

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION  
BY THE PRESIDENT JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
THE HONORABLE JAMES A. GIBBONS

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## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 2025 REPORT

10,379 civil cases filed, including 3,316 municipal lien cases and 64 professional liability/medical malpractice cases (57 medical, 3 legal, 0 dental, 4 other).

3868 criminal cases were filed.

483 divorces.

390 custody cases.

308 summary appeals.

122 PFA contempt/violations.

1,663 PFAs.

In the Adult Probation Department, there were:

603 Sentences

875 PSIs Ordered.

325 Gagnon II Hearings.

247 Cases on Active Supervision (202 are ARDs).

242 Defendants on Pre-Trial Services Supervision.

150 Defendants on the COLOR Drug Testing System.

Treatment Court Participants:

63 DUI Court

102 Drug Court

37 Domestic Violence Court

37 IP/RIP Court

33 Veterans Court

24 Mental Health Court

40 Women's Track

64 Gagnon Court

400 Total number on supervision in our Treatment Courts.

IN ORPHANS' COURT, there were:

13 Accounts to Court

95 New Adoptions

53 New Guardianships, Appointments of Guardians

115 Relinquishments/Terminations

- I wish to acknowledge Atty. Lori Barrett, who has served as the Bar Association President this past year. Lori has done a great job communicating between the Bench and Bar. We appreciate her dedication and service. I wish to welcome Atty. Mark Perry, who will be sworn in tonight as Bar Association President. I look forward to working with Mark this year.
- I wish to acknowledge Judge Vito Geroulo, who completed his term as a Senior Judge in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Vito, for your many years of service to the Bench in Lackawanna County. We wish you all the best and will miss you.
- We welcome Judge Mark Powell, who was recently elected to a ten-year term on our Court. We wish him all the best and look forward to working with him.
- I wish to acknowledge Judge Andrew Jarbola, who was retained for another term on the Court of Common Pleas. We thank him for his continuing service to the Bench and the citizens of Lackawanna County.

- I also wish to welcome several county row officers who have recently been sworn in: District Attorney Brian Gallagher, Commissioner Thom Welby, and Clerk of Judicial Records Lauren Mailen.
- Toward the end of 2025, we received word from the AOPC that the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas qualifies for senior judge usage through at least June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2026. This is based on our caseload statistics and the vacancy on our Bench. Based on this, we are happy to report that Senior Judges Minora, Mazzoni, and Corbett will be working in Lackawanna County as senior judges.
- As you know, our court currently has a vacancy on the Bench due to Judge Trish Corbett's retirement. We are hopeful that the Governor will appoint someone soon. I wish to acknowledge and thank Judge Corbett for her 28 years on the Bench and her term as President Judge.
- I wish to acknowledge and thank all my colleagues on the Bench. Each one of them works extremely hard every day to provide access to justice for the litigants and attorneys who appear in our court. Due to the vacancy on our Bench, they have taken on extra cases and duties. I am grateful for their dedication and commitment.

- In terms of a civil case update, I wish to thank Judge Nealon, Judge Mazzoni, Lauren Mailen, and Tim Hinton for the extraordinary work they have done to reduce the number of inactive civil cases greater than 24 months old. At the direction of the AOPC, an age-of-inventory benchmark was set requiring no more than 25% of all civil actions to be pending for more than 24 months. At the start of the project, 43.70% of our civil action inventory was pending for more than 24 months. Their work resulted in our year-end statistics showing that only 19.14% of our pending civil action inventory is now pending for more than 24 months. Great job by Judge Nealon and his team. Also, I wish to thank the former Clerk of Judicial Records, Mauri Kelly, for her ten years of service and wish her a happy retirement.
- The Court continues to pursue and work with the Clerk of Judicial Records Office on a platform for civil e-filing. I know how important this project is to many of you in the room, and it is something that continues to be an active matter.

- I wish to acknowledge the 50-year members who are being honored tonight:
  - David I. Fallk, Esq.
  - Lucille Marsh, Esq.
  - Joseph A. O'Brien, Esq.
  - Robert Ufberg, Esq.
  - Jerry J. Weinberger, Esq.
  
- I wish to recognize the law firms that will receive Equal Access to Justice Awards this evening:
  - ACA Law (formerly Abrahamsen, Conaboy, & Abrahamsen)
  - Dougherty Leventhal & Price's Lackawanna County Team
  
- I wish to acknowledge Atty. Tim Kelly, who will receive the Attorney Samuel Fallk Equal Access to Justice Award tonight.

- On behalf of the entire Bench, I wish to acknowledge and thank Sylvia Hahn for her extraordinary service and dedication as the Director of Lackawanna Pro Bono since 1997. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.
- On behalf of the entire Bench, I express our sympathy to the families of those members we remember tonight who we lost this past year:

Raymond C. Rinaldi, Esq.

Robert J. Murphy, Esq.

Michael S. Miller, Esq.

Joseph A. Murphy, Esq.

David A. Howell, Esq.

- An update on plans for renovations at the main Courthouse. We are working with the County to remodel the lower level of the Courthouse, which previously housed Central Court and the Processing Center. Our plans include relocating the Court Administrator's Office and the Jury Assembly Room from their current location on the first floor to space on the ground floor. This will free up much-needed space for the creation of a new jury deliberation room. Also, a new space will be allocated for the law library.

- I wish to thank and acknowledge outgoing YLD President John Hart for his work this past year with the Young Lawyers Division, and welcome Katie Engles as the new YLD President, and wish her well.
- I wish to thank the Bar Association, and particularly 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 to all of you.

Our Annual Report, which contains various statistics on cases filed in all court divisions, will be posted on the Bar Association website for your review.

Thank you.