

# The Supreme Court of Ohio

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy and Justices Patrick F. Fischer, R. Patrick DeWine, Jennifer Brunner, Joseph T. Deters, Daniel R. Hawkins, Megan E. Shanahan

**CC:** Bob Horner, Administrative Director  
Gina Palmer, Deputy Administrative Director  
Stephanie Nelson, Director Court Services Division

**FROM:** Judge Ian English, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets  
Sam Campbell, Manager of Specialized Dockets Section

**DATE:** January 20, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Commission on Specialized Dockets 2025 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 2025.

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 2025, Judge Ian English of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, General Division served as the chair of the Commission and Magistrate Robert Rice of the Probate/Juvenile Division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas served as the vice-chair.

In 2025, the Commission met virtually four times on February 12th, May 5th, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 12th. The Commission activities included:

- Recommending the certification of specialized dockets;
- Guiding staff on certification practices;
- Discussing subcommittee roles and projects; and
- Developing rule proposals to strengthen specialized dockets in Ohio.

### *Certification Recommendation*

As of December 31, 2025, the Commission approved 85 specialized dockets for final certification during 2025. Re-certifications accounted for 80 of the dockets, and five were certified for the first time. The five new certified specialized dockets are as follows:

- Butler County Court #2
  - Judge Kevin McDonough, Veterans Treatment Docket
- Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
  - Judge Kari Bloom, Family Dependency Treatment Docket
- Pike County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Division
  - Judge Robert Junk, Adult Substance Use Docket
- Pike County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Division
  - Judge Paul Price, Juvenile Substance Use Docket
- Trumbull County Court of Common Pleas, General Division
  - Judge Ronald Rice, Reentry Docket

Currently, there are 251 operational specialized dockets in Ohio that have achieved either initial or final certification.

### *2025 Fall Annual Specialized Docket Conference*

On October 28, 2025, the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference was held in person at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University Campus. The one-day conference drew 775 specialized docket professionals and stakeholders from across Ohio, with 481 attending in person and 298 participating virtually. This marked our first year offering a virtual attendance option alongside the traditional in-person format. The agenda included two plenary sessions and three breakouts where participants chose from a total of 24 breakout options. Attendees could earn a total of 5.75 credit hours approved for CLE and CEU's for social workers, and probation officers could earn up to 3.75 COB credit hours.

### *Publications*

The Specialized Dockets Section released several publications in 2025. Staff created the *Specialized Dockets Drafting Guide*, designed as a resource for new and established specialized dockets to draft and update required program documents. In addition, as part of the ongoing work identified in the 2024 *Task Force on Reentry Final Report and Recommendations*, staff and members of the Reentry Subcommittee published an online guide to Certificates for Qualification for Employment (CQE).