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**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
ALLEGHENY COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1984**

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**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

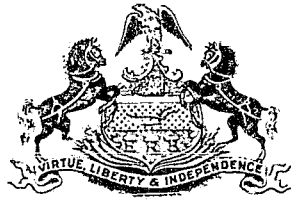
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Common Pleas

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

TO: President Judge Michael J. O'Malley and the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, all Court personnel and the citizens of Allegheny County.

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

It is intended to be an informative review of the Court's activities for 1984 in statistical and narrative form.

Through their generous cooperation in providing essential information, the Administrative Judges, their staffs and the Directors of the various Court offices have contributed significantly to this publication.

Sincerely,

NCJRS
NOV 3 1987
ACQUISITIONS

Charles H. Starrett, Jr.
Court Administrator

Table of Contents

	PAGE
Letter of transmittal	1
President Judge's Annual Message	3
Judges of the Court of Common Pleas	4
CIVIL DIVISION	
Tax appeal conciliations spur dispositions	5—8
New Administrative Judge for Civil Division	5
Arbitration/Statutory Appeals Report	6
Cases Placed at Issue and Disposed	7
	8
SPECIAL COURTS	9—11
Drunken Driving still leading offense	9
Justice after dark	10—11
From the Mailbox	12
CRIMINAL DIVISION	13—18
Case disposition records fall in Criminal Division	13
Offense Report	14—15
John Kolesar new director of Probation	16
Bail Agency arraignments top 18,000	17
Adult Probation statistical report	18
FAMILY DIVISION	19—23
Intensified effort in Child support	19
New support system gets national attention	20
A beacon for other family courts	21
Contrasting trends in Juvenile Court	22
Care for Dependent and Neglected Children	23
The New Judges	24—25
ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION	26-27
30% increase in estate hearings	26
Comparative Statistics on Adoptions	27
Thailand Judge visits Court	28
200 years of Court history to be observed	28

Year of trial and challenge

by MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY
President Judge



In our message in the 1983 Annual Report we indicated we observed a dark cloud in the horizon. The dark cloud arrived in 1984.

A series of unfortunate events adversely affected court operations during 1984, thereby threatening the Court's longstanding national reputation as one of the most efficient courts in the nation.

The untimely death of one of our judges and the elevation of four of our fine judges to appellate court positions created vacancies which seriously crippled our ability to dispose of cases. Only the timely help of several of our senior judges permitted the Court to limp along so that the calendars did not break down completely.

We had recognized more than a year earlier that the Court was headed for difficulty because we were forced to utilize our six senior judges not for emergency situations but rather simply to maintain the status quo. We requested that the Legislature create six additional judgeships. The State's political structure was slow in filling the five vacancies and no action was taken on our request for additional judges until late in the year, and then only two additional judgeships were created.

It was something of an accomplishment for our judges, therefore, to maintain a reasonable level of case dispositions during the year in the Criminal, Family and Orphans' Court Divisions. Because the Criminal Division, particularly, bore a special priority, the Civil

unfortunately suffered the most from the Court's lack of sufficient judicial manpower. The higher case filings and higher case inventories as indicated in the accompanying pages tell the story.

Rays of sunshine persisted in some areas. The Arbitration program functioned extremely well and, as in past years, continued to attract the attention of court managers and court administrative experts from throughout the country, several of whom made personal visits here to observe our system.

The administration of the Court also received numerous letters of commendation for various members of the Court staff, one Juvenile Probation Officer was chosen Pennsylvania's Probation Officer of the Year. And the Court installed its new Family Division computer system which has been hailed by Federal officials as the state-of-the-art in the nation.

While the Court fought through stormy seas during 1984, there was one constant which enabled us to do as well as we did and actually stiffened our resolve to persist in our attempts to meet the mounting problems. I refer to the dedication of our Court employees, who time and time again demonstrated that their service to the Court and the public transcends their personal concerns. We have good reason to be proud of them.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
HONORABLE MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY, PRESIDENT JUDGE

CIVIL DIVISION

*Hon. Emil E. Narick, Administrative Judge

Hon. Ralph H. Smith, Jr.	Hon. I. Martin Wekselman
Hon. Silvestri Silvestri	Hon. S. Louis Farino
Hon. Robert A. Doyle	**Hon. Hugh C. Boyle
Hon. Marion K. Finkelhor	**Hon. Maurice Louik
Hon. Bernard J. McGowan	**Hon. Frederic G. Weir
Hon. Richard G. Zeleznik	

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Robert E. Dauer, Administrative Judge

Hon. Joseph H. Ridge	Hon. Ralph J. Cappy
Hon. Henry R. Smith, Jr.	****Hon. Leonard C. Staisey
Hon. John W. O'Brien	Hon. Bernard L. McGinley
Hon. James F. Clarke	Hon. John L. Musmanno
Hon. James R. McGregor	Hon. Robert P. Horgos
Hon. George H. Ross	Hon. Alan S. Penkower
Hon. Gerard M. Bigley	**Hon. Loran L. Lewis
***Hon. Raymond L. Scheib	**Hon. Samuel Strauss

FAMILY DIVISION

Hon. R. Stanton Wettick, Jr., Administrative Judge

Hon. Livingstone M. Johnson	Hon. Raymond A. Novak
Hon. Eugene B. Strassburger, III	Hon. William L. Standish
Hon. Lawrence W. Kaplan	

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

Hon. Paul R. Zavarella, Administrative Judge

Hon. J. Warren Watson	Hon. Nathan Schwartz
Hon. Eunice Ross	**Hon. William S. Rahauser

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Charles H. Starrett, Jr. Court Administrator	Robert V. McCarthy Deputy Administrator
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*Judge Narick became Administrative Judge on March 15, 1984, succeeding Judge Nicholas P. Papadakos who resigned from Common Pleas Court to become a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on January 2, 1984.

**Senior Judge

***Judge Scheib was reassigned from the Civil Division to the Criminal Division on February 13, 1984.

****Judge Staisey was reassigned from the Civil Division to the Criminal Division in 1983 and returned to the Civil Division on September 1, 1984.

The Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County serves the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Fifth Judicial District, which is comprised of Allegheny County.

Tax appeal conciliations spur dispositions



Judge Emil E. Narick
Administrative Judge

The Civil Division Judges and the staff of Allegheny County's Department of Property Assessment, Appeals and Review worked closely together in 1984 to dispose of approximately 300 out of 500 tax appeals through conciliation.

These were tax appeal cases which had defied solution either in Arbitration or in earlier efforts at conciliation at the pre-trial level.

Starting in June, Civil Division Administrative Judge Emil Narick, the Civil Calendar Control Office, and William Fahey, legal counsel for the assessment office, worked closely together to achieve those results.

The conciliations were scheduled in advance on those days when judges knew they would be available. According to Attorney Fahey, as many as five or six judges were available on some days and they were able to hear up to 50 or 60 appeals on these occasions.

Another 355 tax appeals were disposed of in 1984 in Arbitration.

With the success this effort achieved in 1984, Judge Narick and the Civil Division judges at year's end were planning a year-long tax appeal conciliation effort in 1985, hopefully expanding these successful procedures to include Statutory Appeals.

With the number of judges who were available to hear civil cases in 1984 down almost one third below that of the previous

(Continued on page 7)



Judge I. Martin Wekselman



Judge Bernard J. McGowan



Judge S. Louis Farino



Judge Robert A. Doyle



Judge Ralph H. Smith Jr.



Judge Richard G. Zeleznik



Judge Frederic G. Weir



Judge Marlon K. Finkelhor



Judge Silvestri Silvestri



Judge Maurice Louik



Judge Hugh C. Boyle

Atlanta Group visits Arbitration

A delegation from the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit visited the Civil Division of Common Pleas Court in October to observe first hand the Court's Civil Arbitration system.

Judge Frank M. Eldridge, Chairman of Atlanta's Bench and Bar Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution, was the leader of the delegation.

It included Judge Isaac Jenrette, Bench representative on the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution; attorneys Richard Katz and William Duffey, Bar representatives on the committee; and Gerard P. Verzaal, assistant court administrator.

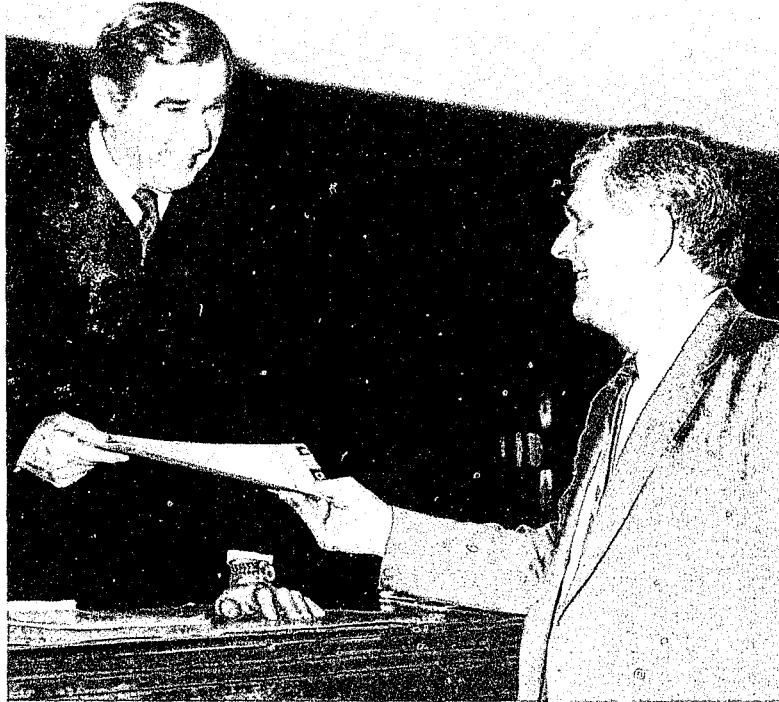
Mr. Verzaal is responsible for staffing and administering alternative dispute resolution programs in the Atlanta Superior Court.

(Continued on page 7)



VISITORS FROM ATLANTA, who observed the Civil Arbitration system for a full day last October, read the enlarged copy of Chief Justice Warren Burger's article praising the local system in a 1984 issue of U.S. News & World Report. Left to right are: Arbitration Director Walter Lesniak, Atlanta Bar member William Duffey, Atlanta Judge Isaac Jenrette, Atlanta Assistant Administrator Gerard P. Verzaal, Atlanta Judge Frank M. Eldridge, Civil Administrative Judge Emil E. Narick and Atlanta Bar member Richard Katz.

CIVIL DIVISION



CIVIL DIVISION Administrative Judge Emil E. Narick accepts case papers from Thomas Witkowski, the Chief Docket Clerk for the Civil Division.

Judge Narick new Civil Division head

The Civil Division of the Court came under new leadership in March of 1984 when Judge Emil E. Narick assumed the responsibilities of Administrative Judge.

He succeeded Supreme Court Justice Nicholas P. Papadakos, who was elected to the Commonwealth's highest tribunal.

Judge Narick was elected to Common Pleas Court in 1977 after many years of practice as a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and as legal counsel in both government and the labor movement.

These included: Assistant General Counsel for the United Steelworkers of America; Senior Attorney for the National Labor Relations Board and Director of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

A native of West Virginia, Judge Narick attended the University of Pittsburgh where he played football during the Jock Sutherland era. He also is a graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law.

During his many years in the practice of law, he has maintained his participation in athletics as a college football official with the Eastern Association of Intercollegiate Officials, which he served as both Director and President. He presently serves as a Supervisor of the Collegiate Independents Football Officiatory Association.

Judge Narick is married and the father of a son.

PROTHONOTARY RECORDS CASE FILINGS PER YEAR

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Appeal Tax Assessments	130	672	629	846	603
Appointment of Viewers	131	125	75	71	97
Assumpsit	1,387	1,411	1,235	977	*
Change of Name	171	136	124	124	123
Declaration of Taking (Eminent Domain)	169	157	117	89	111
Ejectment:					
Amicable	45	55	52	69	76
Complaint	91	66	81	67	78
Equity	612	571	461	453	485
Foreign Attachment	8	4	3	2	0
Mandamus	40	24	34	28	16
Mechanics Lien Complaint	41	21	32	24	17
Mortgage Foreclosure	887	1,152	1,290	1,092	948
Petition:					
Amend Tax Lien	68	24	6	9	9
Strike Tax Lien	20	16	2	8	1
Quiet Title	87	28	40	36	48
Replevin	142	158	100	110	115
Rule to Show Cause	274	272	299	295	254
Trespass:					
Complaint	1,696	1,880	1,690	1,691	*
Writ of Summons	867	910	967	1,043	*
Assumpsit and Trespass	528	611	635	754	*
Civil Actions	—	—	—	—	4,410
TOTAL	7,394	8,293	7,872	7,788	7,391

*By order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1984, cases formerly filed under the categories of Assumpsit, Trespass and Assumpsit Trespass are now filed as Civil Actions.

CIVIL DIVISION

Atlanta delegation

(Continued from page 5)

During its visit to Pittsburgh, the delegation was met by Civil Division Administrative Judge Emil E. Narick and was directed through the Arbitration process by Judge Narick and Arbitration System Director Walter Lesniak.

Members of the visiting delegation viewed the call of the list, attended some of the hearings conducted that day by several arbitration boards and had an opportunity to discuss the Court's Arbitration program with a group of Allegheny County Bar members led by attorney David R. Cashman.

Members of the arbitration boards who heard cases that day also answered questions of the Atlanta delegation at the conclusion of their hearings. The visitors also had an opportunity to meet and discuss the Arbitration Argument program with Judge R. Stanton Wettick.

CIVIL DIVISION—ARBITRATION

	1983	1984
Pending on January 1	5,889	7,115
New Cases Filed	9,471	9,802
Transferred from Civil Division	1,370	730
Cases Disposed	9,615	8,079
Awards by Boards	4,585	4,650
Disposed by Court/Rule 229(e)*	1,028	892
Settlements, Non-Pros, etc.	4,002	2,537
Pending as of December 31 (Awaiting Trial)	7,115**	9,568
Appeals Filed	1,089	1,302
Rate of Appeals	23.75%	28.00%
Number of Arbitration Boards Served (971)-Arbitrators	2,661	2,913
Arbitrators Fee Per Day	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Arbitrators Fee	266,100.00	291,300.00
Less Non-recoverable Appeal Fees Paid	85,299.00	110,330.00
TOTAL COST	\$ 180,801.00	\$ 180,970.00
Average Arbitrators Cost per Case	\$ 39.43	\$ 38.92

*Cases are closed every year without notification to the Court, but are identified and removed from the active inventory count in an annual purge.

**Figure adjusted to correct typographical error in 1983 Report.

CIVIL DIVISION STATUTORY APPEALS 1983—1984

	1983 Dispo- sitions	Open Cases 12/31/83	New Cases Filed	Dispo- sitions	Open Cases 12/31/84
Zoning Board	86	77	97	85	89
Civil Service	14	15	14	15	14
Motor Vehicle Code Suspensions	347	194	417	330	281
Liquor Control Board Appeals	21	27	45	36	36
Summary Conviction Appeals	115	308	1,049	682	675
Miscellaneous	55	67	112	70	109
TOTALS	638	688	1,734*	1,218	1,204

	1983	1984
New Cases Filed	947	1,734
Dispositions	638	1,218
Cases Pending	688	1,204

The average disposition time for each appeal was 126.5 days from date of original filing to final disposition.

*2 cases added to inventory from previous years.

Tax appeals

(Continued from page 5)

year (from 14 to 10), the Civil Division was engaged in a year-long struggle to keep current with its caseload.

Jury trial cases reported settled decreased from 975 in 1983 to 728, and jury trial cases settled by the Court before trial declined from 1,385 to 1,200. There also was a significant drop from 1,064 to 808 in the number of cases not yet listed which were settled by the Court.

Perhaps the most significant effect of the shortage of judges was in the increase in the average age of cases disposed. The average age of cases from date of issue to disposition in 1984 went up from 13.9 months in 1983 to 15.2 months. The increase in the average age of cases from date of filing to disposition went up from 17.4 to 19.1 months.

The decline in the number of cases transferred by the Court to Civil Arbitration, from 1,175 to 633 in 1984, apparently reflects the increase in the dollar ceiling for cases to be heard in Arbitration from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Not nearly as obvious is the cause of the dramatic rise in Statutory Appeal filings in 1984, which almost doubled from 947 in 1983 to 1,734 in 1984. The increase occurred primarily in the number of summary conviction appeals, from 289 in 1983 to 1,049 in 1984.

The cause of this increase could be increased reliance by the suburban police departments on electronic traffic control devices to detect motor vehicle violations. Motorists have been challenging these convictions in an increasing number.

There also was a large number of summary conviction appeals transferred to the Civil Division from the Criminal Division in 1984 when a decision was made to hear all Statutory Appeals in the Civil Division.

Although there was a slight increase in the number of Civil Arbitration Board awards in 1984, the 1,465 decline in the number of settlements and non-pros cases during the year contributed to the higher case inventory at the end of 1984.

CIVIL DIVISION

CASES PLACED AT ISSUE AND DISPOSED Analysis of Cases Placed at Issue

	1983		1984	
	Placed at Issue	%	Placed at Issue	%
Trespass—General	714	23.4%	710	26.0%
Trespass—Motor Vehicle	654	21.4%	618	22.6%
Assumpsit	587	19.2%	551	20.2%
Equity	75	2.5%	89	3.4%
Tax Appeal			601	22.0%
Eminent Domain			58	2.1%
Miscellaneous	1,027	33.5%	102	3.7%
TOTAL	3,057	100%	2,729	100%

	1983		Percent of Change
	1/1/84	12/31/84	
Trespass—General	1,284	1,227	- 4.4%
Trespass—Motor Vehicle	599	603	+ 0.7%
Assumpsit	668	720	+ 7.8%
Equity	144	162	+ 12.5%
Tax Appeals	569	751	+ 32.0%
Eminent Domains	155	103	- 33.5%
Miscellaneous	1,158	1,147	- 0.9%
TOTAL	4,577	4,713	+ 3.0%

Analysis of Arbitration and Statutory Appeal Cases

	1983				1984			
	Filed	%	Disposed	%	Filed	%	Disposed	%
Arbitration	77	3.7%	91	5.3%	65	2.1%	43	2.2%
Arbitration Appeals	1,089	51.5%	973	57.2%	1,302	42.0%	733	36.8%
Statutory Appeals	947*	44.8%	638	37.5%	1,734	55.9%	1,218	61.0%
TOTAL	2,113	100%	1,702	100%	3,101	100%	1,994	100%
Statutory Appeals Open	1/1/84		12/31/84					
	688		1,204					

*22 cases reopened to inventory from previous years.

DISPOSED CASES FOR 1984

Method of Disposition	Number	Percent	Average Age by Month from Case Filing to Disposition	Average Age by Month from Date at Issue to Disposition
Transfer to Arbitration by Court Order	633	9.9%	7.1	1.5
Settled in Conciliation	13	0.2%	16.4	10.1
Non-Jury Trial, Case Reported Settled	124	1.9%	24.2	20.0
Non-Jury Trial, Case Settled by Court	210	3.3%	21.7	17.4
Non-Jury Trial, Findings by Court	235	3.7%	22.4	20.6
Jury Trial Cases Reported Settled	728	11.4%	27.5%	20.3
Jury Trial Cases Settled by Court Before Trial	1,200	18.8%	26.9%	21.0
Jury Trial Cases Settled Before Verdict	4	0.0%	16.0	0.0
Jury Trial Cases Tried to Verdict	200	3.1%	30.6	22.5
Cases Not Yet Settled by Court	808	12.7%	11.0	14.2
Cases Not Yet Listed Settled by Parties	1,018	15.9%	13.5	10.0
TOTAL	5,173	80.9%		
Statutory Appeal Cases Disposed	1,218	19.1%		
GRAND TOTAL	6,391	100.0%		

The average age of all cases from filing date to disposition was 19.1 months.

The average age of all cases from issue date to disposition was 15.2 months.

These averages are separately calculated and are not merely the average of the individual figures above.

SPECIAL COURTS

Drunken driving still leading offense

After several years of annual increases, the number of complaints for driving while intoxicated declined in 1984. The 3,129 drunken driving complaints brought before the district justices were 211 fewer than in 1983.

Despite the decline, these offenses amounted to 17.2 percent of all of the felony and misdemeanor complaints in the district courts. They continue to be the most frequent complaints heard by the district justices and averaged 8.5 per day in Allegheny County.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT JUSTICE CASE LOAD 1984

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF*

Type of Case	Fined	Dismissed	Total
Traffic	76,299	41,286	117,585
Non-Traffic	12,964	8,880	21,844
Summary	7,692	6,426	14,118
Civil			22,248
Criminal			18,159
TOTAL	96,955	56,592	193,954

*Excludes cases handled in Pittsburgh Magistrate Court.

DISTRICT COURTS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY 1982-1983-1984

Cash Receipts and Expenses From District Courts

RECEIPTS	1982	1983	1984	1983-1984 Increase/ Decrease
Municipalities	\$ 2,153,559.27	\$ 1,759,158.46	\$ 1,819,153.14	\$ 59,994.68
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	2,845,431.07	2,595,251.26	2,749,609.85	154,358.59
County of Allegheny-Violation cases	673,744.59	1,130,780.13	1,514,085.28	383,305.15
County of Allegheny-Civil cases	389,080.86	504,196.30	527,990.31	23,794.01
Other Funds Held in Escrow	2,014,501.11	2,046,980.50	1,484,281.10	(562,699.40)
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$ 8,076,316.90	\$ 8,036,366.65	\$ 8,095,119.68	\$ 58,753.03
COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY				
Receipts-Violation Cases	\$ 673,744.59	\$ 1,130,780.13	\$ 1,243,767.32	\$ 112,987.19
Receipts-Civil Cases	389,080.86	504,196.30	527,990.31	23,794.01
Fines	143,086.28	175,138.81	154,548.18	(20,590.63)
Postage	115,538.84	108,276.84	115,769.78	7,492.94
Adjustments	(125.00)	(151.99)	—	151.99
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS (Fines & Costs)	\$ 1,321,325.57	\$ 1,918,240.09	\$ 2,042,075.59	\$ 123,835.50

EXPENSES OF DISTRICT COURTS

Salaries	\$ 1,413,500.00	\$ 1,668,249.00	\$ 1,850,899.00	\$ 182,650.00
Fringe Benefits	359,814.00	448,759.00	514,670.00	65,911.00
Miscellaneous Services (Rent, Telephones, Postage, Etc.)	666,861.00	670,927.00	804,073.00	133,146.00
Supplies, Printing & Duplicating	65,135.00	60,392.00	78,527.00	18,135.00
Repairs	4,751.00	13,373.00	14,161.00	788.00
Equipment (Office Furniture/Fixtures)	35,720.00	57,667.00	56,674.00	993.00
Travel, Insurance, Law Subscriptions	16,932.00	14,035.00	9,745.00	(4,290.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY	\$ 2,562,713.00	\$ 2,933,402.00	\$ 3,328,749.00	\$ 395,347.00
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ (1,241,387.43)	\$ (1,015,161.91)	\$ (1,286,673.41)	\$ (271,511.50)

*Revenues from Pittsburgh City Court are not included in this report.

These figures do not include the driving while intoxicated complaints heard by the City Magistrates in Pittsburgh's City Court.

Major assaults increased from 558 to 582 and minor assaults were up from 1,494 to 1,772. The number of rape complaints, however, declined from 139 to 113. Burglary complaints increased from 814 to 916, thefts were up to 2,122 from 1,908 in 1984 and narcotics/drug law complaints climbed to 1,307 from 1,171.

The number of forgeries, however, declined from 703 in 1983 to 542 in 1984.

Total cases disposed of by the district justices reached a record high of 193,954. This was an increase of 16,331 cases over the 1983 total dispositions of 177,623.

Total receipts for 1984 in the district courts exceeded the amount collected in 1983 by \$58,753.03. The 1984 total was \$8,095,119.68.

Allegheny County's share of that sum was \$2,042,075.59, which is an increase of \$123,835.50 over the previous year. Another \$1,819,153.14 was collected by the district courts for Allegheny County's municipal governments.

MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY COMPLAINTS DISPOSED 1984

Major Assault	582
Minor Assault	1,772
Rape	113
Other Sexual Offenses	248
Burglary	916
Robbery	265
Theft	2,122
Embezzlement & Fraud	219
Receiving Stolen Property	1,209
Forgery	542
Nonsupport & Neglect	37
Disorderly Conduct	729
Gambling	130
Commercialized Vice	21
Firearms	199
Driving While Intoxicated	3,129
Other Motor Vehicle Court Cases	1,023
Narcotics/Drug Laws	1,307
Liquor Law Violations (Court Cases)	87
Surety of the Peace	81
All Other Court Cases	3,428
TOTAL CASES	18,159
Cases Held for Court	11,290
Cases Dismissed	6,869



INFORMING AN INDIVIDUAL of the charges against him is Senior District Justice Raymond Thomas during Night Court in the Pittsburgh Public Safety Building. Assisting him during the Night Court hearings is Bail Bond Agency clerk Karen McKim.

Justice after dark

Regimens of time, which dictate the divisions of a day into working, sleeping, and leisure hours, are unadaptable to the demands of the criminal justice system.

The arraignment of a citizen charged with a crime or issuing of a search warrant are not the sort of actions that can be shelved until the start of the next working day.

The Night Court of the Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County, therefore, has been this judicial jurisdiction's unique response to the critical need of action without delay.

Located in the City of Pittsburgh's downtown Public Safety Building, Night Court is conducted by senior (retired) district justices with the assistance of clerical staff every night of the week, during weekend daylight hours, and on holidays.

Defendants charged with a misdemeanor or felony after the community district justices have closed their offices for the day or weekend or before they open in the morning are brought before Night Court's senior district justice on duty by the arresting authority.

There a criminal complaint is signed, the defendant is fingerprinted and photographed by the City-County Bureau of Criminal Identification, and an arraignment is conducted to inform the defendant of the criminal charges placed against him or her. Bail also is determined at the arraignment where a representative of the Court's Bail Agency is present to record the decision and assist the presiding district justice.

Issuing search warrants to police officers from the City and suburban police departments also occupies the district justice's time at Night Court.

Before 1973, a policeman was compelled to go to the home of the local district justice during the night and rouse him or her from a night's rest if need be in order to arraign a defendant or obtain a search warrant.

In April of 1973, Night Court was established as the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania. Its purpose then and now was to provide a swift procedure for arraigning a defendant on the charges alleged by the police and for determining the terms of the prisoner's release from custody if warranted.

SPECIAL COURTS

That original court, however, was far different than the smooth-working, efficient Night Court that exists now in the Pittsburgh Public Safety Building.

It was funded with a Law Enforcement Assistance Agency (LEAA) grant that provided for hiring eight clerks to work in four regional night courts. These were in Penn Hills, McKeesport, McCandless Township, and Pittsburgh's 12th Ward.

District justices in each of those regions took turns on a rotating basis to be on call for conducting arraignments or issuing warrants. They were obligated during nighttime hours, on weekends, and holidays.

The system proved to be too cumbersome, particularly in the area of scheduling, so a centrally located night court was the logical alternative.

It was created in March of 1974 in the Jones Law Building Office of District Justice Jacob Williams in downtown Pittsburgh. Two shifts of district justices and staff worked every night between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., and the district justices continued to work on a rotating basis.

The Court was relocated in the Public Safety Building in 1977 to gain the advantage of the available police security in the building as well as the City's lock-up facilities for prisoners. The police welcomed the change, for they no longer had to wait for the arraignment to take place.

As part of the change, the double shift was eliminated. Night Court began operating from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. at night and during weekend and holiday daylight hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

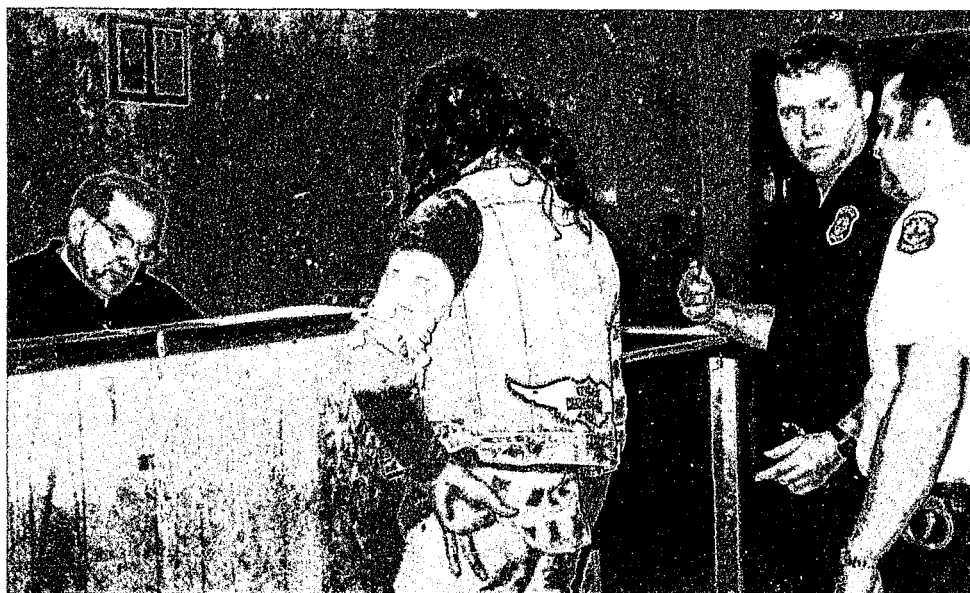
Because of the high number of arraignments, two elected district justices have made a practice of coming to the Public Safety Building each morning to conduct arraignments for defendants who arrived too late in the morning to appear at Night Court.

When the system of rotating district justices continued to cause scheduling problems, the Supreme Court in 1982, at the request of President Judge Michael J. O'Malley, assigned retired district justices to serve in the Court.



NIGHT COURT isn't altogether grim. This young couple became Mr. and Mrs. Francis Comley when Judge Thomas administered the marriage vows during a break in the criminal proceedings.

The original four senior district justices who were appointed still are serving. They are: John Salton of Monroeville, Raymond Thomas of McCandless, Olive Stocker of South Park, and Domenic Frasca of Pittsburgh. They are the first retired district justices to receive senior status in Pennsylvania.



A CITIZEN faces Judge Thomas during his arraignment under the supervision of an attendant from the Pittsburgh Public Safety Building lock-up and Police Officer Orlando Pilardi (at right).

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED*

1984	193,954
1983	177,623
1982	188,154
1981	167,698
1980	165,028
1979	145,677
1978	144,032
1977	134,533
1976	133,922
1975	140,754
1974	119,003

*Excludes cases handled in Pittsburgh Magistrate Court.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Arbitration: one of the best

October 15, 1984

Dear Judge Narick:

I wish to thank you for all the courtesies and assistance that you and your staff provided us.

Mr. Bob McCarthy, Deputy Court Administrator, rendered us invaluable service in showing us the arbitration program in action, explaining it and guiding us around your judicial complex.

We had wanted to see your program in action because we felt after a year's study of arbitration systems around the country that your

program was one of the best. We were not disappointed; your program not only lived up to expectations but exceeded it in its efficiency, economy and practicality. You have made possible insights which we hope to convert into a program of our own. If our program could work half as smoothly and efficiently as yours does, then we would feel that it was a success.

Again let me thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Eldridge

Support office impresses Visitor from India

June 8, 1984

Dear Mr. Stout:

While I had been aware of the work of the Family Courts, I had not quite realized how well organized was the systems on Child Support. My meeting with the various people in counseling and mediation and the opportunity to sit in on the discussion as well as the chance to watch the proceedings in court helped me to understand the working of this section from the moment of the filing of a claim up to its disposal. The material you have given me would help me when I return to India to explain it to my colleagues and other voluntary agen-

cies attempting to ease the strain on women who normally have a long wait before obtaining relief.

I do appreciate your having taken time off to talk to me and to have me taken around to watch proceedings. Please accept my thanks and convey the same to your staff. Things take a long time to move in India, but if anything comes out of this, I shall let you know.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Maithreyi Ramadurai

Juvenile Probation Officer is Pennsylvania's best

A member of the Juvenile Court Probation staff for almost four years, Donald Bates, was named the Probation Officer of the Year in 1984 by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

A High Impact probation officer, his responsibilities involve working with a caseload of the most serious delinquent offenders in the geographical area of Allegheny County to which he is assigned.

His selection as Allegheny County's entry in the State competition was made by his peers in the Probation Office. The Juvenile Section Staff Council solicited nominations from the staff and Mr. Bates was the unanimous choice.

Assigned to the Pittsburgh Hill District, Greenfield and Garfield areas, Mr. Bates is a resident of Penn Hills and a graduate of Penn State University.

The High Impact program, of which he is a part, is concerned with working with juveniles in need of intensive supervision. The program requires greater involvement in the lives of the youngsters assigned to these probation officers, frequently demanding commitments of time and energy during evening hours and on weekends.

Donald Bates appears to be the sort of probation officer his superiors had in mind when they designed the High Impact program.

Mr. Bates has worked as a Big Brother volunteer at Holy Family Institute and opens his home to younger children during holidays. He also takes part in the Bloomfield/Garfield Organization, which is a local community development group. This participation has enabled him to channel some of the youthful offenders assigned to him through this community group for symbolic restitution and fines.

For the past few years, in cooperation with a co-worker, he has become involved with several probationers in a communication activity group. In addition to evening meetings, this group enjoys some unique weekend activities.

They have included trips to Seven Springs; Washington, D.C.; the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; Niagara Falls; and an overnight camping trip to Keystone State Park.

He also is working on a cable TV production of the "Juvenile Court Experience" in which the youths produce and act in the production.

Despite all of this activity, he also finds the time to participate in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Graduate Program at Shippensburg University.

Acknowledgment

The Court of Common Pleas wishes to acknowledge the very significant contribution of the Photography Division of the Allegheny County Department of Communications in the preparation of the 1984 Annual Report.

Support Office pleasant, helpful

To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to drop a short note and say in all the dealings I have had with support court in the last few months everyone has always been *very pleasant and helpful*.

You people get the checks out as soon as you receive them and women that need them are very appreciative of this.

With all the hostile and unpleasant people I know you deal with, I am very sincere in saying you have all been *very pleasant and informative*.

Sincerely,

Nadine Mae Emmel



Judge Robert E. Dauer
Administrative Judge

Case disposition records fall in Criminal Division

Judges of the Criminal Division set case disposition records during 1984.

They disposed of 13,288 cases, the highest number of dispositions in history. The 1983 total was 10,899 cases.

The average number of cases disposed per judge per month increased from 52 to 60.

Although the Division is on an individual calendar system, the Court resorted to a general trial list on which many misdemeanor and minor felony cases were placed on a daily basis. The Court, thus, was able to make maximum use of judicial "down time." This occurs when cases originally scheduled for jury trial become nonjury or plea cases or must be postponed. The Court was able to schedule these general list misdemeanor and minor felony cases during those down periods. This resulted in 980 dispositions from the general trial list in 1984.

These accomplishments were not made without some extraordinary effort. The 13 Criminal Division judges and two Senior judges regularly assigned to hear Criminal cases received the support of several additional judges from other divisions of the Court.

Civil Division Judges Leonard Staisey and Raymond L. Scheib were assigned to the Criminal Division and Juvenile Court Judge Raymond Novak volunteered to serve one day a week. Judge Staisey was assigned to hear driving under the influence cases, disposing of 339 such cases. Judges Scheib and Novak disposed of 400 trials involving other charges.

Visiting Senior Judge J. Quint Salmon of Beaver County also served in the Criminal Division during 1984 and disposed of 206 cases.

In spite of its accomplishments, however, the Criminal Division was working against some staggering odds. For the seventh consecutive year, the number of cases filed exceeded the previous year's filings. The Division reached 13,473 filings in 1984, an 800 case increase over 1983.

The average time between arrest and trial increased from 122 to 125 days. Only a few years ago this average was down to 104 days. Rule 1100 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure requires disposition of criminal cases within 180 days of arrest.

The year ended with 5,988 cases awaiting disposition, including 3,892 awaiting trial, 951 awaiting sentence and 1,145 awaiting pre-trial conference.

This circumstance was noted by Administrative Judge Robert E. Dauer in his annual report when he noted:

"Since the last months of 1982, as the result of changes in the law and the prolonged deficiency in the number of judges needed to adequately cope with the ever-increasing caseload, the backlog of criminal cases has continued to accelerate."

In reviewing 1984, Judge Dauer also calls attention to the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program where first offenders in non-violent crimes are diverted from further prosecution.

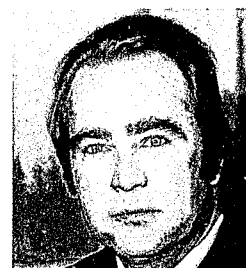
(Continued on page 14)



Judge James F. Clarke



Judge Ralph J. Cappy



Judge Bernard L. McGinley



Judge Robert P. Horgos



Judge James R. McGregor



Judge John W. O'Brien



Judge George H. Ross



Judge Henry R. Smith Jr.



Judge Leonard C. Staisey



Judge John L. Musmanno



Judge Joseph H. Ridge



Judge Alan S. Penkower



Judge Raymond L. Scheib



Judge Gerard M. Bigley



Judge Loran L. Lewis



Judge Samuel Strauss

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Case disposition records fall

(Continued from page 13)

In 1984, the Court heard 3,476 cases as compared to 3,228 in 1983. Judge Dauer notes that the program's success is confirmed by the low rate of repeat offenders from the individuals placed in the program. These include persons charged with driving under the influence.

The work of the Senior Judges in the Criminal Division is noted by the Administrative Judge who calls them, "...major contributors to our disposition of cases." This is in reference to Judges Samuel Strauss, Loran L. Lewis and J. Quint Salmon.

"Every effort must be made," according to Judge Dauer, "to convince the Supreme Court and the State Legislature of the tremendous advantages and the immense bargain that the citizens of this County and Commonwealth are receiving by the use of our senior judiciary."

OFFENSE CATEGORY	PRE-TRIAL DECISIONS*					ARD	Disposition In Lieu Of Trial	Information Quashed	Nolle Prossed No Information Filed	Nolle Prossed Information Filed
	Complaints Filed	Information Filed	Information Filed Charges Modified**	Nolle Prossed Requested						
Criminal Homicide	66	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery	517	427	80	19	1	0	0	22	52	
Aggravated Assault	365	249	81	29	7	0	0	31	48	
Simple Assault	565	373	80	98	51	0	0	104	67	
Burglary	1,221	780	295	115	62	0	1	116	70	
Theft	1,972	1,485	305	133	239	1	2	146	79	
Auto Theft	30	22	2	4	5	0	0	4	1	
Embezzlement, Fraud	190	111	27	29	37	0	0	26	11	
Forgery/Counterfeit	591	356	151	59	47	0	0	68	22	
Rape	131	110	8	9	1	0	0	11	15	
Commercialized Vice	175	165	9	3	1	0	0	6	2	
Other Sex Offenses	91	70	7	10	29	0	0	10	4	
Narcotics/Drug Laws	879	612	99	85	17	0	0	99	32	
Offensive Weapons	191	156	25	9	15	0	0	14	19	
Liquor Laws	24	18	1	7	5	0	0	7	0	
Driving Intoxicated	4,282	4,056	46	39	2,697	1	5	27	27	
Other Vehicle Laws	147	74	4	18	17	0	1	26	2	
Disorderly Conduct	198	97	10	69	39	0	0	74	8	
Gambling	128	110	7	1	1	0	0	2	6	
All Other Offenses	1,710	1,223	105	234	205	0	0	265	45	
TOTAL	13,473	10,557	1,342	970	3,476	2	9	1,058	512	

*The District Attorney makes the final decision on offenses charged after holding a Pre-Trial Conference hearing with key prosecution witnesses.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CRIMINAL DIVISION CASE FILINGS RACE AND SEX ANALYSIS 1982—1983—1984

SEX	1982	1983	1984
Male	8,076 (77.0%)	9,510 (76.9%)	10,288 (84.96%)
Female	1,291 (12.3%)	1,496 (12.1%)	1,820 (15.03%)
Unknown	1,124 (10.7%)	1,367 (11.0%)	1 (.01%)
TOTAL	10,491 (100%)	12,373 (100%)	12,109 (100%)
RACE			
Black	3,467 (33.0%)	3,960 (32.0%)	4,665 (38.53%)
White	5,880 (56.0%)	7,041 (56.9%)	7,423 (61.30%)
Unknown	1,144 (11.0%)	1,372 (11.1%)	21 (.17%)
TOTAL	10,491 (100%)	12,373 (100%)	12,109 (100%)

1984 VERDICTS RETURNED

Dismissed	Probation Without Verdict	Demurrer Sustained	Acquitted By Jury	Acquitted By Court	Guilty By Jury	Guilty By Court	Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere	Probation	Institu- tionalized	Suspended/ Costs/ Fine Only
1	0	1	6	2	29	9	26	0	32	30
10	0	2	12	6	66	54	330	94	223	149
15	2	8	22	14	29	41	142	80	77	49
21	1	5	13	23	20	66	182	149	63	66
35	1	9	7	16	34	67	758	328	337	208
63	2	19	8	26	19	109	1,099	527	378	323
2	0	1	0	0	0	1	12	6	4	3
15	0	2	0	3	0	9	32	24	9	8
31	0	8	1	7	4	20	255	112	74	78
8	0	0	16	4	15	8	52	18	31	24
2	0	0	0	1	1	5	136	102	12	22
2	0	0	2	1	1	8	39	32	8	6
24	139	4	5	5	26	73	402	297	86	89
5	2	2	1	5	6	33	117	71	56	28
1	1	0	0	1	0	2	15	3	1	12
28	3	7	5	35	24	191	1,269	60	832	596
0	1	1	1	3	5	16	75	25	33	37
3	2	1	1	3	2	14	46	22	18	22
4	2	1	0	1	1	7	94	20	3	77
8	18	0	14	1	16	56	655	448	157	121
278	174	71	114	157	298	789	5,736	2,418	2,434	1,948

**Includes those informations which have had some charges added and those which have had some charges nolle prossed.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

John Kolesar new director of Probation

John Kolesar, a 26-year veteran of the Adult Probation Office, was named Director of Adult Probation by President Judge Michael J. O'Malley in November.

The 59 year old Mr. Kolesar has been Deputy Director of Adult Probation since 1983. He succeeds Joseph Catalano who retired in June 1984, ending a career in probation and parole work in Allegheny County that extended over 47 years.

Kolesar has been the Acting Director since Mr. Catalano's departure. He joined the staff as a probation officer in 1958, was promoted to Supervisor and Court Liaison Officer in 1961 and to Senior Supervisor in 1966.

Mr. Kolesar is a graduate of Duquesne University with a degree in sociology. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952.

He is active in community affairs and serves as the Commander of East McKeesport American Legion Post 947. Mr. Kolesar resides at 126 Lincoln Avenue in North Versailles. He is married and the father of a son and five daughters.

The retired Adult Probation Director, Mr. Catalano, began his career as an adult probation officer in January 1938, and was named a Field Agent in 1941. He became Assistant Chief Probation Officer in 1946 and Director of Probation Services in September of 1960.



JOHN KOLESAR and JUDGE ROBERT E. DAUER

FAILURE TO APPEAR				
Failure to Appear For:	Total 1982	Total 1983	Total 1984	% Increase/ Decrease From 1983
Preliminary Hearing	238	170	302	+78%
Formal Arraignment	411	347	465	+34%
Confirm Counsel	465	524	246	-47%
Pre-Trial Conference	167	174	161	-7½%
Trial	154	239	414	+73%
Sentencing	86	55	78	+42%
Other (Rule 1100 Probation, Costs, Etc.)	56	65	74	+14%
TOTAL	1,577	1,574	1,740	+10½%

BONDS POSTED IN 1984*

Bond Amount	Nominal/ ROR	Property	Cash	10%	Surety	Total	Percentage
None	7,594	0	0	0	0	7,594	80.0%
\$500 or less	0	0	3	44	0	47	.5%
\$501—1,000	0	0	43	492	101	636	6.6%
\$1,001—2,000	0	0	20	375	71	466	5.0%
\$2,001—5,000	0	13	73	268	227	581	6.0%
\$5,001—10,000	0	14	32	13	38	97	1.0%
\$10,001—20,000	0	2	19	3	15	39	.4%
\$20,001 or more	0	2	22	15	7	46	.5%
TOTAL	7,594	31	212	1,210	459	9,506	100.0%
Percentage	80.0	.3	2.2	12.7	4.8	100	

*These do not include the bonds on cases disposed of by District Justices or City Court.

Bail Agency Arraignments top 18,000

The Court Bail Agency's involvement in preliminary arraignments of defendants continued to increase at a brisk pace, the agency participating in more than 18,000 such hearings during 1984.

During the previous year, the Bail Agency attended more than 17,000 preliminary arraignments at which bail was set by City Magistrates, District Justices and Judges of Common Pleas Court's Criminal Division.

Bail appeals also increased from 1,875 in 1983 to 2,143 in 1984. In response to these appeals, bail was reduced to nominal bond in 832 cases. This also represents an increase of 11 percent over the previous year.

The 9,506 bonds posted in 1984 included 7,594 nominal or released on own recognizance bonds. This amounted to 80 percent of the bonds posted during the year. In 1983 it was 71 percent. This Court has one of the highest nominal bond postings in the United States. Another increase of 14 percent involved the total number of bond presentations to the Court in 1984. This is due to a great extent to the Court's directive to the Bail Agen-

cy to review the bail status of individuals in the County Jail because of the Federal Court restrictions imposed on County Jail population.

While bond presentations have increased, however, it is not a new procedure. Bail hearings have been conducted for the past 15 years. They have increased annually from 808 in 1979 to the 1984 total of 2,143.

Unfortunately, bail forfeitures also increased in 1984 to a new high of 1,740 as compared to 1,605 in 1983. The number of cases in the system is viewed as the primary cause of this statistic rather than a lowering of bail standards.

Probation starts selective monitoring

Responding to its constantly increasing caseload, the Adult Probation Office in 1984 created a Committee of Minimum Supervision to develop and test criteria which will identify probation cases requiring only minimum supervision.

When the study is completed, it is hoped that the Adult Probation officers will be able to monitor cases through the use of a computer and thereby reduce the paperwork of each probation officer by as much as 25 percent.

The average caseload in 1984 was 219 per officer as compared to 192 cases in 1983 and 94 in 1979. The national caseload standard for probation officers is 50.

Computer case monitoring is an adaptation of an existing procedure in ARD (Accelerated Rehabilitation Disposition) where cases are reviewed to determine if they meet the criteria to be transferred to a computer-monitored system.

If a similar system can be established in non-ARD cases, the Adult Probation Office hopes to implement it in 1985.

The mini-computer in the Adult Probation Office also was used in 1984 to help produce presentence reports. This resulted in more efficient use of the office clerical staff.

Computerizing the intake process also reduced the clerical staff workload. Cases can now be processed and the necessary paperwork forwarded to the appropriate supervisor within four to eight days. Prior to this change, the process required two to three weeks.

BEHAVIOR CLINIC PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS 1982—1983—1984

	1982	1983	1984
Remands*	126	119	100
Murder	141	120	121
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Robbery	52	44	56
Aggravated Assault	94	154	139
Minor Assault	77	97	93
Burglary, Breaking/Entering	44	56	44
Larceny	0	0	0
Auto Theft	1	2	5
Embezzlement/Fraud	0	0	0
Stolen Property	22	24	11
Forgery/Counterfeit	5	7	1
Rape	121	158	157
Commercialized Vice	0	0	0
Other Sex Offenses	182	179	199
Narcotics/Drug Laws	25	10	1
Deadly Weapons	0	0	0
Non-Support/Neglect	0	0	0
Liquor Laws	0	0	0
Driving Intoxicated	8	20	8
Other Vehicle Laws	3	5	0
Disorderly Conduct/Vagrancy	53	78	62
Gambling	0	0	0
Surety of Peace	0	0	0
All Other Offenses	470	350	423
Commitments to Mental Hospitals	112	93	87
Administrative Cases	1	0	2
Court Orders for Discharge of Mental Prisoners	89	65	75
Violation of Parole/Probation	27	36	28
Rule 64	3	4	0
Arson	66	47	60
TOTAL	1,722	1,668	1,672

*NOTE: Convicted persons are remanded by the trial judge to the Behavior Clinic for psychiatric examinations prior to sentencing whenever it is deemed appropriate.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

ADULT PROBATION OFFICE 1984

	Probation	Parole	Total
Total cases January 1, 1984	7,191	1,405	8,596
Received from Court during 1984	3,824	1,686	5,510
Discharged during 1984	3,140	815	3,955
Total cases December 31, 1984	8,276	1,875	10,151
ARD Total cases January 1, 1984	6,499		6,499
ARD Received from Court during 1984	3,412		3,412
ARD Discharged during 1984	2,055		2,055
ARD Total cases December 31, 1984	7,856		7,856
State Supervision cases January 1, 1984	1,771	256	2,027
State cases Received from Court during 1984	432	148	580
State cases Discharged from Court during 1984	310	146	456
State Supervision cases December 31, 1984	1,871	280	2,151

Caseload Breakdown as of December 31, 1984

PROBATION/PAROLE

ARD

	Cases	No. of Officers	Cases	No. of Officers
Administrative Unit	3,384	4	4,260	1
Special Service Unit	524	4	—	—
East Liberty Field Office	1,226	5	570	2
McKeesport Field Office	1,073	4	572	2
North Side Field Office	1,570	6	741	3
Oakland Field Office	1,006	5	518	1
South Hills Field Office	1,368	6	1,195	3

Investigation Reports for 1984	Total
Presentence Investigation Reports	1,353
Judge's Special Reports	16
Parole Applications	
Violation Reports	1,385
DUI Presentence Reports	81

CRIMINAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	1983	1984
1. Defendants Pending—January 1		
(a) Defendants Awaiting Pre-Trial Conference	744	960
(b) Defendants Awaiting Trial	2,756	3,595
(c) Defendants Awaiting Sentence	722	797
TOTAL DEFENDANTS PENDING FIRST OF YEAR	4,222	5,352
2. Defendants Transcripts Received (Complaints Filed)	12,373	13,473
3. Adjustments	-21	-162
4. Active Defendants in Calendar Year	16,574	18,663
5. Pre-Trial Dispositions		
(a) ARD	3,228	3,476
(b) Disposition in Lieu of Trial	7	2
(c) Information Quashed	6	9
(d) Nolle Prossed	1,338	1,570
(e) Dismissed	605	278
TOTAL PRE-TRIAL DISPOSITIONS	5,184	5,335
6. Disposed Through Trial and Sentenced		
(a) Guilty by Jury	307	298
(b) Guilty by Court	760	789
(c) Guilty Plea or Nolo Contendere	4,487	5,736
(d) Probation Without Verdict	154	174
(e) Acquitted by Jury	128	115
(f) Acquitted by Court	128	157
(g) Demurrer Sustained	74	71
TOTAL TRIAL DISPOSITIONS	6,038	7,340
7. Defendants Pending—December 31		
(a) Defendants Awaiting Pre-Trial Conference	960	1,145
(b) Defendants Awaiting Trial	3,595	3,892
(c) Defendants Awaiting Sentence	797	951
TOTAL DEFENDANTS PENDING END OF YEAR	5,352	5,988

105,318 use Law Library

A total of 105,318 citizens visited the Law Library of the Court during 1984. This represents a 10 percent increase over 1983.

This use resulted in the borrowing of 11,154 volumes by library patrons during the year.

The present library collection was increased by 3,824 volumes during 1984, while another 324 were discarded. The book collection at the Law Library totals 135,000 volumes. A total of 25,542 microforms also were added to the Library collection. This brings the microfilm collection to 129,330, or the equivalent of more than 20,000 paper volumes.

There are 6,000 library volumes in rented storage. To make room for expansion, the Library estimates it will need to place another 5,000 volumes in storage during 1985.

The on-line conversion of the old card catalog to computer continued in 1984, along with the cataloging of new titles. There are now 9,000 titles converted to the Law Library's on-line system.



Judge R. Stanton Wettick
Administrative Judge

Intensified effort in child support

The record pace in support filings and activities in the Family Division's Adult Section during 1984 resulted in intensification of effort by the Judges and the staff in child support.

Support monies received and disbursed during the year totaled \$41,852,496. This was an increase of \$3,497,679 over 1983's total. These amounts have been increasing annually since 1974 when they totaled \$12,593,076.

The work of the Family Division in behalf of child support, however, can't be measured in dollars alone. Enforcement activity is equally indicative of these endeavors, as is the Division's willingness to adapt to new equipment and procedures.

Midway through the year, the Family Division became a member of the Pittsburgh Credit Bureau. The Bureau's terminal was put to work in the ongoing search for absent parents, an activity which also includes use of a teleprinter to access the Federal Parent Locator Service, a Pennsylvania motor vehicle terminal that accesses Department of Transportation motor vehicle records and a facsimile machine which enables the Family Division to transmit documents without delay to other courts and to the state capital.

The results of this increased capacity are apparent in the increase in the use of the Federal Parent Locator Service, from 1,046 requests in 1983 to 1,591 in 1984, and in 11,496 wage attachments issued as compared to 8,832 in 1983.

Locating parents isn't the only service provided by the Credit Bureau. Through the use of the terminal, the Court learns of the individual's income, assets and credit standing.

Real estate holdings, bank balances and other pertinent information that reflect on the individual's ability to pay also are available through this service, as is evidence of employment.

Information obtained from these sources helped the Family Division collect in 1984 a total of \$8,762,776.13 through wage attachments, \$1,059,097 through the Unemployment Compensation Intercept Program and \$982,903.94 through the Internal Revenue Service Intercept Program.

All of these funds are monies which were due the children of parents who are under support court orders from the judges of the Family Division.

Keeping pace with these responsibilities also was advanced in 1984 with the installation, preparation and ultimate operation of the most sophisticated child support computer system in the nation.

The transition from an older system, which the Family Division support activity simply outgrew, concluded more than two years of planning and implementation. Instigated at the request of President Judge Michael J. O'Malley and Family Division Administrative Judge R. Stanton Wettick, the new \$1.2 million computer provides a greater capacity to handle support cases and sharply reduces the amount of paperwork by the staff. Virtually all of the necessary papers are produced automatically by the computer.

Developed by the Court's staff in cooperation with
(Continued on page 21)



Judge Livingstone M. Johnson



Judge Raymond A. Novak



Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan



Judge Eugene B. Strassburger



Judge William L. Standish

DIVORCE CASES DISPOSED

	1983	1984
FAULT CONTESTED		
201-A	67	88
FAULT—UNCONTESTED		
201-A	180	130
FAULT—UNCONTESTED INDIGENT 201-A	14	21
NO FAULT		
201-C 201-D	4,418	4,092
TOTAL	4,679	4,331

COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPORT MONIES

	Total Received and Disbursed	Dollar Increase Over Prior Year
1984	\$41,852,496	+ \$3,497,679
1983	\$38,354,817	+ \$4,678,306
1982	\$33,676,511	+ \$4,203,950
1981	\$29,472,561	+ \$4,367,046
1980	\$25,105,515	+ \$2,572,836
1979	\$22,532,679	+ \$2,207,000
1978	\$20,325,679	+ \$2,496,786
1977	\$17,828,893	+ \$1,318,256
1976	\$16,510,637	+ \$1,621,152
1975	\$14,889,485	+ \$2,296,409

FAMILY DIVISION – Adult Section



A FLOOD OF information is entered daily in the computer terminals of the Family Division-Adult Section's new family support information system. Entering support orders and other data are: (counter clockwise) data support clerks Pam Pastore, Mary Bridget Horan, Suzanne Naper, Deitra Green, Leslie Wilson and Cindy Corso.

New support system gets national attention

A Judge and three members of the staff of the Family Division's Adult Section participated in a national Symposium on Child Support Enforcement in August in Washington, D.C.

The Symposium was held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel on August 16 and 17 and was sponsored by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan, Manager of Administrative Services Gary Stout, and staff members William Pulkowski and Diane Callahan demonstrated the Family Division's new automated child support enforcement management system at the two day meeting.

Installed in 1984, the new computer system is automating much of the paperwork previously performed by the staff. It expands the function of the original computer system in tracking support payments received and disbursed, and for the first time, collects and processes case management information. National experts describe the new system as the most sophisticated in the nation.

President Judge Michael J. O'Malley said, "It is rewarding that our Court is being recognized for its leadership in yet another facet of court operations." The Family Division computer was only one of three systems to be demonstrated at the Symposium.

The Family Adult Section has experienced exceptional growth in its support functions in recent years, creating the need for a larger and more modern data processing system. Support case filings increased from 5,371 in 1979 to 12,335 in 1984, an increase of 130 percent. Support orders reviewed during the same period more than doubled from 21,883 to 59,317.

The Family Division's Adult Section is responsible for processing cases in the area of child and spousal support, paternity, visitation and partial custody of children, custody, divorce and protection from abuse. Approximately 96 percent of the resources of the Adult Section, however, are dedicated solely to the establishment and enforcement of support.

The new data processing system, which was the subject of the local presentation at the Child Support Enforcement Symposium, has been developed over the past several years. Design plans were approved by the State Department of Welfare's IV-D Office in 1981 after it was demonstrated that it would significantly improve the Division's support operations.

Since June of 1983, the Family Division staff, Court Administrative Office systems per-

sonnel and the vendor, Anacomp, Inc., have been working together to define the functional and procedural requirements of the automated system and to translate these needs into an operating system.

This preparation included the process of establishing audit and operational control requirements for the operations of the Collection and Disbursement Office. This work was performed under contract with the accounting firm of Arthur Anderson & Co.

When fully operational, the new system will include 70 terminals and 20 printers in various Family Division offices in the Allegheny County Courthouse and City-County Building. The mainframe computer is housed in a specially designed computer room in the basement of the City-County Building.

SCHEDULING CASES

The scheduling interval between the time as case is filed by the intake counselor and the date listed for a conference with a Domestic Relations Officer and/or the Court as follows:

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Scheduling Interval Between Filing New Support Cases and Hearing Counselor and/or Court Hearing	5 weeks	6 weeks
Scheduling Interval between Petitions for Modification of P/C Order and Court Hearing	6-8 weeks	10 weeks
Scheduling Interval Between Custody/Equity Cases and Court Hearing	2 months	2 months
Scheduling Interval for Protection From Abuse	Immediately on Filing	Immediately on Filing
Scheduling Interval for Final Hearing on Protection From Abuse	Not More Than 10 Days	Not More Than 10 Days

FAMILY DIVISION – Adult Section

Intensified effort

(Continued from page 19)

Anacomp Inc., of Indianapolis, Ind., the new system became operational late in December. But even prior to the transition to the new system, it attracted national attention. Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan, Family Division Manager Gary E. Stout and System Specialists William Pulkowski and Diane Callahan were invited to participate in a White House conference on child support in Washington in August where they demonstrated the new system.

In other areas of concern to the Adult Section of the Family Division, there was an increase in the number of divorce filings from 5,138 in the previous year to 5,243 and a slight decrease in the number of divorce cases disposed, from 4,679 in 1983 to 4,331.

Custody and Partial Custody case filings declined from 1,746 in 1983 to 1,550. There was, however, an increase in dispositions from 1,746 to 1,826.

Protection from abuse cases also were on the rise in 1984. There were 967 cases filed as compared to 799 in 1983. Dispositions also increased from 847 to 926.

A beacon for other family courts

Build a better mousetrap and the customers will beat a path to your door.

The Court proved that axiom by producing a system of domestic relations services and activities that gained national recognition. The result—scores of judges and representatives of other judicial jurisdictions came to our Court in search of advice and guidance.

In 1984 the Family Division-Adult Section's reputation for excellence resulted in an invitation to participate in a White House conference on child support where Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan and members of the staff demonstrated the Court's new family support computer system.

That conference was only a portion

colleagues?

of the audience in 1984 that turned to the Family Division of this Court for guidance.

Judge Eugene B. Strassburger, III, was appointed Program Chairman by the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts to organize and conduct a day-long training session for Family Law judges in Pennsylvania.

It was part of a Continuing Judicial Education Program held in Philadelphia during December for judges from all over the state.

Who better to assist Judge Strassburger than his own Family Division

(Continued on page 23)

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

	1983	1984
Requests to Find Absent Parents through Federal Parent Locator Service	1,046	1,591
Support Orders Reviewed*	52,455	59,317
Rules to Show Cause**	3,060	3,018
Wage Attachments Issued***	8,832	11,496
Amount Collected Through Wage Attachments	7,697,253.50	8,762,776.13
Amount Collected Through Unemployment Compensation Intercept Program	1,273,246.06	1,059,097.00
Amount Collected Through Internal Revenue Service Intercept Program	660,172.62	982,903.94
Amount Forwarded to Department of Public Assistance	3,378,773.77	3,613,314.85

*This figure includes current orders reviewed, referrals reviewed, referred, or enforcement and referrals form processors.

**The number of rules issued remain in check due to the use of Dunning Letters, to which a number of defendants have complied, and the continual attachment of wages and Unemployment Compensation.

***This figure includes the following: For 1983—6,449 wage and Unemployment Compensation attachments from the Enforcement Office and 2,383 wage attachments from court. For 1984—7,244 wage and Unemployment Compensation attachments from the Enforcement Office and 4,252 wage attachments from court.

FAMILY DIVISION CASELOAD

	1983			1984			
	Pending Jan. 1	Filed	Disposed	Pending Jan. 1	Filed	Disposed	Pending Dec. 31
Support*	3,084	12,191	14,411	864	12,335	12,444	755
Custody/Partial Custody	152	1,746	1,582	316	1,550	1,826	40
Protection from Abuse	64	799	847	16	967	926	57
Divorce	57	5,138	4,679	516	5,243	4,331	1,428
TOTAL	3,357	19,874	21,519	1,712	20,095	19,527	2,280

*This category is composed of all new referrals, paternity cases, modification petitions, contempt cases (rules to show cause) and URESA responding cases.

Contrasting trends in Juvenile Court

Trends that are somewhat in contradiction of one another have developed over the past two years in the Family Division's Juvenile Section.

The number of incidents of serious crime have declined from 27 percent of the referrals in 1982 to 21 percent in 1984. Serious crimes are defined as murder, assaults, robbery, arson, rape and burglary.

At the same time, however, the total number of referrals, which has been declining every year since 1975, started to increase during 1984. Since 1975 when the referrals at Juvenile Court totaled 8,727, they have steadily declined to a 1983 low of 4,173. In 1984 they totaled 4,212.

This trend is expected to continue well into the next decade, according to adolescent population forecasts.

Also, in contrast to the decline in serious crimes, there has been a marked in-

crease in the number of youths who were institutionalized by the Court. The number placed in public institutions increased from 143 in 1983 to 214 in 1984. The number of placements in private institutions, group homes and foster homes almost doubled from 438 in 1983 to 864.

Of somewhat less significance is the increase in the number of female offenders from 698 in 1983 to 767 in 1984. Over the past two years, the number of female referrals to Juvenile Court has increased from 16 to 18 percent of the total number of referrals.

More referrals also are entering the system from families with incomes of less than \$8,000. A total of 1,195 of the delinquent referrals in 1984 were from families in this income group. This is 44 percent of the total number of offenders for the year as compared to 40 percent two years ago.

1984 INFORMAL DISPOSITIONS BY INTAKE/PROBATION DEPARTMENT

	Number	Percent
Withdrawn	201	13.7%
Adjustment	989	67.3%
Warning Letters	3	0.2%
Referral to Social Agency	51	3.5%
Referral to Other Authorities	225	15.3%
Intrastate Courtesy Supervision	2	0.0%
TOTAL—INTAKE PROBATION	1,471	100.0%

1984 DISPOSITIONS AT FINAL COURT HEARINGS

	Number	Percent
Dismissed	618	22.5%
Discontinued	283	10.3%
Consent Decree	18	.7%
Probation	439	16.0%
Dismissal after Continuation	33	1.2%
Informal Probation	197	7.2%
Suspended Commitment	16	.6%
Commitment-Public Institution	214	7.8%
Commitment-Private Institution, Group & Foster Homes	864	31.5%
Certified to Criminal Court	7	.3%
Other	52	1.9%
TOTAL—FINAL COURT HEARING	2,741	100.0%
TOTAL—INTAKE/PROBATION	1,471	
TOTAL—1984 DISPOSITIONS	4,212	

AGE OF CHILD AT TIME OF REFERRAL BASED ON FINAL COURT HEARING

Age	Referrals	Percentage
10	20	.5%
11	42	1.5%
12	75	3%
13	190	7%
14	354	13%
15	560	20%
16	663	24%
17	711	26%
18 & over	126	5%
TOTAL	2,741	100%

DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CASELOAD AS REPORTED BY THE PROTHONOTARY

Cases Pending—January 1, 1984	385
Awaiting Hearing	132
Continuations	125
Deferred Dispositions	128
New Cases Filed	2,784
New	1,662
Recurrent	1,122
Cases Disposed Of	2,767
Commitments	590
Children & Youth Services Supervision	471
Probation	444
Informal Probation	187
Suspended Commitment	16
Dismissed	715
Discontinued	309
Consent Decree	12
Transfer to Criminal Division	5
Transfer to Other County	18
Cases Pending—January 1, 1985	402
Awaiting Hearing	162
Continuations	103
Deferred Dispositions	137

FAMILY DIVISION – Juvenile Section

A beacon

(Continued from page 21)

Judge R. Stanton Wettick, Administrative Judge of the Family Division, spoke to the gathering on how pensions affect family law. Judge William L. Standish followed with a case law update on child support and alimony.

During the year, the State Supreme

Court also appointed Judge Wettick to the Domestic Relations Section of the Civil Procedural Rules Committee.

Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan addressed the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association at its annual meeting in August of 1984 in Chicago on the "Impact of Mediation on the Judicial System."

A member of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Family Mediators and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Judge Kaplan also serves on the editorial board of the Mediation Quarterly and is Chairman of the Mediation/Conciliation Committee of the State Bar Association.

CARE FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Dispositions By Intake Department

Dispositions	Total
Withdrawn	27
Adjustment	94
Referral to Social Agency	92
Referral to School	2
Referral to Other Authority	42
TOTAL-INTAKE	257

TOTAL REFERRALS FOR THE COURT

	Delinquent	Dependent	Total
Unofficial Intake	1,471	257	1,728
Final Court Hearings	2,741	627	3,368
Total Referrals	4,212	884	5,096

RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN FOR ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY COURT

Pittsburgh	347
Suburbs	264
Eisewhere in Pennsylvania	10
Outside Pennsylvania	4
Unknown	2
TOTAL	627

SOURCE OF ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT

	TOTAL
POLICE REFERRALS	
Pittsburgh	8
Suburban	21
County	4
Constable	1
ALL OTHER SOURCES	
Social Agency	48
Child Welfare	628
Parents/Relatives	115
Other Courts	10
School	11
Other Sources	38
TOTAL	884

SEX AND RACE ANALYSIS OF DISPOSITIONS

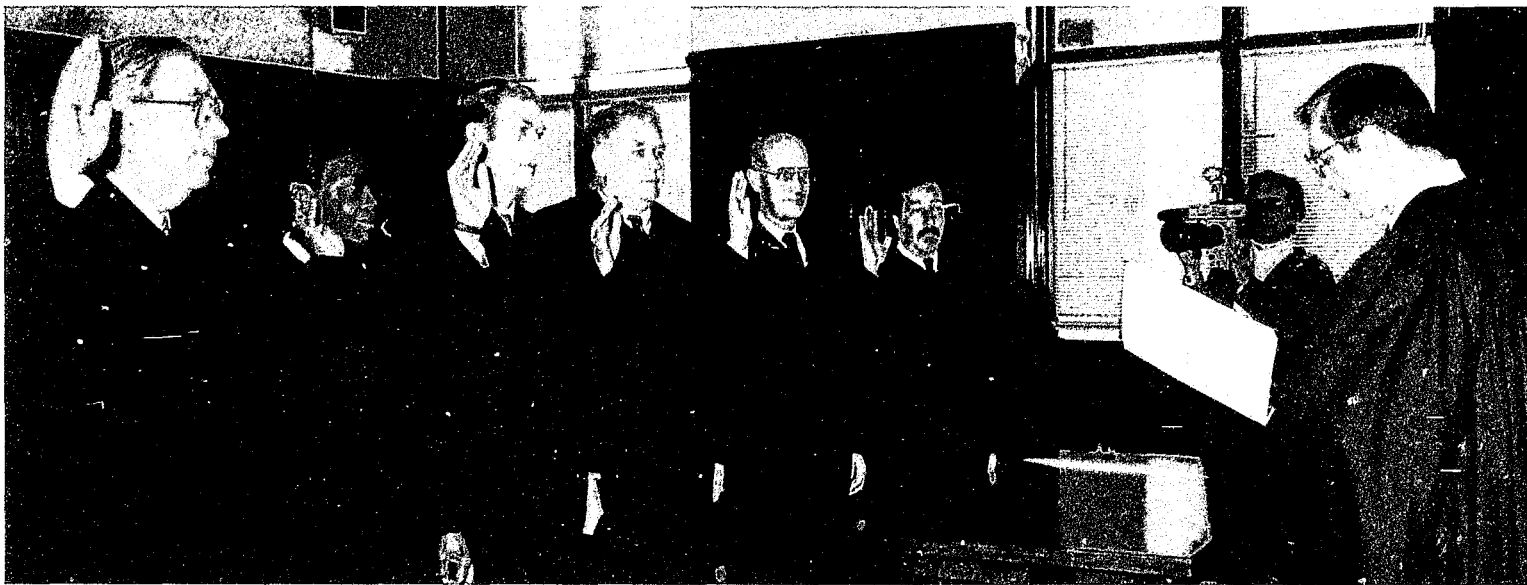
SEX	1982	1983	1984
Male	3,759 (84%)	3,475 (83%)	3,445 (82%)
Female	705 (16%)	698 (17%)	767 (18%)
TOTAL	4,464	4,173	4,212
RACE			
Black	1,750 (39%)	1,746 (42%)	1,847 (44%)
White	2,692 (60%)	2,405 (57%)	2,323 (55%)
Other	22 (1%)	22 (1%)	42 (1%)
TOTAL	4,464	4,173	4,212

SOURCE OF ALL REFERRALS DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT

POLICE REFERRALS	Number	%
Pittsburgh	1,184	28
Suburbs	1,263	30
Other Police	13	
County Police	166	4
Subtotal	2,626	62%
ALL OTHER SOURCES		
Social Agency	101	2
Child Welfare	22	1
Probation Officer	461	11
Certified by Criminal Court	1	
Other Courts	96	2
Parents/Relatives	262	6
Injured Party	501	12
Non-Injured Party	64	2
School	69	2
Self	9	
Subtotal	1,586	38%
TOTAL	4,212	100%

REASONS FOR REFERRALS

OFFENSE	Number
Murder	0
Involuntary Manslaughter	1
Aggravated Assault	86
Rape	12
Arson	8
Burglary & Criminal Trespass	503
Robbery	100
Unauthorized Use of Auto	72
Theft (Excludes Retail)	440
Simple Assault	450
Sexual Offenses (Excludes Rape)	68
Retail Theft	79
Possession of Weapons	1
Possession/Sale of Marijuana	109
Possession/Use/Sale of Narcotics	12
Disorderly Conduct	49
False Alarms	4
Receiving Stolen Property	161
Criminal Mischief	123
Malicious Use of Telephone	42
Resisting Arrest	9
Escape from Institution	37
Failure to Adjust in an Institution	69
Violation of Criminal Type Probation	176
Failure to Pay Fine	49
Terroristic Threats	33
Possession/Drinking Alcohol	33
Hit and Run	10
Other Traffic Offenses	3
Driving While Intoxicated	34
Reckless Driving	1
Homicide by Vehicle	1
Other Delinquency	1,437
TOTAL	4,212



ADMINISTERING the oath of office to the new Judges is Common Pleas Court President Judge Michael J. O'Malley (right). The new Judges (left to right) are: John M. Feeney, Doris A. Smith, Robert A. Kelly, James H. McLean, Donald J. Lee and Charles F. Scarlata.

The new Judges

Many months of waiting for the appointment of new judges to fill four existing vacancies and two new judgeships ended in late November with State Senate approval of Governor Dick Thornburgh's appointments.

The new judges took the oath of office in a joint ceremony on December 20 in the Civil Division's Jury Assignment Room.

Sworn in were: Doris A. Smith, Donald J. Lee, Robert A. Kelly, John M. Feeney, James H. McLean and Charles F. Scarlata.

Judge Smith, a partner in the law firm of Brown & Smith, is a resident of Pittsburgh and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh law School. She also was the solicitor to County Controller Frank J. Lucchino.

Judge Lee, a member of the law firm of Dougherty, Larimer & Lee, is a resident of Bethel Park and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University Law School.

Judge Kelly, a resident of Upper St. Clair, was a partner in the law firm of Cauley, Birsic & Conflenti and a graduate of both Duquesne University and the Duquesne University Law School.

Judge Feeney, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and its Law School, is a resident of Pittsburgh and was a partner in the law firm of Baskin & Steingut.

Judge McLean, the Solicitor for Allegheny County, is a resident of Bethel Park and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh Law School.

Judge Scarlata, an attorney in private practice and former Chairman of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission, is a resident of Pittsburgh and a graduate of Duquesne University and the Duquesne University Law School.

The existing vacancies were created with the 1983 election of Judge Francis Barry of the Civil Division to Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court; Judge Joseph A. Del Sole of the Civil Division and Judge Patrick R. Tamilia of the Criminal Division to Pennsylvania Superior Court; and Judge Nicholas P. Papadakos, Administrative Judge of the Civil Division, to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Judge Barry's vacancy had existed from July 21, 1983, until last December's swearing in ceremony.



TRADITIONAL ROBINING of the new judge is performed for Judge McLean by his wife (left), Mrs. Carolyn McLean, and Mother, Mrs. Margaret McLean.

The two new judgeships were created by the State Legislature in response to a plea for more judges by President Judge Michael J. O'Malley of Common Pleas Court because of the increased caseload.



NOT A VACANT seat was to be found in the Civil Division Jury Assignment Room late in December when relatives and friends of the Court's six new judges turned out for the swearing-in ceremony. Judge John M. Feeney (front center-above) sits with his former law partner Philip Baskin while awaiting the start of the ceremony. Judge Doris A. Smith (below) receives the congratulations of Senior Judge Hugh C. Boyle as she stands in the receiving line with the other new Judges at the conclusion of proceedings.



ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

30% increase in estate hearings



Judge Paul R. Zavarella
Administrative Judge

There was a 30 percent increase in the number of hearings relating to estate matters heard by the Judges of the Orphans' Court Division in 1984.

The total number of hearings was 849 compared to 651 in the previous year. The number of accounts filed by executors, administrators, guardians and trustees in estate matters totaled 2,199. Decrees of distribution which were entered amounted to 2,646.

There were 667 petitions presented during the year involving adoption matters. Adoption decrees entered totaled 415. Total decrees entered were 661 and another 1,383 orders of court were signed continuing hearings, amending petitions, directing publication, accepting jurisdiction, and appointing counsel. A total of 107 minors allowances were investigated and entered. There were 135 requests from adoptees or adoptive parents for verification, information as to identity and medical information which were received and investigated. Also, 185 hearings were scheduled involving determinations and 40 developed into contested matters.

Decrees ordered by the Court in 1984 in Civil Commitment proceedings totaled 11,009. This was an increase of 1,751 over decrees entered in 1983.

Hearings involved in entering of these decrees increased from 4,038 in 1983 to 4,850 in 1984, a 20 percent increase. Seventy petitions for review were filed.



Judge J. Warren Watson



Judge William S. Rahausser



Judge Eunice Ross



Judge Nathan Schwartz

There also was an increase in the number of decrees entered in incompetency proceedings during 1984 from 1,232 in the previous year to 1,361. A total of 581 hearings were conducted.

Petitions filed in all other matters in the Orphans' Court totaled 1,869, an increase of 152 over the previous year.

Petitions filed by the Attorney General and citations awarded against fiduciaries to show cause why they should not file transfer inheritance tax returns and pay inheritance tax due increased from 138 in 1983 to 288 in 1984.

PETITIONS FILED:	1983	1984	AUDIT HEARINGS OF ACCOUNTS	1983	1984
Additional bonds	187	159	Accounts filed by Executors, Administrators, Trustees and Guardians	2,299	2,199
Appointment of Guardians of the Estates of Minors	51	81	Small Estates (\$10,000.00 or less)	556	447
Appointment of Guardians of the person of Minors	56	50	TOTAL DECREES OF DISTRIBUTION:	2,855	2,646
Lifting of suspensions of Distributions	52	50	HEARINGS:		
Sale of Real Estate	271	275	Hearings on claims of creditors against Estates, Exceptions to Accounts, and questions of distribution involving construction of testamentary writings	307	302
Petitions and Citation against Fiduciaries to file accounts or to show cause why they should not be removed, etc.	135	165	Appeals from Decrees of the Register of Wills in grant of Letters of Administration, Inheritance Tax Appraisals and Assessments	14	23
Petition filed by the Attorney General and citations awarded against fiduciaries to show cause why they should file transfer inheritance tax inventories and/or pay transfer inheritance tax due (Figure included under HEARINGS)	138	288	Annulment of spouses' election to take against the Will	6	10
Miscellaneous Petitions and Motions	827	773	Will Contests	9	11
TOTAL PETITIONS	1,717	1,869	Sales of Real Estate on Citation and Return Day	24	24
ARGUMENT LIST			Miscellaneous hearings, including presumed decedents, absentees, correction of birth and marriage records	18	26
Exceptions heard by Cosurt en banc	68	52	Proceedings against Fiduciaries	135	165
OPINIONS FILED			Hearings on delinquent Transfer Inheritance Tax due	138	288
Opinions filed by the Court	56	55	TOTAL HEARINGS:	651	849
PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCES:					
Docketed	218	253			

ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ADOPTIONS

PETITIONS	1983	1984
Adoption Petitions	425	379
Voluntary Relinquishments Petitions	84	40
Petitions to Confirm Consents Presented	89	118
Involuntary Termination Petitions	121	119
Voluntary Relinquishments with Involuntary Terminations	1	6
Confirm Consents with Involuntary Terminations	0	5
TOTAL PETITIONS PRESENTED	720	667

DECREES

Adoption Decrees	428	375
Voluntary Relinquishment	89	439
Petitions to Confirm Consents	62	121
Involuntary Termination Decrees	109	116
Voluntary Relinquishments with Involuntary Terminations	1	7
Confirm Consents with Involuntary Terminations	0	3
TOTAL DECREES ENTERED	689	661

ORDERS OF COURT

On all Petitions presented, continuing hearings, amending the record, directing publication, accepting jurisdiction, permitting interrogatories	1,351	1,276
Minors Allowances	88	107
TOTAL ORDERS OF COURT SIGNED	1,439	1,383

COMBINED TOTAL DECREES AND ORDERS SIGNED

2,128 2,044

There were 135 requests from adoptive parents or adoptees for verification, adoption certificates or medical information. There were 46 requests for assistance in securing amended birth certificates on the basis of adoptions.

CIVIL COMMITMENTS	1983	1984
Hearings involved in the entering of decrees*	4,038	4,850
Petitions presented	3,744	4,605
Petitions withdrawn, discontinued, dismissed or continued**	518	604
Decrees ordered	4,897	5,626
Other orders***	76	123
Miscellaneous	23	51
TOTAL ORDERS OR DECREES	9,258	11,009

*173 of these were scheduled for Judges and 4,677 for the Mental Health Review Officers who also heard 125 Juvenile Court cases and 83 Criminal Court cases.

**These also include petitions dismissed by Orders of Court because of Voluntary Commitments, discharges of Respondents from hospitals or withdrawn by petitioner prior to hearing.

***These include Orders of Court continuing or postponing hearings, ordering transfers of patients from one facility to another, etc. These orders do not include, however, the Preliminary Order which is attached to each petition and which must be signed by a Judge to set it for hearing. Each order represents a meeting of a Judge of this Division with an attorney or a clerk of this Division.

INCOMPETENCY PROCEEDINGS

	1983	1984
Number of Petitions Presented	407	496
Temporary Guardians Appointed	67	80
Permanent Guardians Appointed	246	263
Successor Guardians Appointed	19	17
Guardians Discharged	62	70
Cases Continued	107	109
Cases Dismissed	112	62
Bonds Approved	70	76
Adjudication of Competency	4	5
Number of Allowances Entered	138	183
TOTAL ORDERS ENTERED*	1,232	1,361
Total Dispositions	510	508
Number of hearings in above cases	533	581

*Total orders include the Preliminary orders on the petitions, the appointments of Temporary, Permanent and Successor Guardians, Allowances, Discharges and Dismissals.

200 years of Court History to be observed

A 1988 Bicentennial Committee has been formed to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

The first Pennsylvania court held in Allegheny County was a session of the Court of Quarter Sessions on December 16, 1788, with Judge George Wallace presiding.

The committee was formed as a cooperative effort of Common Pleas Court and the Allegheny County Bar Association. President Judge Michael J. O'Malley is Chairman and earlier this year appointed several subcommittees to begin preparations for the observance.

These subcommittees and their chairmen are: Program, Alexander Unkovic; Ways and Means, Cloyd R. Mellott; Historical Reference, Gilbert J. Helwig; Futurist, Judge Joseph F. Weis, Jr., of the Federal Third Circuit Court; and Communications, Richard B. McCarthy.

Other Judges who are members of the 1988 Court Bicentennial Committee are Federal District Court Judges Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., and Carol Los Mansmann and Common Pleas Court Judges Bernard L. McGinley, Ralph H. Smith, Jr., Paul R. Zavarella, Eunice Ross and J. Warren Watson.

The Committee members also include: Senior Judges Thomas W. Pomeroy, Jr., and William F. Cercone and attorneys Charles Arensberg, June S. Schulberg, John J. McLean, Jr., Walter T. McGough, Robert J. Dodds, Jr., Franklyn E. Conflenti, Philip Baskin, Samuel Y. Stroh, James D. Morton, Judd N. Poffinberger, Joy Flowers Conti, Thomas M. Schmidt, William F. Schulz, Jr., David Lee Meister, Stanley M. Stein, Harold R. Schmidt, Dean John J. Sciallo of the Duquesne University Law School, W. Edward Sell, Allen H. Berkman, Kerry A. Kearney, Thomas L. Cooper, William R. Caroselli, Philip A. Miscimarra, Ronald R. Davenport, Thomas J. Sweeney, Jr., Mary M. D. Cheever, Ray W. Brown, and Richard L. Fischer.

Edward S. Kiely is the Chamber of Commerce representative on the Committee and Ellen Rosenthal represents History Associates.

A Citizens Subcommittee will be named at a future date by Judge O'Malley for the purpose of encouraging broad community participation in the 1988 Bicentennial.



JUDGE SOBCHOK SUKHAROMNA (center) of Thailand meets with President Judge Michael J. O'Malley (second from left) and the Administrative Judges of Common Pleas Court (left to right) R. Stanton Wettick of the Family Division, Paul R. Zavarella of the Orphans' Court Division and Robert E. Dauer of the Criminal Division. Missing from the photograph is Civil Division Administrative Judge Emil E. Narick.

Thailand Judge visits Court

Common Pleas Court was the only trial court in the United States on the itinerary of Judge Sobchok Sukharomna, Assistant Supreme Court Judge with Thailand's Ministry of Justice, when he visited the United States last Spring.

Judge Sukharomna toured the Court's computer facilities on May 7 and attended a luncheon in his honor hosted by President Judge Michael J. O'Malley at the Top of the Triangle Restaurant in downtown Pittsburgh.

The visitor was in the United States under the sponsorship of the Asia Foundation of San Francisco to become familiar with the procedures necessary to install computers in the courts of his country. He is helping to develop a computer center in the Thailand Ministry of Justice which will automate the courts and provide computer access to casebook material.

The Asia Foundation also arranged an observation tour of U.S. Courts equipped with information systems for Judge Sukharomna; his attendance at the National Conference on Court Computerization in Chicago in April and visits to several private computer hardware and software vendors following the Chicago conference.

Judge Sukharomna previously visited the United States in 1980 and 1981 when he did graduate work in Laws at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, under a Fulbright Scholarship. He is a graduate of Thammarat University and the Institute of Legal Education in Bangkok, Thailand.