

# The Supreme Court of Ohio

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy

**CC:** Stephanie Hess, Interim Administrative Director  
Stephanie Nelson, Director Court Services Division

**FROM:** Judge Theresa Dellick, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets  
Anthony Ingram, Manager of Specialized Dockets Section

**DATE:** January 31, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Commission on Specialized Dockets 2022 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 Specialized Dockets (Commission) for 2022.

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 2022, Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court continued to serve as the chair of the Commission and Judge Ian English of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas served as the vice-chair.

In 2022, the Commission met virtually five times. The Commission activities included:

- recommending the certification of specialized dockets;
- planning and executing the Fall Education Webinar Series;
- working on Commission subcommittees; and
- developing and disseminating guidance to local dockets pertaining to emerging issues.

### *Certification Recommendations*

As of December 31, 2022, the Commission approved 101 specialized dockets for final certification during 2022. Re-certifications accounted for 95 of the dockets, and 6 of the dockets were new programs. The six new certified dockets are as follows: Ashtabula County Common Pleas Veterans Treatment Court (Judge Harold Specht), Paulding County Common Pleas Drug Court (Judge Tiffany Beckman), Franklin County Common Pleas Mental Health Court (Judge Sheryl Munson), Lucas County Common Pleas Family Dependency Treatment Court (Judge Linda Knepp), Sylvania Municipal Drug Court (Judge Michael Bonfiglio), and) Circleville Municipal Drug Court (Judge Elisa Peters). Currently, there are 261 operational specialized dockets in Ohio that have achieved either initial or final certification. This is a net increase of 5 dockets compared with 2021.

### *2022 Fall Education Webinar Series*

Due to COVID-19, the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference was again converted to a virtual education series offered throughout the Fall. With the guidance of the Commission, the specialized dockets staff selected 17 of the sessions scheduled for the conference. Each session included a 60-minute presentation and up to 30 minutes of live interaction with the presenting faculty. The series started on October 27, 2022 and concluded on December 15, 2022. The total number of attendees was 1637 with sessions ranging from 20 to 161 participants.

### *Commission Subcommittees*

The Commission will look to expand a grants subcommittee to support the current BJA grant being administered by the Specialized Docket staff. Commission members will continue to provide valuable insight and input on the statewide CMS project, racial equity and inclusion, and adhering to best practice standards for specialized dockets.

### *Emerging Issues*

The Commission continued to explore specific guidance areas for Ohio's specialized dockets during 2022. The Commission focused on the utilization of Certified Peer Supporters in specialized dockets through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OHMAS). Currently, OHMAS certifies the peer supporters who are 18 years or older, possess a GED /high school diploma, and self-identify as having lived experience in mental health and/or substance use. In addition, they must also complete a 16-hour e-based academy and 40-hour curriculum, pass the peer support exam, agree to code of ethics and must be supervised by an approved treatment supervisor. The Commission will continue its work with OHMAS and explore whether guidance is needed regarding the appropriate use of Certified Peer Support within specialized dockets.

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.