

# The Supreme Court of Ohio

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

**CC:** Jeff Hagler, Administrative Director  
Stephanie Nelson, Director Court Services Division

**FROM:** Judge Theresa Dellick, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets

**DATE:** January 24, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Commission on Specialized Dockets 2019 Annual Report

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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 2019.

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 2019, Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court continued to serve as the chair of the Commission and Judge James Shriver of the Clermont County Probate/Juvenile Court served as the vice-chair.

In 2019, the Commission met five times which included two telephonic meetings. 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, 2019, the Commission approved 101 specialized dockets for final certification during 2019. Re-certifications accounted for 85 of the dockets, and 16 of the dockets were new programs. Currently, there are 244 operational specialized dockets in Ohio that have achieved either initial or final certification with an additional ten dockets that have more recently submitted their applications.

### *Annual Specialized Dockets Conference*

On November 21 and 22, 2019, the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference was held at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University Campus. Over 700 specialized docket professionals and stakeholders attended from across Ohio. Conference participants were offered 43 educational breakout sessions along with three plenary/general sessions. In addition, the 2019 conference offered Justice For Vets national veteran mentor boot camp to over 60 mentors from across the state.

### *Commission Subcommittees*

The Education Subcommittee met once during 2019 and assisted with the planning and implementation of the 2019 Annual Specialized Dockets Conference. The larger Commission was updated as to conference preparation and progress at all 2019 meetings.

The Data Collection Subcommittee's efforts to implement the data reporting requirements of Certification Standard 12-Effectiveness Evaluation was realized on July 1, 2019 when data collection and reporting was formally employed state-wide. To date, 97 percent of dockets are reporting data. Throughout 2019, the Specialized Dockets Section Staff continued meeting with the Supreme Court of Ohio's IT Division to eliminate barriers and plan for future augmentation of state-wide data reporting.

The Process Review/Certification Review Subcommittee's work to draft proposed amendments and additions to Sup. R. 36.20-36.28 and its Appendix was finalized in 2019. On March 8, 2019, the proposed amendments were presented to and accepted by the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence. Judge Dellick and Judge Shriver presented the revised rules and certification standards to the Court on November 13, 2019 and recommended they be published for public comment. The Court approved a public comment period from December 16, 2019-January 15, 2020.

### *Emerging Issues*

In response to requests from local dockets, the Commission considered the existing national research and guidance pertaining to medical marijuana. On June 24, 2019, Dr. Aaron Weiner, Director of Addiction Services at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, presented to the Commission. Dr. Weiner and Dr. Eric Messamore, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Northeast Ohio Medical University and medical director for the University's Best Practices in Schizophrenia Treatment (BeST) Center, both were faculty at the 2019 Specialized Dockets Conference offering sessions related to medical marijuana and the associated medical and clinical considerations. The Commission will continue to develop specific guidance for Ohio's dockets during 2020.

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.