charging cases with monthly collections of 1.7 million dollars. (Dec 2021 \$1,765,794.79)

Throughout 2021:

- **904 complaints for child and spousal support were processed.**
- **1,416 petitions to modify a support order were processed.**
- **2,084 conferences were held.**
- **904 contempt hearings were held.**

The Domestic Relations office consistently exceeds the state average in three of the five Federal Performance Indicators which are: (1) the Establishment of Support Orders, (2) the Percentage of Paternity Establishment and (3) the Establishment and Enforcement of Medical Support.

LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS REPORT

- I wish to acknowledge Atty. Tom Cummings who has served as Bar Association President this year. Tom has done a great job communicating between the Bench and the Bar. We appreciate his dedication and service. I wish to welcome Atty. Michael Cosgrove, who will be sworn in as Bar Association President tonight. I look forward to working with him this year.
- I recognize and thank Judge Tom Munley for his sixteen years of service as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He is serving as a Senior Judge for us. We wish him continued health and happiness in this next chapter of his career.
- We welcome to our Bench our new Judge, Mary Walsh Dempsey. Judge Dempsey brings a vast knowledge and understanding of the law and is a great addition to the Bench.
- We have nine 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
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 August we launched our criminal e-filing project known as PACFile. This was accomplished in conjunction with the Clerk of Judicial Records Office and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. We thank them for their work and collaboration.
- The next phase of PACFile for Juvenile Court is set to begin in mid-March of this year. We look forward to that advancement in our juvenile process.
- 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.

- We wish to welcome Atty. Julie Zaleski to the Court Administrator's Office. She is serving as our new Special Courts Administrator overseeing our 10 MDJ offices and Central Court. She comes to us with great experience in criminal law as she served as chief law clerk to Judge Barrasse for 12 years.
- We express our thanks and gratitude to her predecessor, Jeff McLane who retired in November after 32 years of service to our Court. We wish Jeff a happy and healthy retirement.
- I wish to acknowledge the 50-year members who are being honored tonight; John Appleton, Rick Bishop, Tim Foley, John Krisa, and Pat Lavelle. Thank you for your service to the Bar and our community.
- I wish to recognize the attorneys and law firms who will receive Equal Access to Justice Awards this evening; Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen; Dougherty, Leventhal & Price; Powell Law; Atty. Jillian Kochis and Atty. Joseph Colbassani. Your commitment and service to those most in need is a credit to our Bar and Bench. I thank you for your service.
- 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; George Reihner, James Scanlon and James Zipay.

- Looking forward, I am happy to announce that the Pennsylvania Superior Court will be holding a one-day session in Lackawanna County on Tuesday, June 21st. We look forward to welcoming them back to Lackawanna County.
- I wish to thank all of you for your patience and perseverance as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. I realize that it has not been easy for you and your clients, at times, due to various mandates and procedures. Please know that we will continue to do everything possible to provide access to justice each and every day.
- Our annual report containing the various statistics will be posted on the Bar Association website in the near future for your information.
- Thank you.