



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

BY PRESIDENT JUDGE EDWARD D. REIBMAN

The Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania's Thirty-First Judicial District, is pleased to provide the 2015 Annual Report.

As the County continues to grow, and society evolves, so does the workload of the Court. From 2013 to 2015, the Court experienced an increase of 19% in new Protection from Abuse cases and a 13% increase in new custody cases. In addition, the Court disposed of over 5,000 criminal cases and over 4,000 civil cases. During the past year, our Adult Probation/Parole Office supervised a caseload of more than 5,000 offenders. Also, our Domestic Relations Section managed a caseload of more than 11,000 active support cases. In 2015, the Domestic Relations Section collected \$48 million in support payments, exceeded all of the bench marks for its performance measures, and received the maximum amount of state incentive funds. Finally, our Juvenile Probation Office was selected to participate in research projects with Temple, Vanderbilt and Rutgers universities, and has exceeded all benchmarks enabling the county to receive the maximum amount of state incentive funds.

At the end of the year, Judge William Ford retired after 24 years as Judge. He presided over the full range of civil, criminal, juvenile and orphans' court matters during his tenure. His productivity, sense of fairness, decency, pleasant demeanor and common courtesy to everyone who came in contact with him will be missed.

The end of the year also brought the retirement of our two Senior Judges, Lawrence Brenner and Alan Black. They were of enormous help to us in moving our work.

Judge Carol McGinley relinquished her position of President Judge in September, just short of completing a full five-year term. Her tenure as President Judge was marked by growth in caseload, Courthouse renovation and vastly improved technological services. Fortunately, she continues to serve as an active Judge.

My colleagues elected me President Judge in September. Judge McGinley has been extremely helpful in effecting a smooth transition and a source of sound guidance and close friendship. I am very much indebted to her and the other Judges for their support and cooperation.

The Court consists of 296 full-time and 79 part-time employees with an operating budget of \$40 million. Given the volume, nature, complexity and difficulty of work assigned to it, the Court is an extremely busy and well-run operation. The Court and the citizens of Lehigh County are fortunate to have employees committed to improving the administration of justice in Lehigh County, and the Court's success reflects their hard work.

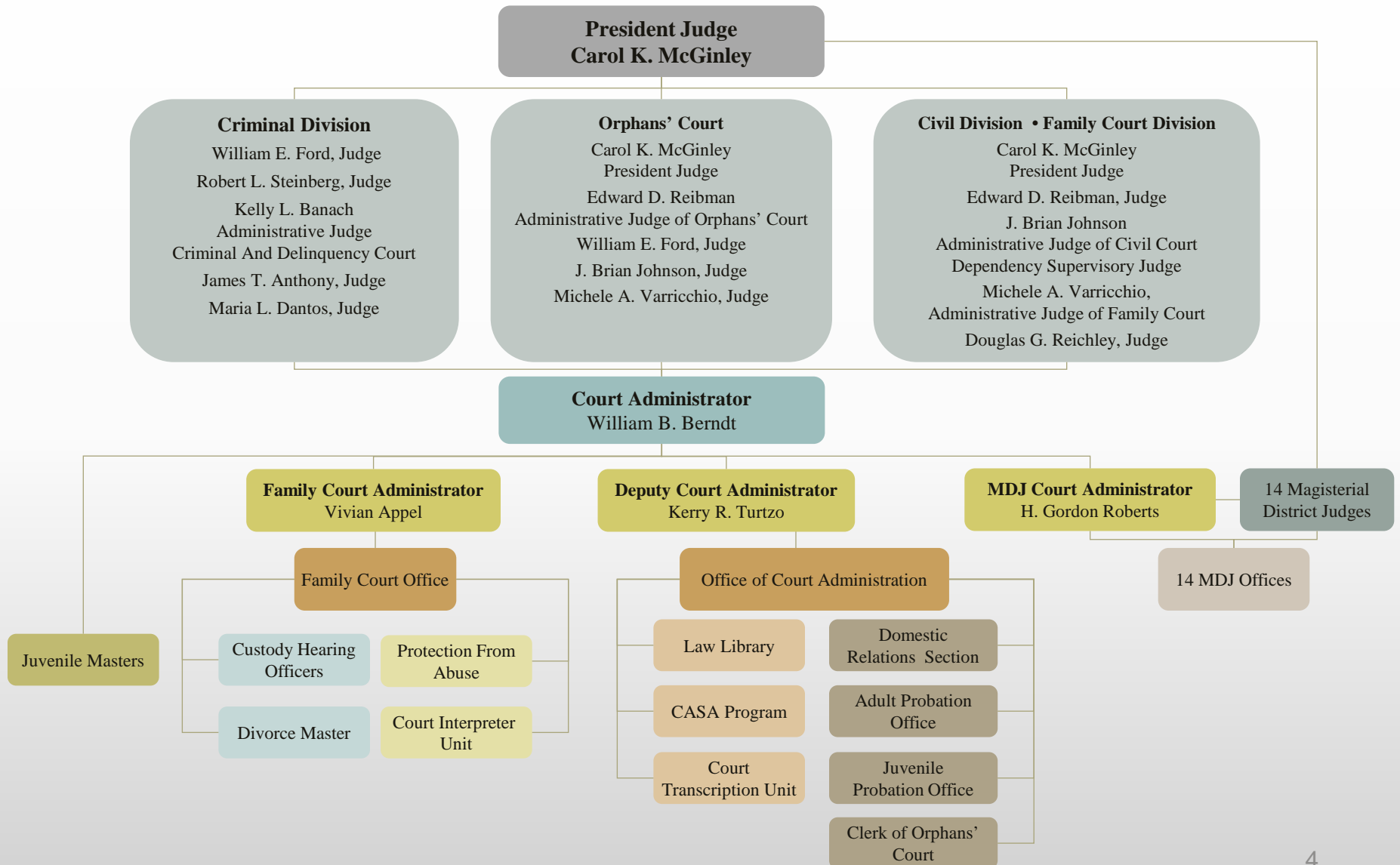
The Court remains fully committed to provide a fair, honorable, independent and impartial judiciary for all who may come before it.



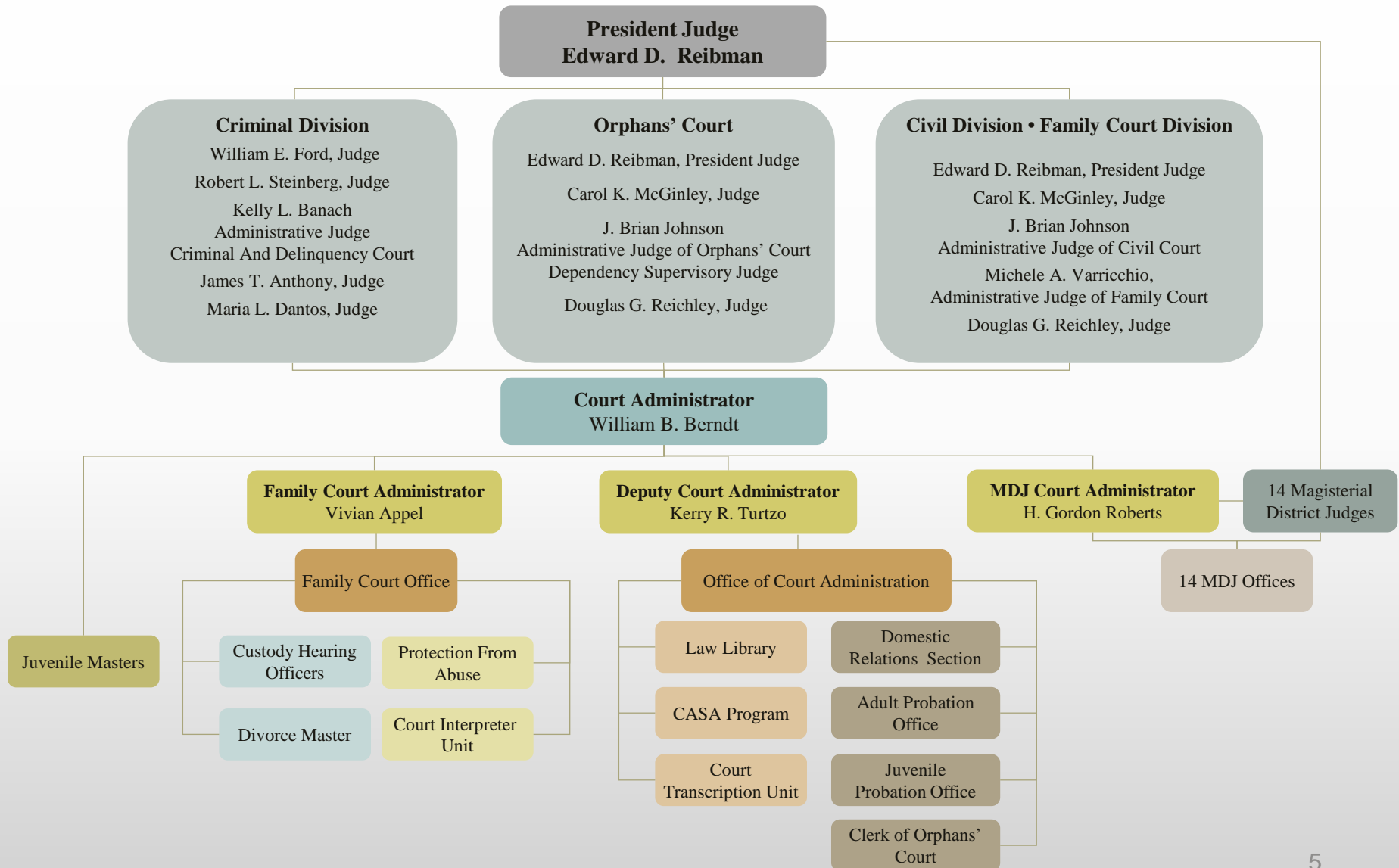
JUDGES SERVING THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS IN 2015

Judge Carol K. McGinley
Judge Edward D. Reibman
Judge William E. Ford
Judge Robert L. Steinberg
Judge J. Brian Johnson
Judge Kelly L. Banach
Judge James T. Anthony
Judge Maria L. Dantos
Judge Michele A. Varricchio
Judge Douglas G. Reichley
Senior Judge Lawrence J. Brenner

January 1, 2015 to September 1, 2015



September 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015





Court Administration

Court Administration

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

In 2015, District Court Administrator, William B. Berndt, and Deputy Court Administrator, Kerry R. Turtzo, were responsible for supervision of all court-related departments of the Judiciary. In Lehigh County, Jury Management, the Court Transcription Unit, Library Information Services and the CASA program are considered components of Court Administration.

The responsibility of the Court Administrator is to manage the non-judicial functions of the Court under the guidance of the President Judge. The complexity of the modern court requires the delegation of administrative functions to the Court Administrator. The Court Administrator increases judges' time for adjudication by accomplishing the administrative functions of the Court.

FUNCTIONS

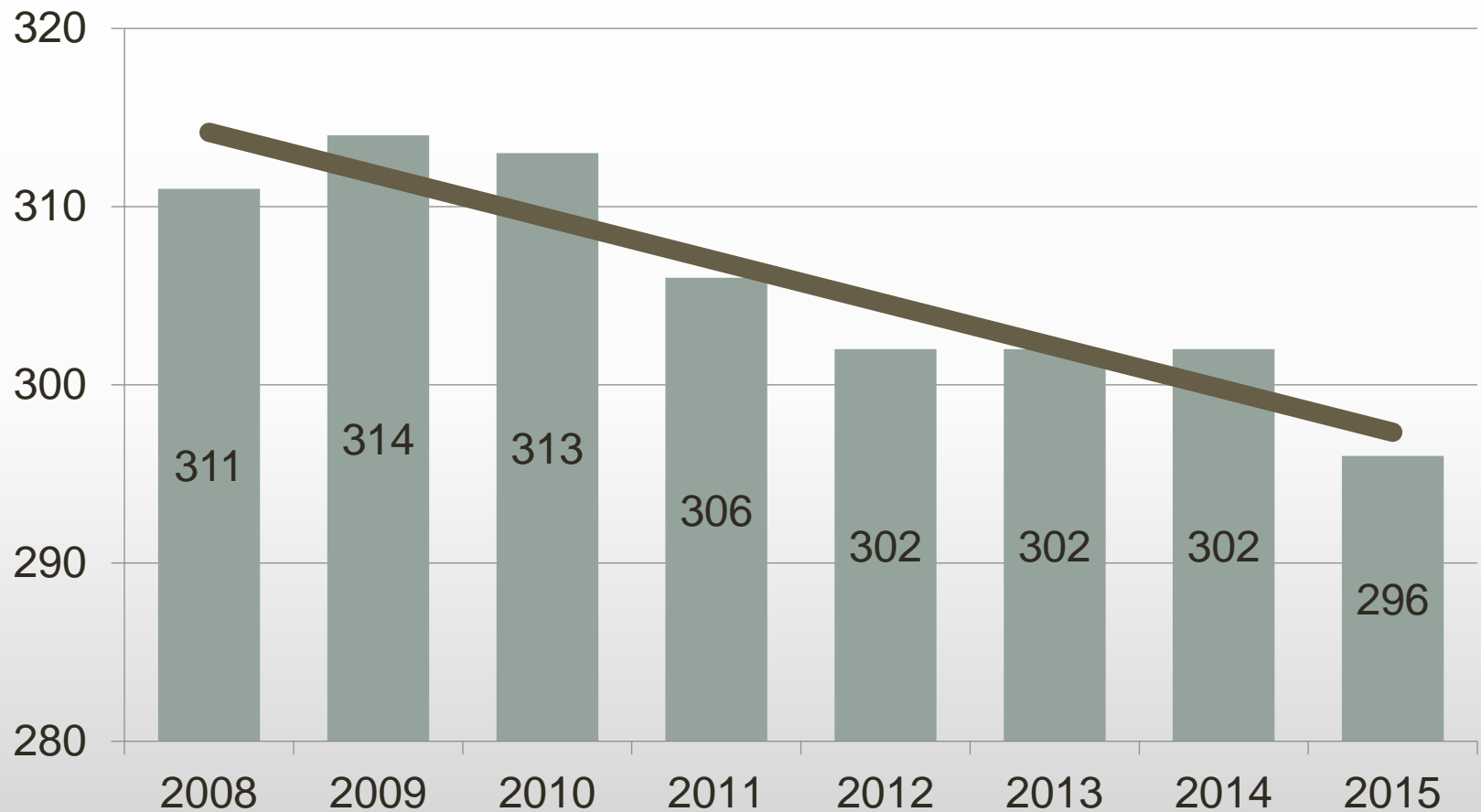
- Personnel
- Fiscal Management
- Calendar & Scheduling Management
- Jury Management
- Information Systems
- Facilities Management
- Equipment & Technology Management
- Legal Resource Procurement
- Records Control
- Public Information

Personnel

JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES BY DEPARTMENT								
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Court Administration	87	86	85	84	83	83	83	76
Adult Probation	49	51	51	51	50	50	50	52
Juvenile Probation	40	40	40	38	49	49	49	48
Special Probation	11	11	11	11	0	0	0	0
Orphans' Court	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Domestic Relations	62	64	64	62	62	62	62	62
District Judge	53	53	53	53	51	51	51	51
Law Library	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
Total	311	314	313	306	302	302	302	296

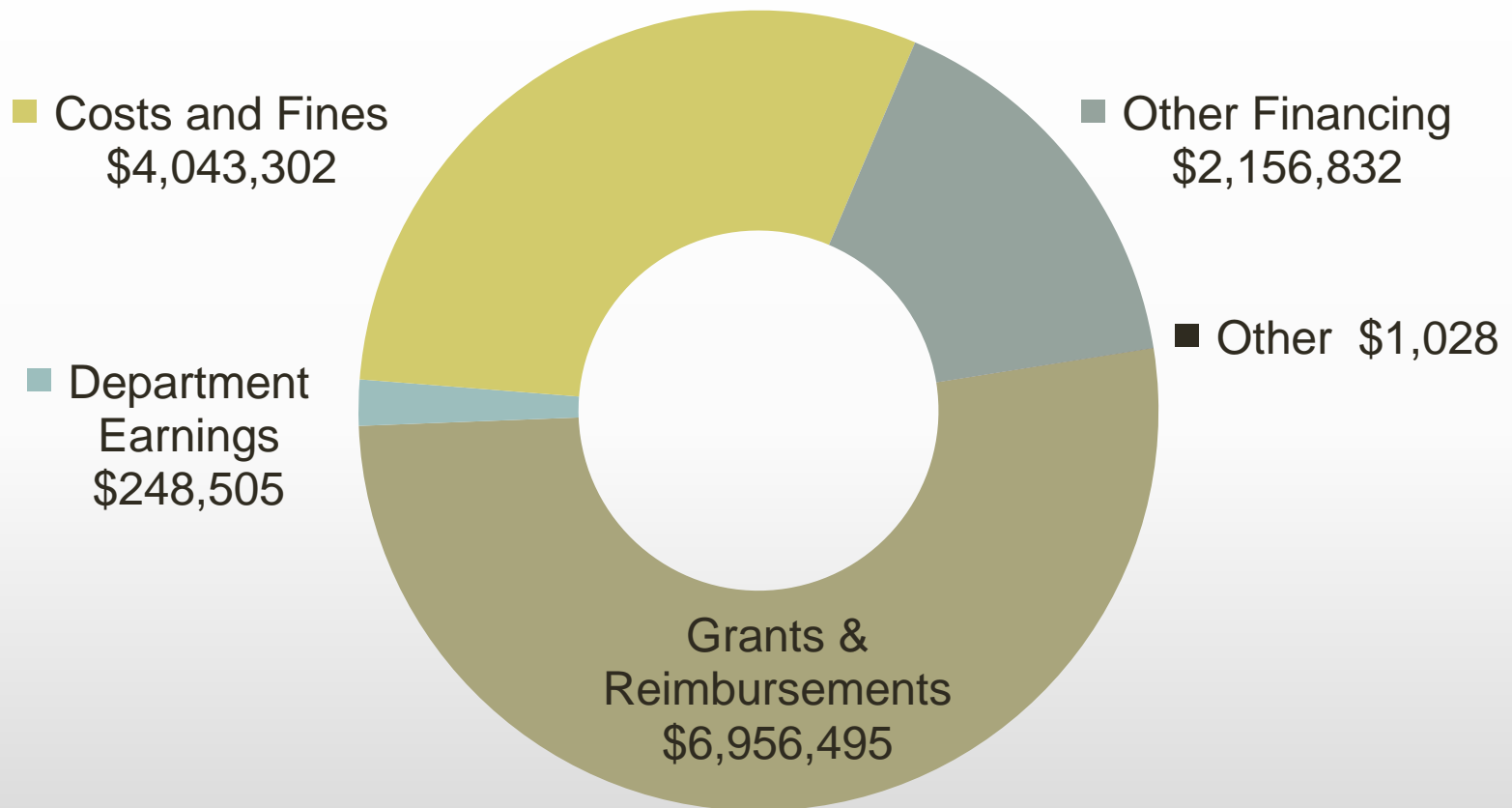
Personnel

TOTAL JUDICIAL PERSONNEL



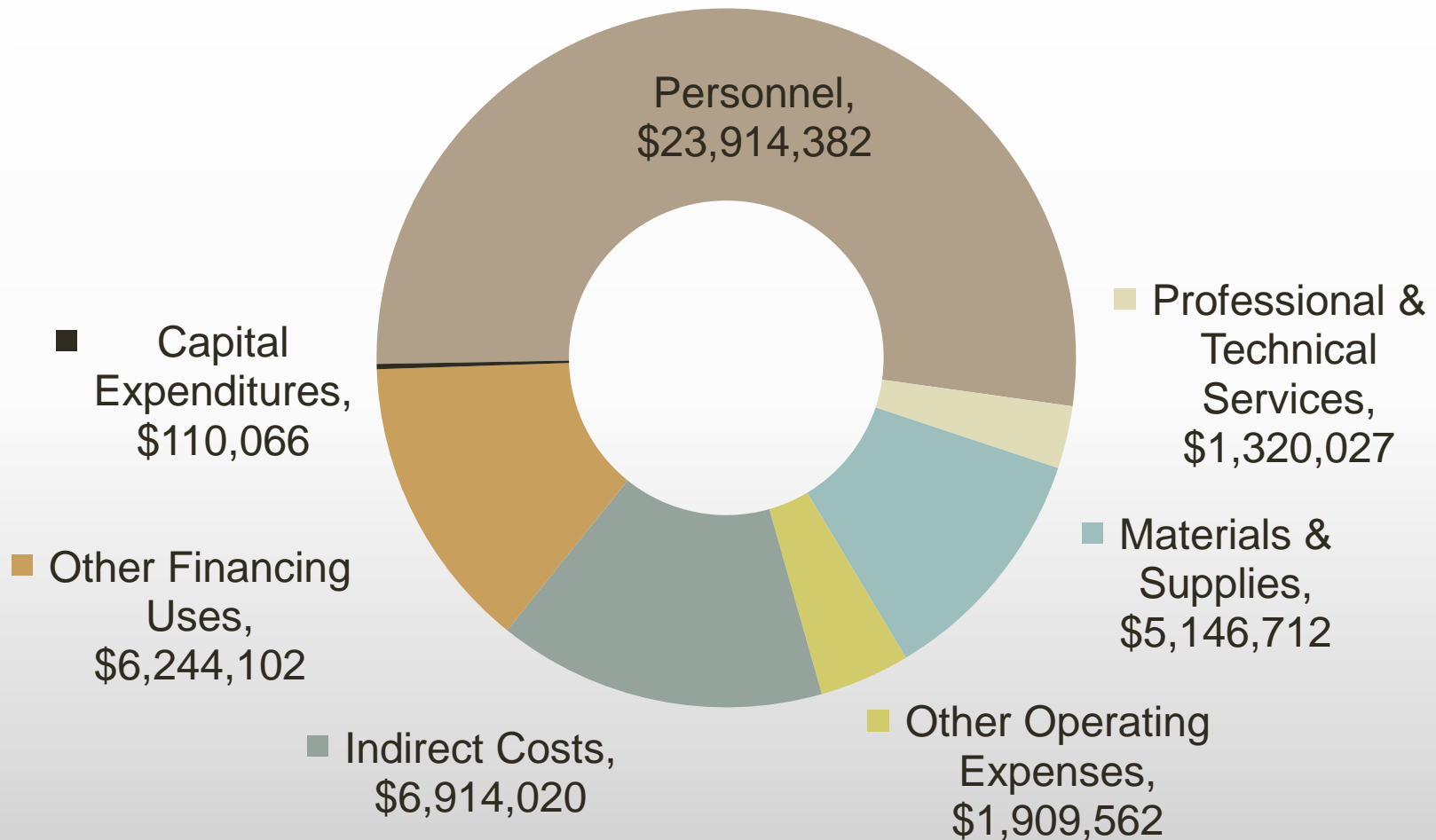
Fiscal Management

2015 COURT BUDGETED REVENUE



Fiscal Management

2015 COURT BUDGETED EXPENSES



Grant Funding

The Court of Common Pleas pursues federal and state grants to offset the costs of court programs.

1

Most grant funding is available in the areas of Adult and Juvenile Probation and is often earmarked for the creation of new programs.

3

The Juvenile Probation Department works closely with the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth to produce a “needs-based” budget maximizing state assistance to the Court.

2

Adult Probation receives state funding based on the rate of compliance with state-wide standards for probation operations. Currently the Lehigh County Adult Probation Department receives the maximum in state funding.

4

The Court is reimbursed in the form of services at state youth institutions and funding for some delinquent youth placement expenditures.

Grant Funding

2015 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD GRANT ACTIVITIES

Project Title	Grant	Grant Amount	Department	Status
Drug/Alcohol Restrictive Intermediate Punishment/Adult Probation Intermediate Program Enhancement	PCCD	\$838,212	SCA/Adult Probation	Awarded
Grant-In-Aid Continuing Program for the Improvement of Adult Probation Services	PBPP	\$603,846	Adult Probation	Awarded
Grant-In-Aid/Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy Implementation Plan	JCJC	\$467,389	Juvenile Probation	Awarded
Disproportionate Minority Contact	PCCD	\$35,248	Juvenile Probation	Awarded
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Training Grant	JCJC	\$23,900	Juvenile Probation	Awarded

Jury Management 2015

Lehigh County has adopted the “one day, one trial” method of juror selection to increase the efficiency of the jury system while making a minimal imposition on the lives of our residents. Citizens selected for jury duty will serve one day, or, if selected for a jury, will serve the duration of the trial. This method ensures juries are available to judges and keeps only those jurors necessary. The process of random juror selection is supervised by Court Operations Officer, Gayle Fisher. The reception and orientation of jurors, followed by selection and control of juries, requires cooperation between jury management staff and courtroom staff.

14,880

Jury
Summonses
Mailed

2,164

Jurors
Reporting for
Duty

1,435

Jurors Sent
to Voir Dire
for Selection

363

Jurors
Impaneled or
Sworn In

Court Appointed Special Advocate

The Lehigh County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program provides consistent, credible and trained volunteers who advocate for Lehigh County's abused and neglected children in Juvenile Dependency Court in accordance with the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act (Title 42 Pa.C.S. § 6301 et. seq.). These CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the Court and are appointed to the most complicated dependency cases.



Court Appointed Special Advocate

55

Active CASA Volunteers
Donated 5000+ hours
in 2015

82

Abused and Neglected
Children Served



#3

The 3rd Largest
CASA Program
in Pennsylvania

8

CASA Volunteers appointed as
Educational Decision Makers
for 10 Children

Permanent Homes 2015

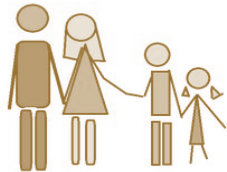
A CASA volunteer's objective is to assist the Court in making decisions that will provide safe, secure and permanent homes for at-risk children. A CASA representative attends every hearing for their children. CASA volunteers aid the court by submitting written reports making recommendations in the best interest of the child.

1



Child
Aged Out of
Foster Care
With a
Transition Plan

2



Kinship Care
Solutions
Found

8



Children were
Reunited with
Biological
Family

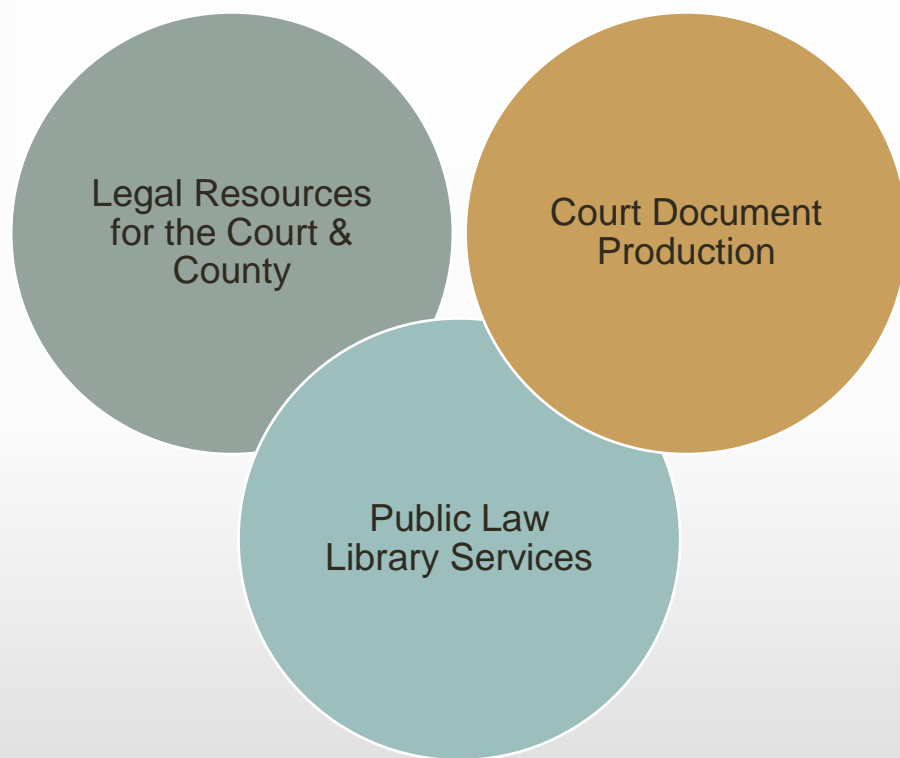
7



Children were
Adopted

Library Information Services

LEHIGH COUNTY LAW LIBRARY'S TRIPLE MISSION

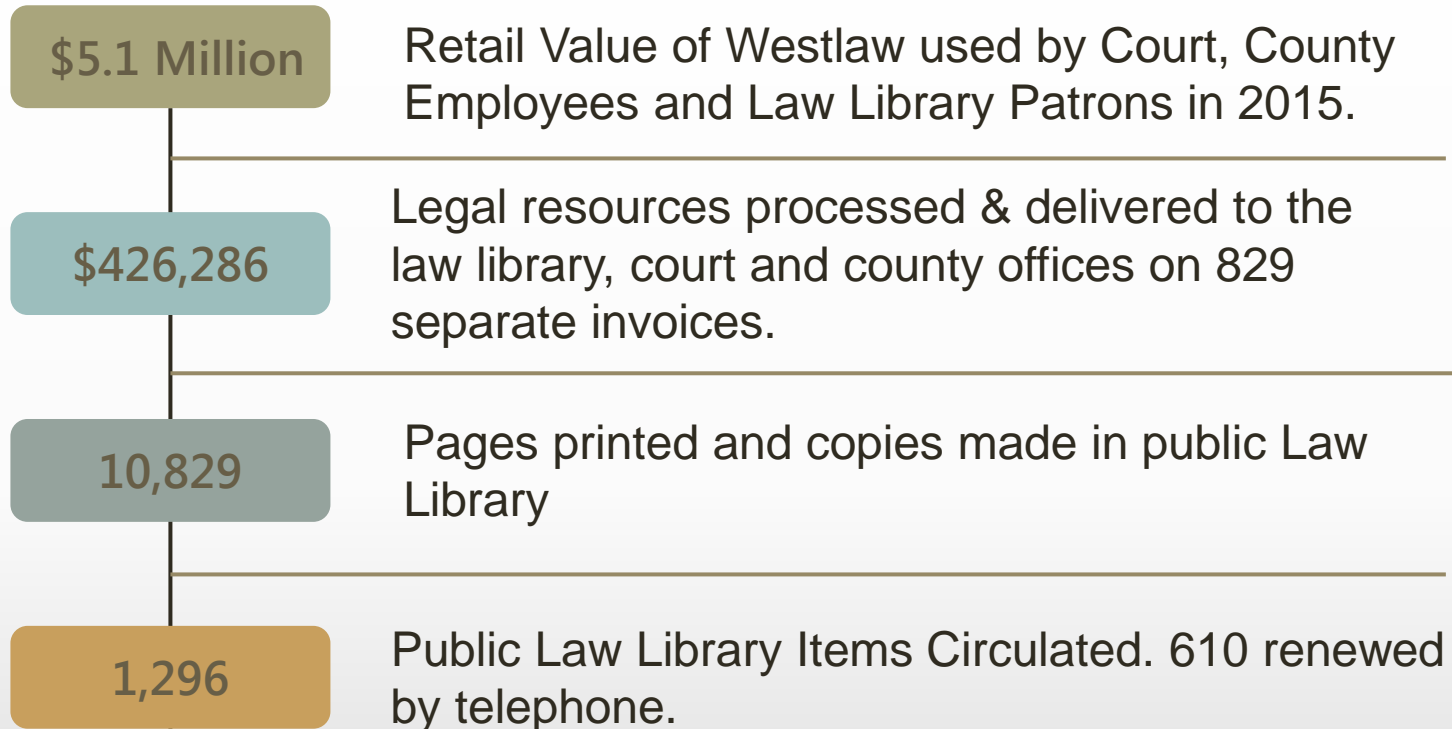


Founded in 1869, the Lehigh County Law Library fills a critical niche in the community.

Lorelei A. Broskey, M.L.S., Director, oversees the three related missions of the department—

- Providing judges, court, and county employees with essential legal sources necessary for job performance
- Providing the only public law library in Lehigh County
- Providing document production and assistance to courthouse offices

Library Information Services





The Court of Common Pleas

Court Divisions

Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

Criminal Court

**Juvenile
Delinquency
Court**

Civil/Family Court Division

**Civil Court
Operations**

Family Court

**Juvenile
Dependency**

Orphans' Court Division

**The Orphans'
Court**

**Office of the
Clerk of Orphans'
Court**

Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

In 2015, the Court received 4,676 new adult criminal cases. Seventeen of those new adult cases were homicide filings.

The judges assigned to the Criminal/Juvenile Court Division are responsible for handling a caseload comprised of adult criminal cases as well as juvenile delinquency matters. Furthermore, the judges in this division handle appeals of summary cases, forfeiture matters, contempt of Domestic Relations' court orders, and contempt of cost and fine orders.

JUDGES SERVING IN THE CRIMINAL DIVISION IN 2015

William E. Ford, Judge

Robert L. Steinberg, Judge

Kelly L. Banach

Administrative Judge
Criminal And Delinquency Court

James T. Anthony, Judge

Maria L. Dantos, Judge

Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

ADULT CRIMINAL COURT

The Court utilizes an individual calendaring system in the Criminal/Juvenile Court Division. The assigned judge handles the cases from formal arraignment through disposition. In addition, all probation and parole violations as well as post sentence motions are handled by the judge who sentenced the defendant.

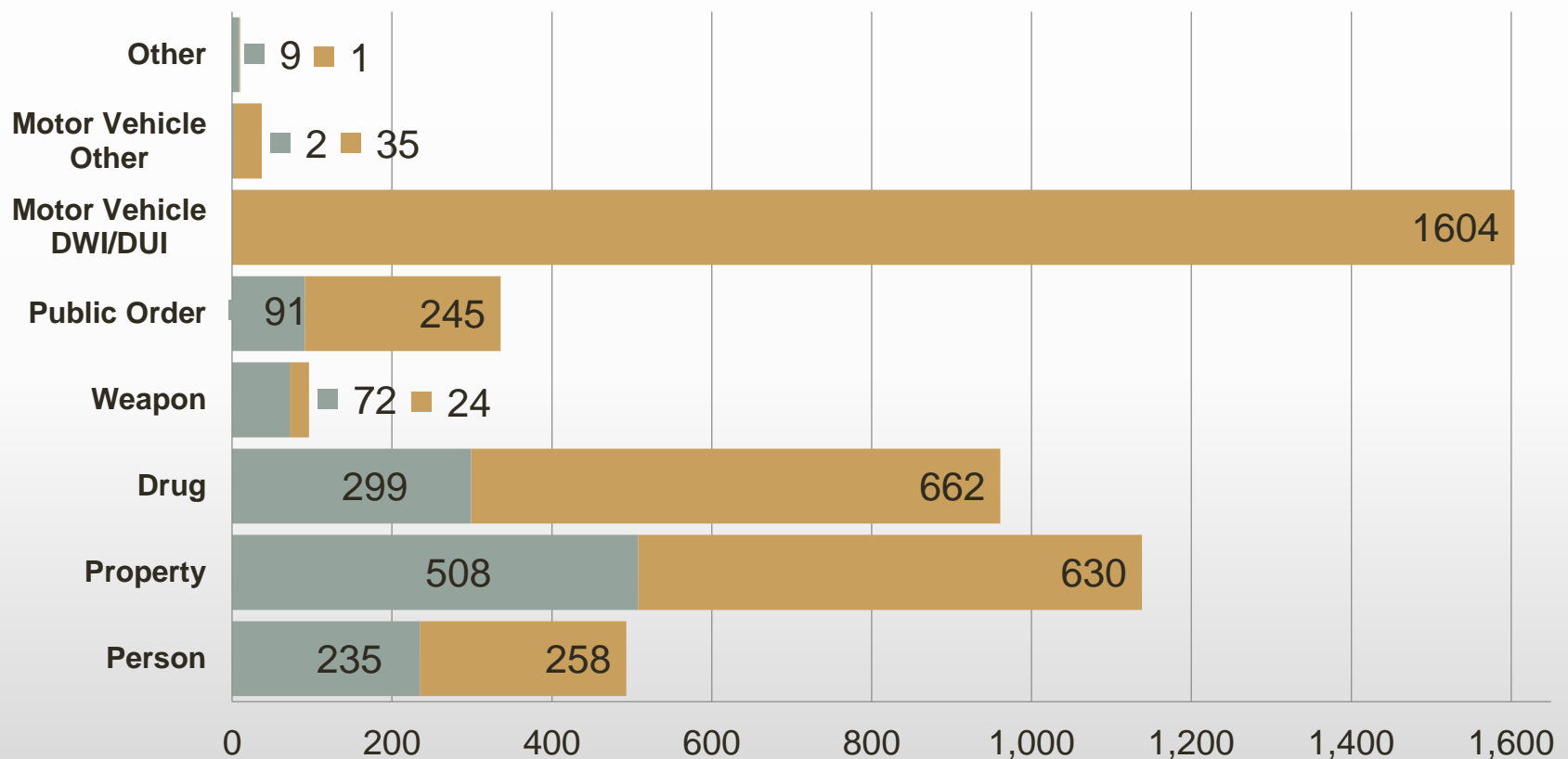
In 2015, the five judges of the Criminal/Juvenile Court Division processed 5057 adult criminal cases.

CRIMINAL FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS FOR 2015	
New Cases	4676
Reopened Cases	223
ARD	1705
Dismissed/Withdrawn	137
Guilty Plea	2971
Jury Trial	37
Non-Jury Trial	17
Inactive	172
Total Cases Processed	5057

Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

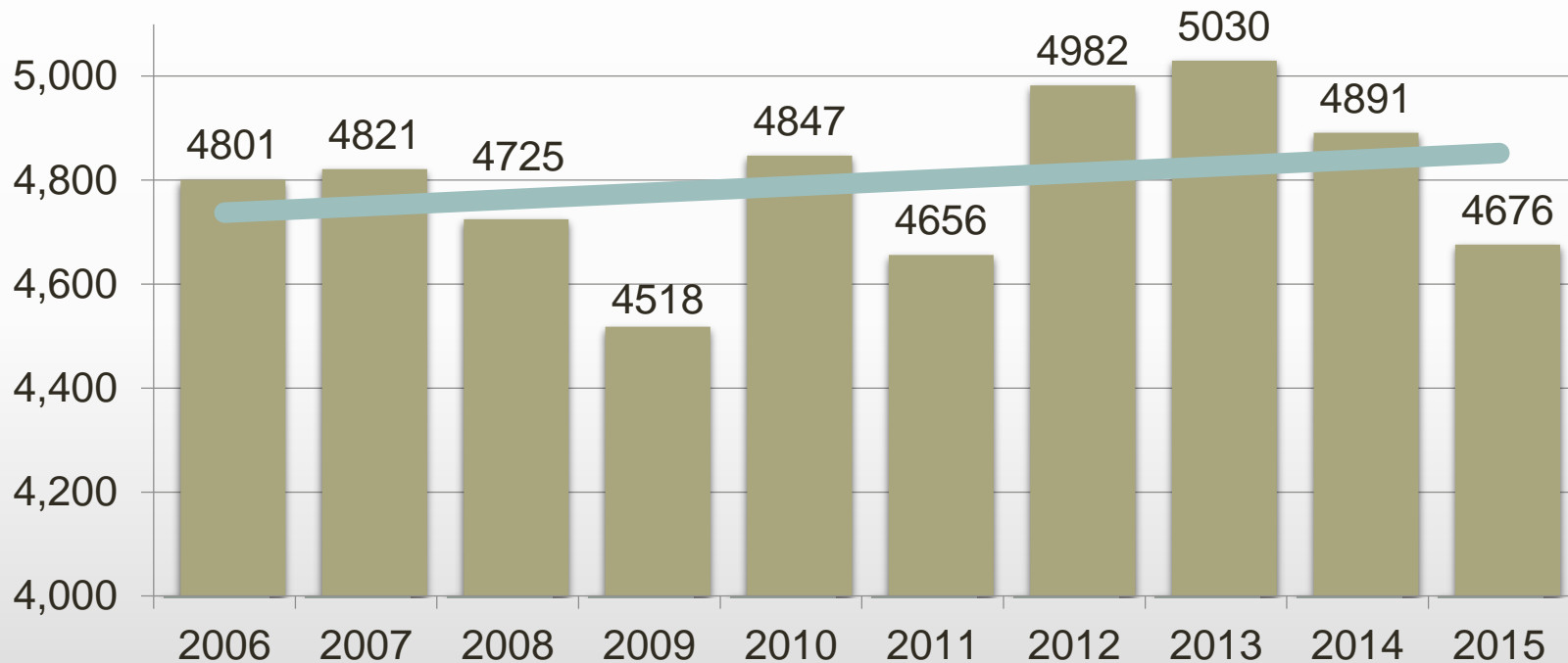
2015 CRIMINAL CASE TYPE

■ Felony ■ Misdemeanor



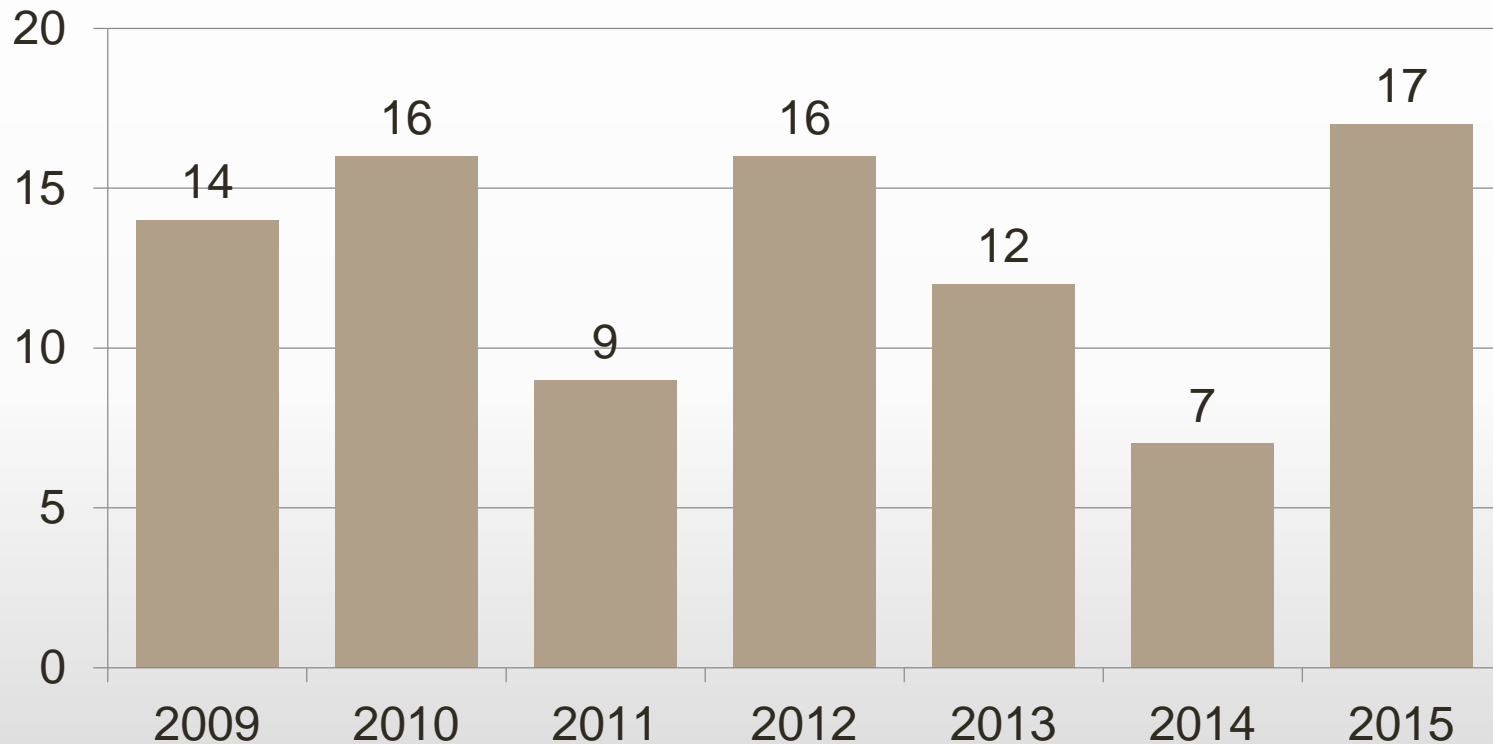
Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

NEW CRIMINAL CASES TEN YEAR TREND 2006-2015



Criminal/Juvenile Court Division

ANNUAL HOMICIDE FILINGS 2009-2015



JUVENILE COURT

Juvenile Court, in 2015, fell under both the authority of the Administrative Judge of the Criminal/Juvenile Division and the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division. The Juvenile Court Division as a whole is responsible for cases involving juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency. The Juvenile Court judges are assisted by two full-time Juvenile Masters who adjudicate both delinquency and dependency cases. Theresa M. Loder, Esquire and Jacquelyn C. Paradis, Esquire serve as full time Juvenile Masters. In 2015, Juvenile Judges and Masters disposed of 968 delinquency cases and 203 dependency petitions.

DEPENDENT JUVENILES

- Children who are, or who have been, subject to abuse or neglect.
- Cases are initiated by the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services or the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department.
- Cases referred to a judge are handled by the Civil/Family Court Division.
- Dependent juveniles may enter foster care, be reunited with family or placed for adoption.

DELINQUENT JUVENILES

- Those children under the age of 18 who are in violation of criminal law.
- Delinquency cases referred to a judge are handled by the Criminal/Juvenile Court Division.
- These juveniles may be referred to the Juvenile Probation Department.
- Juveniles may be both delinquent and dependent.
- There were 1167 new delinquency filings in 2015.

Civil/Family Court Jurisdictions

Civil Cases

**Juvenile
Dependency**

Family Court

Divorce

Custody

PFA

Child Support

Spousal Support

Orphans' Court

Parental Rights

Adoptions

Guardianships

Civil/Family Court Division

The judges assigned to the Civil/Family Court Division are responsible for a caseload comprised of various types of civil actions as well as divorce, custody, protection from abuse, and child and spousal support cases. The judges in this division also handle juvenile dependency cases and Orphans' Court cases regarding termination of parental rights, adoptions, and guardianships.

JUDGES SERVING IN THE CIVIL/FAMILY DIVISION IN 2015

Carol K. McGinley
President Judge

Edward D. Reibman, Judge

J. Brian Johnson
Administrative Judge of Civil Court
Dependency Supervisory Judge

Michele A. Varricchio,
Administrative Judge of Family Court

Douglas G. Reichley, Judge

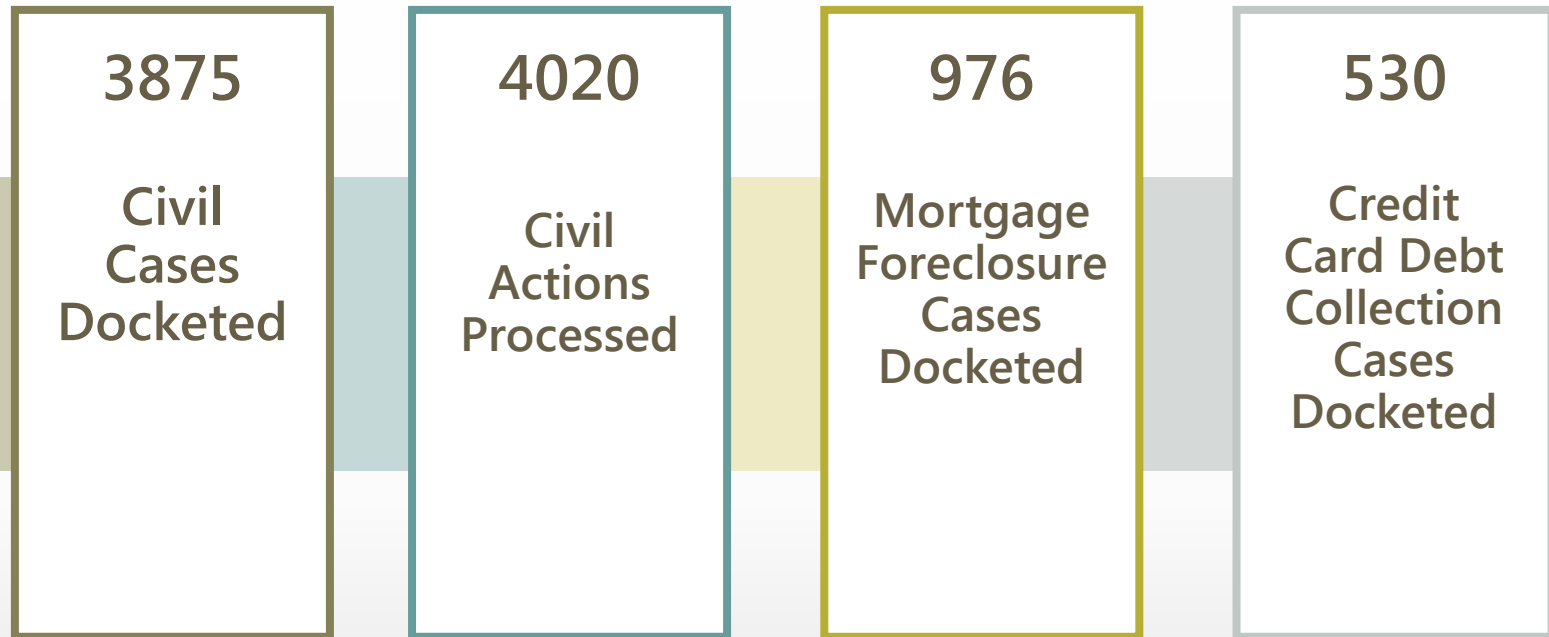
Civil/Family Court Division

Civil actions are those cases which, for the most part, involve the resolution of private conflicts between people or institutions. These cases may include personal injury or personal property claims, matters of equity, products liability, malpractice, or commercial and contract disputes. Within the Civil Category are License and Registration Suspension Appeals, Mortgage Foreclosures, Assessment Appeals, Quiet Title Actions, Zoning Appeals, Ejectment and Actions in Replevin.

CIVIL COURT OPERATIONS

The Civil Operations section of the Court Administrator's Office, under the direction of Court Operations Officer Toni Dries and Court Operations Director Linda Fritz, is responsible for scheduling and tracking all civil cases. There are approximately 1,800 civil cases pending in the Court's open inventory. With the pending cases, the staff of the Civil Operations section schedule and distribute notices for status conferences, arguments, hearings, settlement conferences, and trials. The staff is responsible for tracking the result of each court proceeding. The Judges of the Civil/Family Division work with the Civil Operations staff to proactively manage the civil caseload.

Civil/Family Court Division



2015 CIVIL COURT SNAPSHOT



Orphans' Court

Orphans' Court Division

The name Orphans' Court is an anachronism derived from an era in which those persons who traditionally had no legal "voice" (minor children, widows, orphans, decedents) required an objective entity—the Orphans' Court—to "speak" for them and assure that their rights and interests were protected. Unlike the other divisions of the Court of Common Pleas, many of the matters that come before the Orphans' Court are non-adversarial.

THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

The Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division is a judicial office distinct from the Register of Wills, which is part of the Clerk of Judicial Records. All scheduling for Orphans' Court cases is done by the Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court. The Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas is under the direction of the Director of Orphans' Court Operations, Janet Thwaites, Esquire, and the Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Wendy A. W. Parr. In addition, a full-time law clerk, three full-time assistant clerks and a full-time auditor, (who reviews all formally filed fiduciary accounts), comprise the staff of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court. One of the judges assigned to the various matters within the jurisdiction of the Orphans' Court Division also serves as the Orphans' Court Administrative Judge.

Orphans' Court Jurisdiction

The Orphans' Court Division	Oversees Trusts, Powers of Attorney and certain aspects of non-profit organizations	Reviews and approves settlement of litigation/claims involving minors, incapacitated persons and/or decedents' estates	Audits all formal fiduciary accounts
The Orphans' Court Hears	Appeals from Register of Wills, most commonly, will contests, or contested letters of administration	All parental termination cases	Petitions for adult guardianships (incapacities)
	Disputes Regarding administration/distribution in decedents' estates	Adoptions and minors' guardianship cases	Judicial by-pass hearings required by the Abortion Control Act
The Office of the Clerk of Orphans' Court	Issues marriage licenses upon "in person" application	Maintains marriage license records and issues certified copies of those records	Responds to requests for access to both identifying and non-identifying information from adoption files

Orphans' Court Division

REQUIREMENTS POSING UNIQUE CHALLENGES TO ORPHANS' COURT

Statutory requirement to appoint counsel to represent each indigent parent who contests the termination of his/her parental rights, (not uncommon for there to be more than one father involved in most cases), and counsel to represent the minor child.

Necessity to appoint guardians ad litem and/or counsel in guardianship proceedings to protect the interests of AIP (alleged incapacitated person).

Statutory prohibition on imposition of filing fee for Judicial Bypass Hearings.

Orphans' Court Division

20

Appointment
of Minor
Guardian
Cases
Processed

47

Minors'
Settlements
Involving
Lump Sum
Payouts,
Creation of
Trusts, and
Structured
Settlements
Approved

38

Fiduciary
Accountings
Audited,
Confirmed
and
Adjudicated

7

Judicial
Bypass
Hearings
Pursuant to
the
Abortion
Control Act
Held

2015 ORPHANS' COURT SNAPSHOT

Orphans' Court Division

2229

Marriage
Licenses Issued

49

Cases
concerning the
termination of
the parental
rights of
biological
parents
processed

49

Adoptions
Granted

112

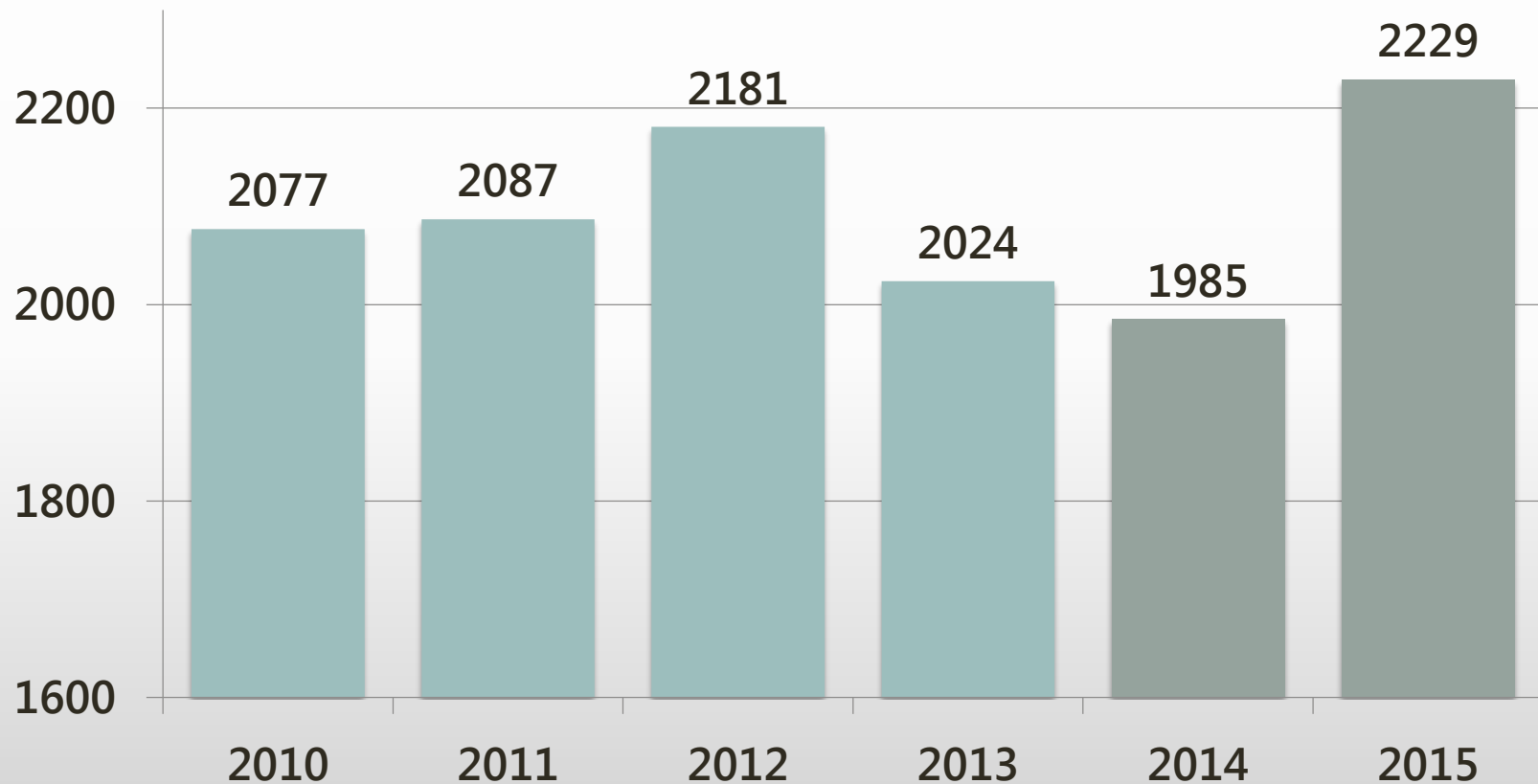
Persons
adjudicated
incapacitated
and appointed
guardians for
their persons
and or estates

2015 ORPHANS' COURT SNAPSHOT

Orphans' Court Division

MARRIAGE LICENSES 2010 TO 2015

In May 2014, Pennsylvania Law changed to permit same-sex marriages.



Court Offices

Family Court Office

Custody

Divorce

PFA

Interpreting Unit

Domestic Relations Section

Paternity

Child Support

Spousal Support

Adult
Probation and
Parole
Department

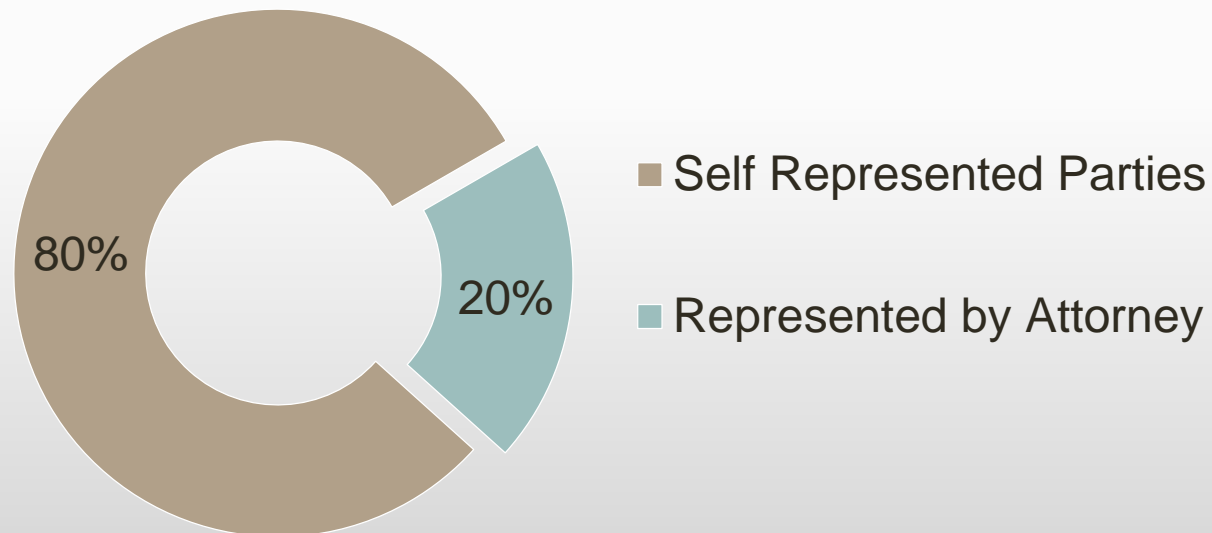
Juvenile
Probation
Department



Family Court Office

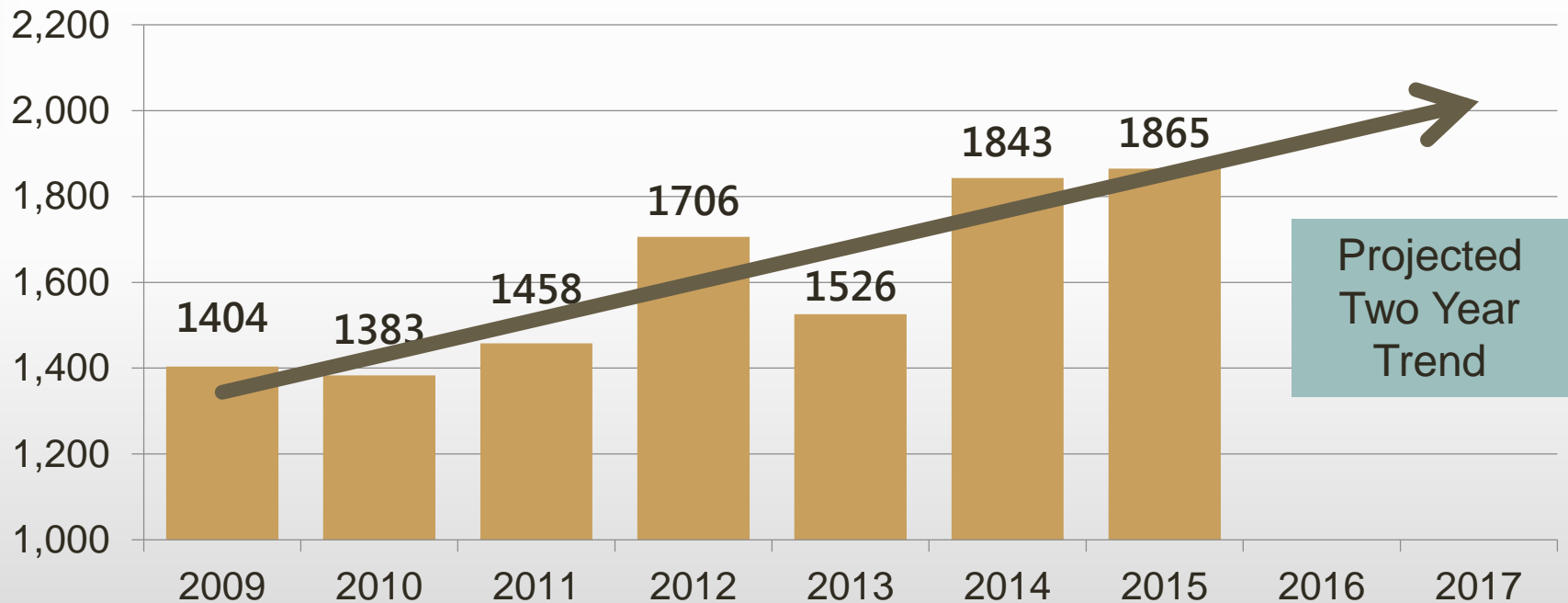
Family Court: CUSTODY

When a self-represented custody litigant comes to the Family Court Office, an intake worker asks questions to begin the assessment of whether the Lehigh County Court has jurisdiction to decide the custody issue. The intake worker provides to the litigant the forms necessary to start a custody lawsuit, and provides general instruction on completing the forms, and filing and serving the pleadings on the other parent. Most parties in custody cases do not have attorneys.



Family Court: CHILD CUSTODY FILINGS

In 2014, the number of custody filings in Lehigh County Court dramatically increased. Custody filings include new complaints and petitions for modification and/or contempt. Some cases also include requests for relocation approval. The high volume of custody case filing continued in 2015.



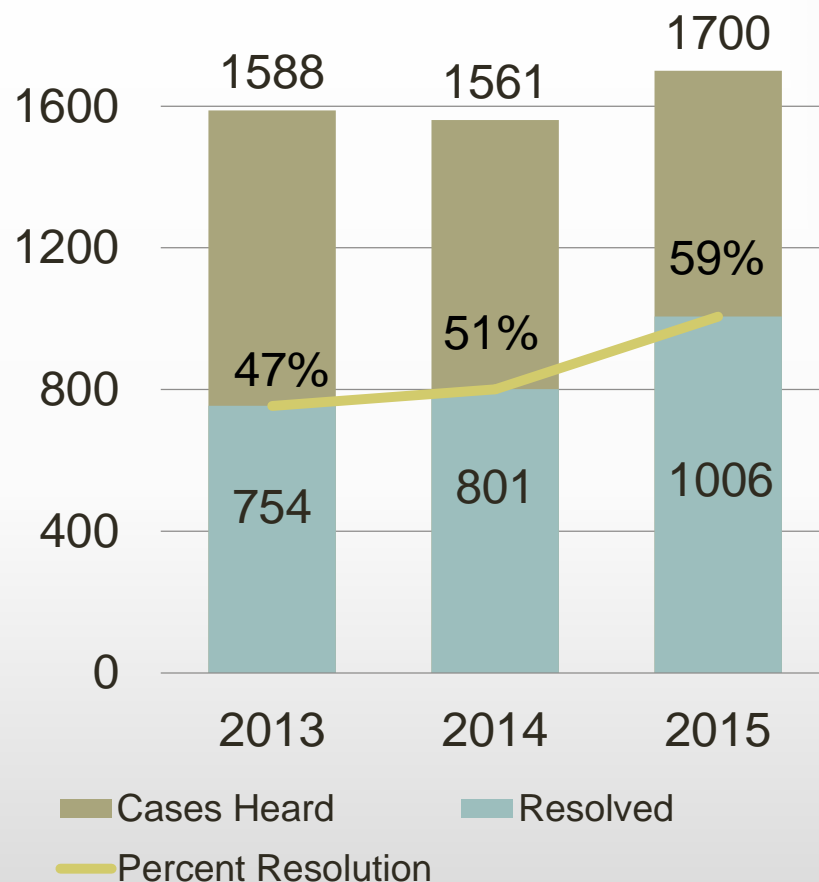
Family Court

Custody cases start with a mediation or a conciliation conference where efforts are made to reach an agreement between the parties. Unless a party requests mediation, a settlement (conciliation) conference is scheduled before a custody hearing officer. The hearing officer helps the parties focus on the child's needs and attempts to settle the case. If a settlement is reached, a court order summarizing the agreement is prepared.

When the parties fail to agree, the case is scheduled for hearing or trial. The hearing officer has the authority to receive testimony and make recommendations in partial physical custody cases. Cases involving legal custody, primary physical custody, or contempt of a court order are scheduled before a judge.

Of the custody cases heard by hearing officers in 2015, 59% were resolved by the hearing officers with agreed orders. This is an increase of 8% over 2014. Hearing officers' successful efforts to resolve cases with agreed orders avoid costly trials for litigants and further utilization of judicial resources.

PERCENT OF CUSTODY CASES RESOLVED BY HEARING OFFICERS



Family Court: DIVORCE

2015 DIVORCE SNAPSHOT

840

Divorce
Decrees
Entered

944

New Divorce
Cases Filed

139

Contested
Divorce
Cases—Master
in Divorce
Appointed

676

Uncontested
Divorce Cases
Filed

Contested divorce cases in Lehigh County are often resolved by the Master in Divorce, an attorney appointed by the Court. Following the filing of a motion by a divorce litigant to appoint the Master to a particular case, the Master conducts one or more settlement conferences with the litigants and attempts to resolve the case. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the Master conducts hearings and prepares reports and recommended Orders, subject to judicial review.

Family Court: PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

1359

2015 New
PFA Cases

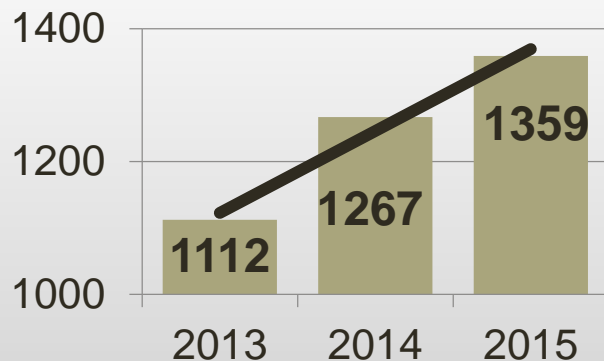
1117

Temporary
PFA Orders

390

Final PFA
Orders

PFA TRENDS



Pennsylvania law requires every court to assist victims of domestic violence seeking Protection From Abuse Orders. Individuals may seek a protection order on their own behalf and/or on behalf of their minor children.

Lehigh County Family Court staff provide private intake assistance and escort applicants to court. Court assistance hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. daily. Litigants appear before a judge at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Special security measures are taken in all cases, especially in cases where cross-petitions have been filed. Emergency PFA relief is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Magisterial District Judges.

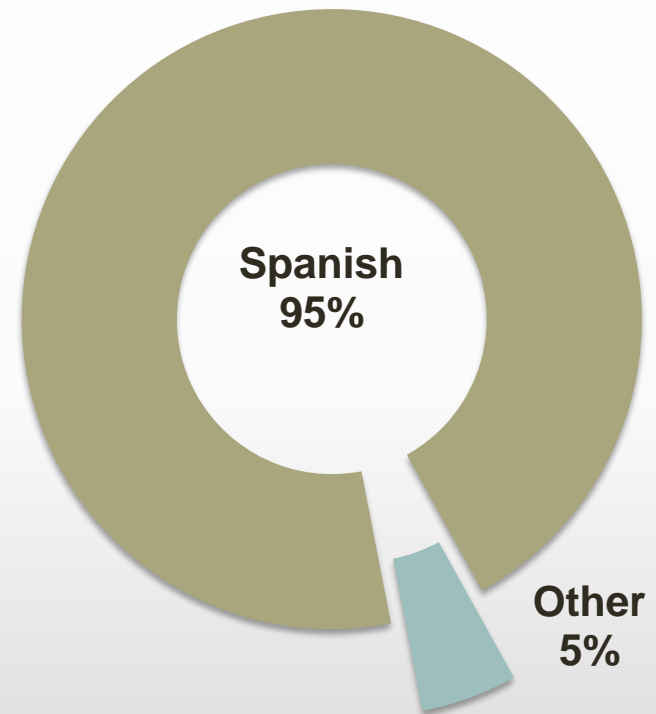
Family Court: INTERPRETING UNIT

FOREIGN AND SIGN LANGUAGE

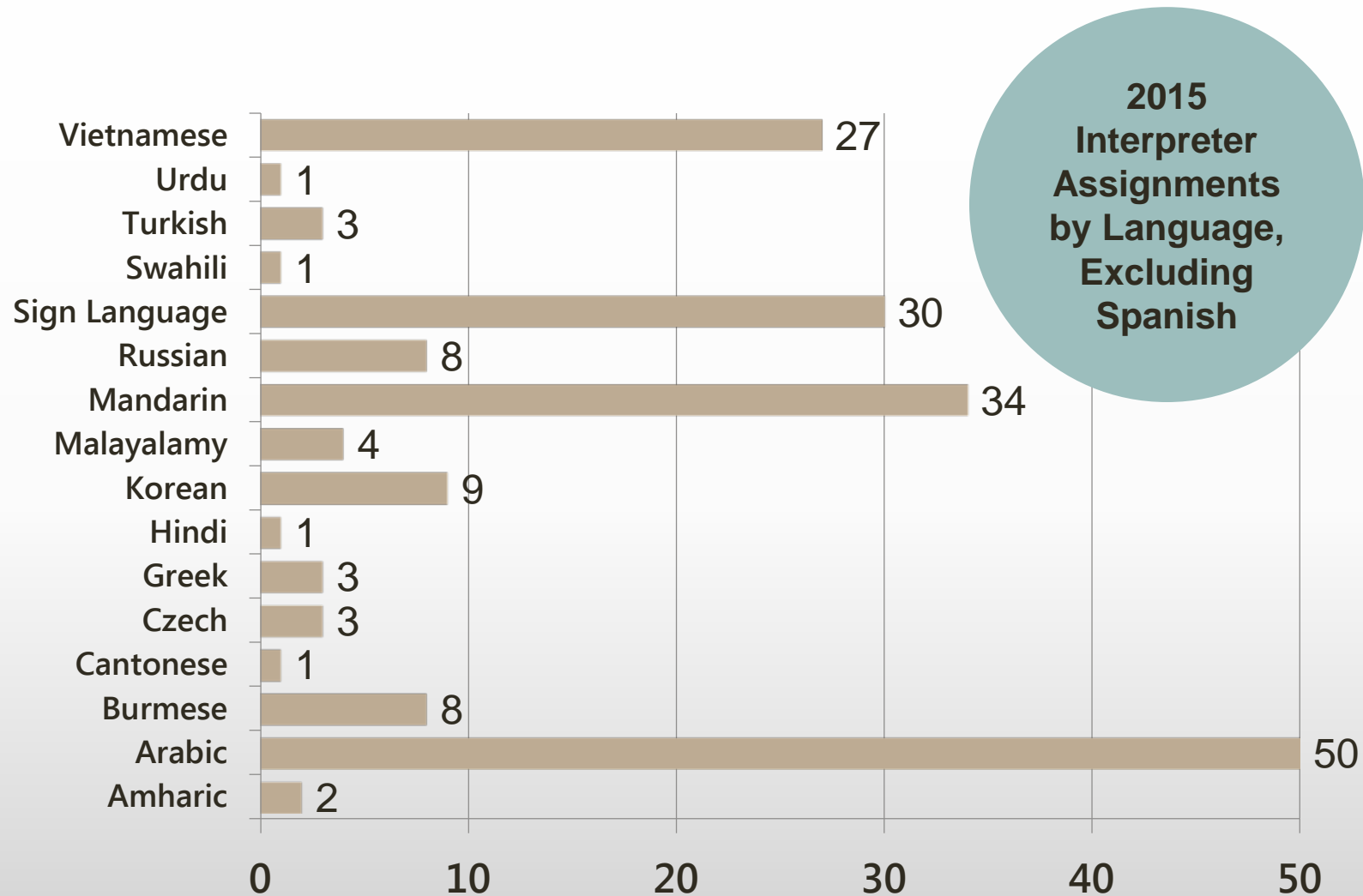
■ Spanish 3246 ■ Other 187

The Court provides interpreters in criminal and family court proceedings. A staff interpreter is assisted by a pool of 25 per diem contractors, all of whom meet the professional standards set by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

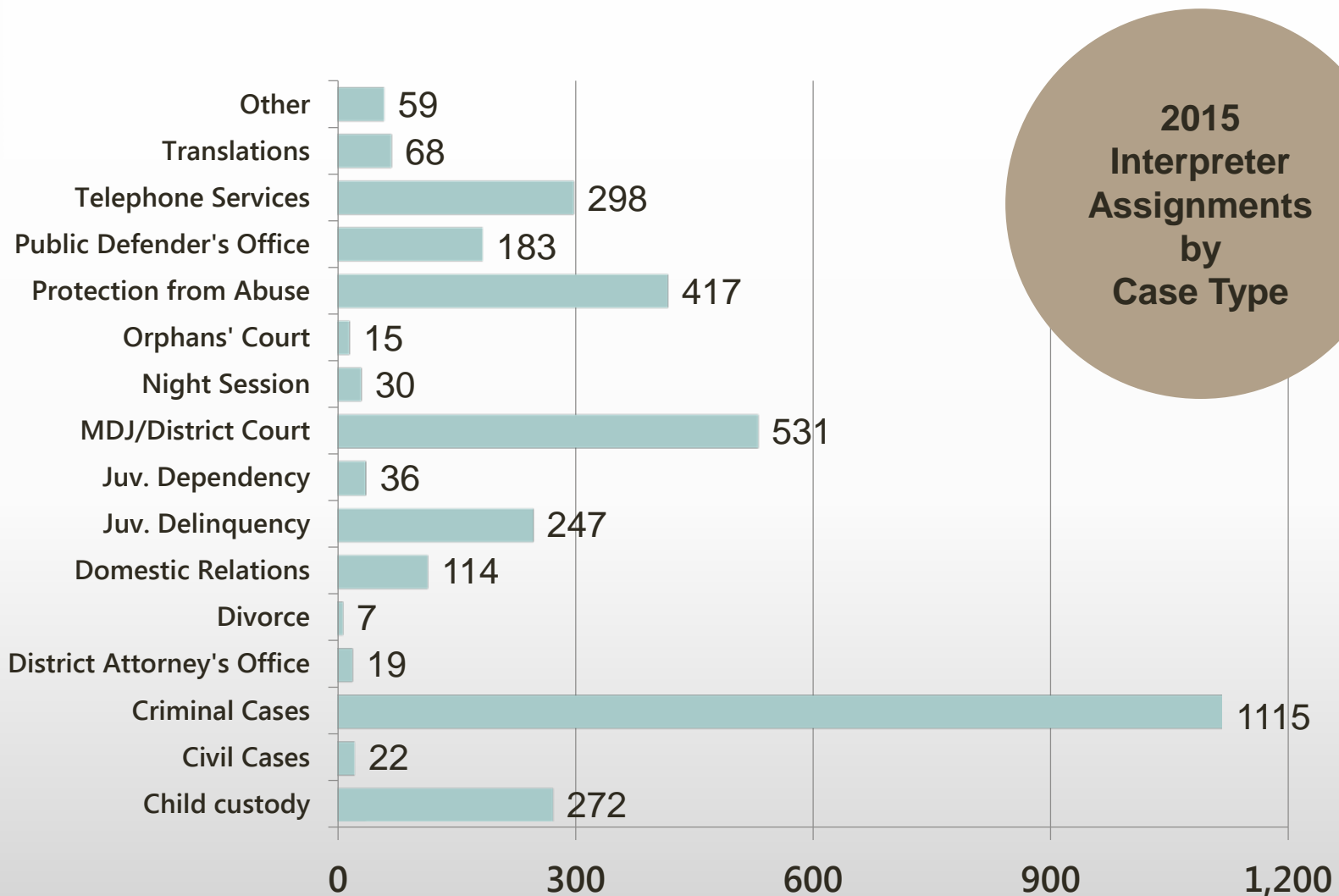
In 2015, there were 3433 interpreter assignments, 3246 of which were for Spanish. Telephone interpretation is used when needed. Translations of written documents are also provided by the Interpreting Unit.



Family Court: INTERPRETING UNIT



Family Court: INTERPRETING UNIT





Domestic Relations Section

Domestic Relations Section

10,678

Conferences and
Hearings Held
for Establishment
or Contempt

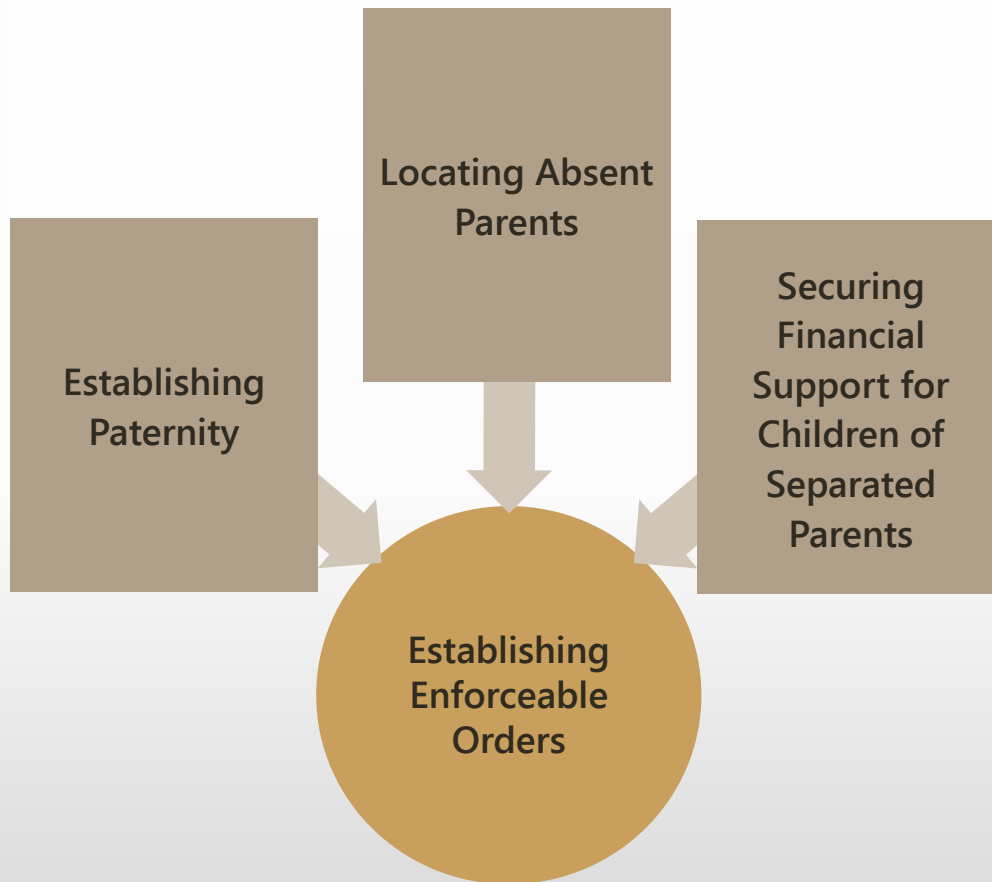
**\$47.5
Million**

Support Dollars
Collected and
Distributed in 2015
by Lehigh County
Domestic Relations

11,586

Active Support
Cases in Lehigh
County

Domestic Relations Section

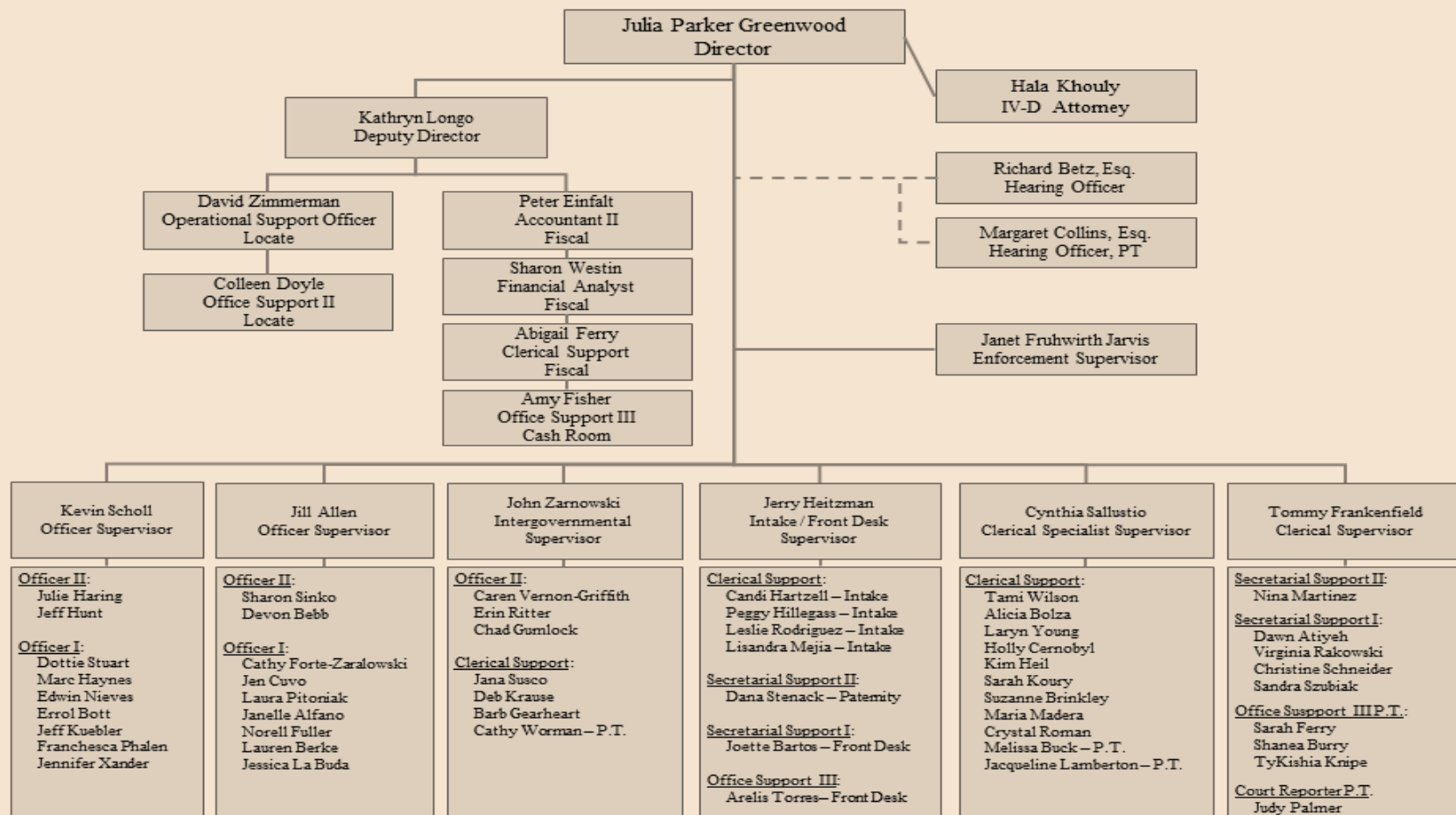


The Lehigh County Domestic Relations Section, located at 14 North 6th Street, Allentown, is the Title IV-D agency responsible for the establishment and enforcement of child and spousal support for the Lehigh County Courts. Under the leadership of Director Julia Parker Greenwood, the Domestic Relations Section handles all aspects of a support case, with the goal of establishing enforceable orders of support to benefit the children for whom support is owed. In 2015, there were

- 21 conference officers
- 1 full-time hearing officer
- 1 part-time hearing officer
- 9 managers
- 30 full-time support staff
- 6 part-time support staff.

Domestic Relations Section

DRS Organization Chart



Domestic Relations Section

ESTABLISHING CHILD AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT ORDERS

Establishment of support in Lehigh County progresses under a 3-tier system. A Conference Officer handles initial complaints for support and petitions for modification. If no agreement can be reached at the conference level, a temporary or "interim" order is issued, and the case proceeds to a full hearing before a Hearing Officer. The support order entered by the Hearing Officer can be appealed before a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County.



Domestic Relations Section

PACSES AND SCDU

The Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement System (PACSES) is a state-wide computer and check disbursement system used as the database for child support case information, support calculations and enforcement actions. Payments are made to and disbursed from the state level office, the Support Collection and Disbursement Unit (SCDU).

Domestic Relations is responsible for the collection of support funds from the defendant in the action and disbursement of those funds to the plaintiff.

In 2015, Lehigh County collected and disbursed \$47,489,350.

Domestic Relations Section

4,771

Establishment
Conferences

724

Establishment
Hearings

5,183

Contempt
Hearings

CASE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

Domestic Relations Officers and Clerical Staff are assigned to case management teams that are responsible for all aspects of a support case from establishment through enforcement with the goal of establishing enforceable orders of support to benefit the children for whom support is owed.

In 2015, Domestic Relations staff conducted 4771 establishment conferences and 724 establishment hearings. In addition, 5183 contempt hearings were conducted.

Domestic Relations Section

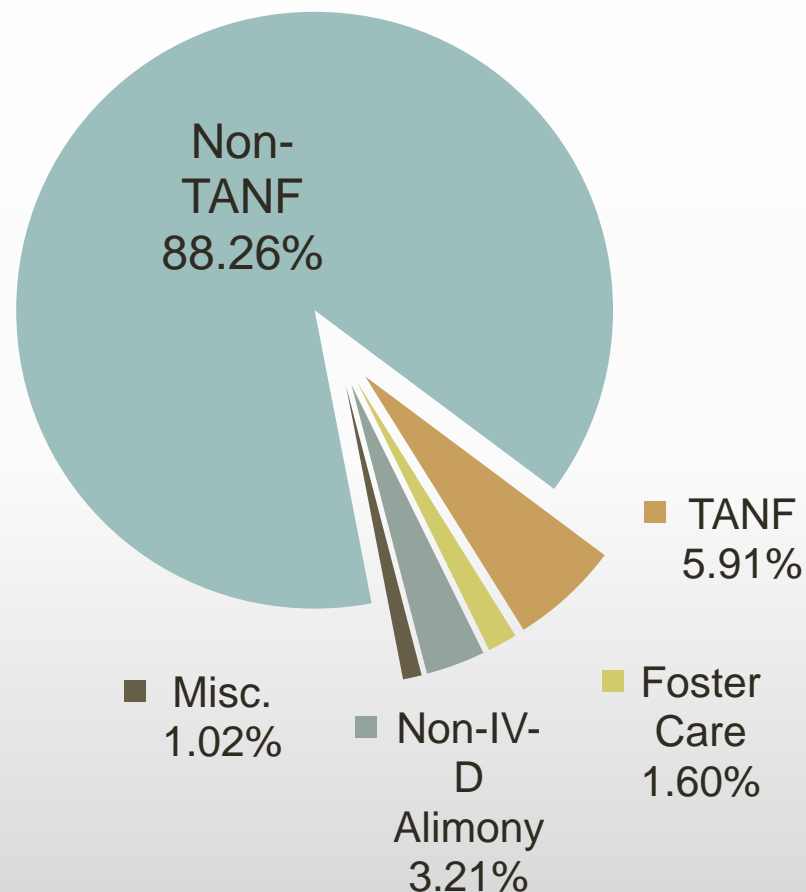
2015 SUPPORT CASES BY CASE TYPE

1

TANF Cases involve children in families receiving aid under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

2

Non-TANF cases are those with no such federal assistance.



Domestic Relations Section

2015 TANF SUPPORT CASE FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

New Cases	418
Cases Transferred In	46
Non-TANF to TANF	274
Judge	0
Hearing Officer	43
Conference Officer	465
Cases Transferred Out	42
TANF to Non-TANF	223
Cases Processed	773

2015 NON-TANF SUPPORT CASE FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS

New Cases	5017
Cases Transferred In	68
TANF to Non-TANF	223
Judge	46
Hearing Officer	479
Conference Officer	4550
Cases Transferred Out	116
Non-TANF to TANF	274
Cases Processed	5465

Domestic Relations Section

FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The Lehigh County Domestic Relations Section, through a Cooperative Agreement between Lehigh County and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, is required to provide child support services as outlined in Title IV-D of the Social Security Act in order to receive federal funding. These child support services must be performed in accordance with Federal Code of Regulations and Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. As long as the DRS is performing as required, 66% of DRS operating expenses are reimbursed by the federal government.

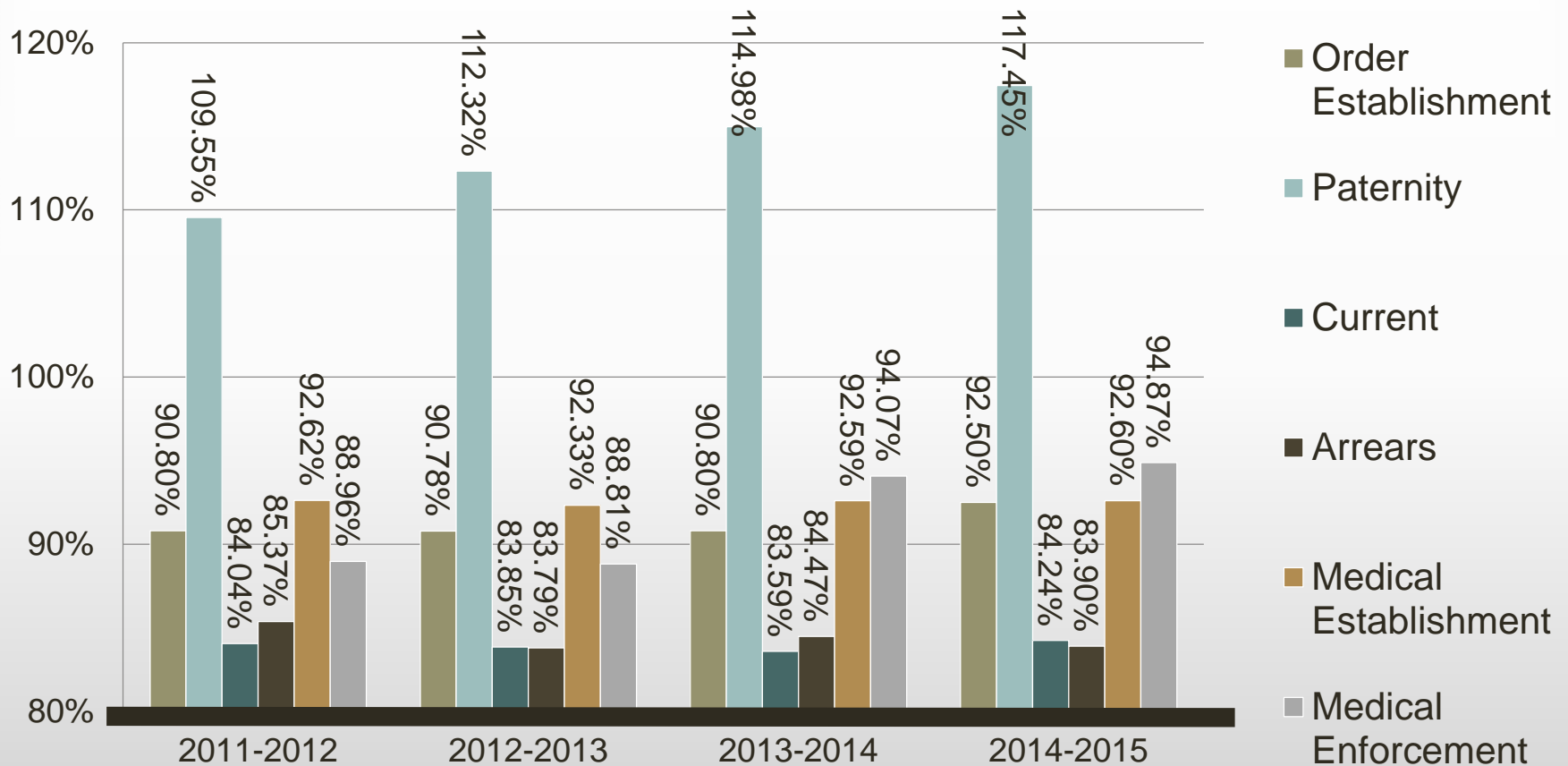
As a IV-D agency, the DRS is required to meet federal performance standards. To maximize incentive funds for Pennsylvania and Lehigh County, the benchmark of 80% must be met in the following categories:

- Cases with active support orders
- Cases with paternity established
- Cases with full monthly collection of current support
- Cases with a payment on arrears (back support) during the federal fiscal year
- Cases with medical support established—not tied to funding
- Cases with medical support enforced—not tied to funding

Domestic Relations Section

2011-2015 DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION FEDERAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

For Federal Fiscal Year 2015, which ended on September 30, 2015, Lehigh County exceeded 80% in all the Federal Performance Standards. Lehigh County routinely exceeds these standards.



Domestic Relations Section

JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDERS

Conference Officers are also responsible for ensuring compliance with support orders by holding contempt conferences to get payments back on track and by referring cases for a contempt hearing before a judge for failure to meet the support obligations when necessary. The enforcement tools listed here are available.

**Drivers
License
Suspensions**

**Credit
Bureau
Reporting**

**Real Estate
Liens**

**Work
Search
Program**

**IRS
Intercepts**

**Lottery
Intercepts**

**Professional
License
Suspensions**



Adult Probation

Adult Probation

MISSION STATEMENT

To aid in reducing the incidents of crime in the community through field-based supervision, treatment and rehabilitation of the offender, thus protecting the public from recurring criminal and antisocial behavior.

PHILOSOPHY & PRIMARY GOAL

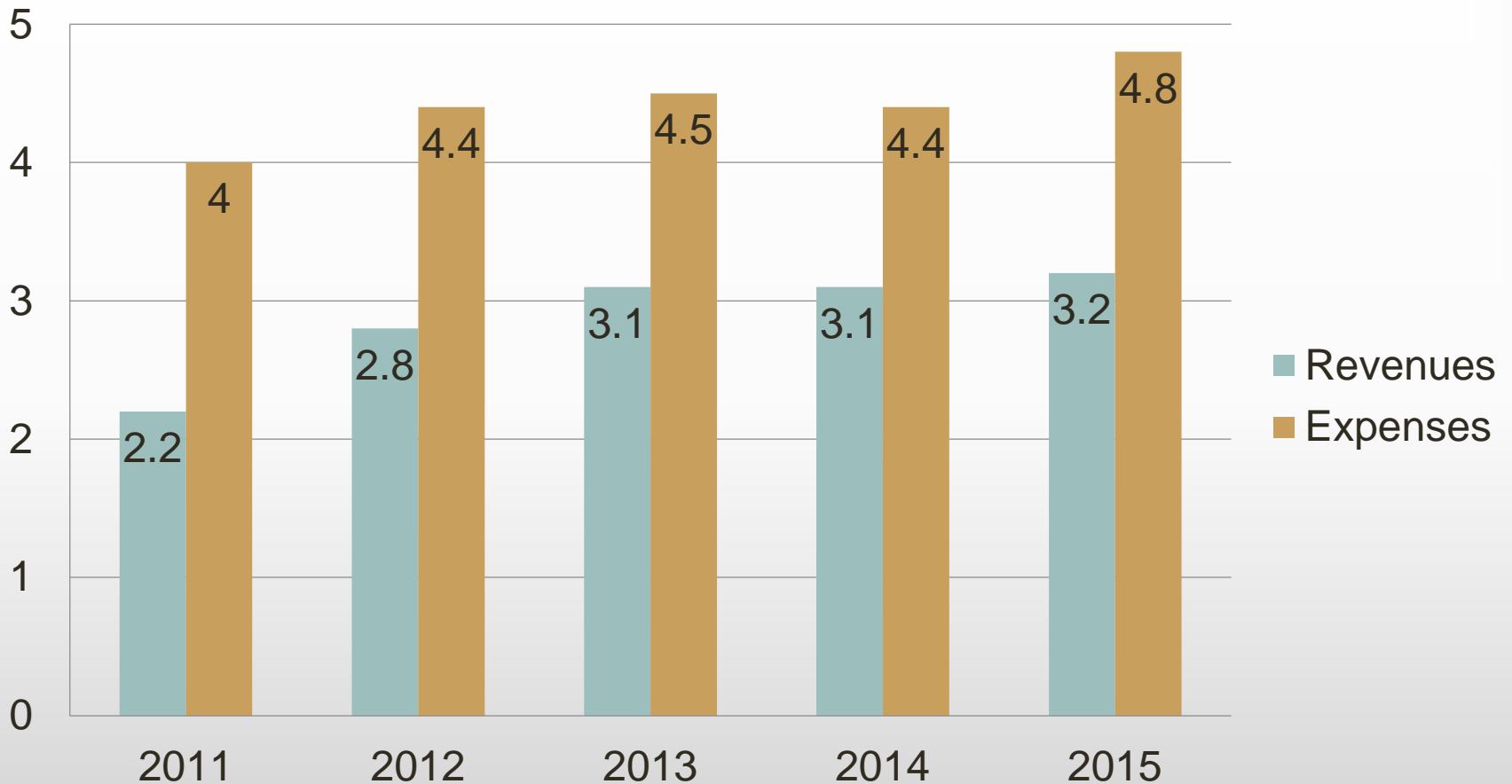
The primary goal of the Lehigh County Adult Probation Department is to provide protection to the community. The Department, lead by Chief Adult Probation Officer Ann Marie Egizio, works to achieve its goal through appropriate and relevant supervision and treatment of offenders by trained probation officers.

The Department recognizes that offenders can change negative behavior patterns if they are afforded the appropriate supervision and restorative programs to help them in the rehabilitation process. The offender must, however, desire to change the inappropriate behavior and be willing to work with the probation officer to effectuate change. When an offender fails to comply with rules and conditions and where the community's safety is in jeopardy, the offender is removed from community supervision and remanded to jail.

The Department is audited annually by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and continues to be in compliance with standards promulgated by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections.

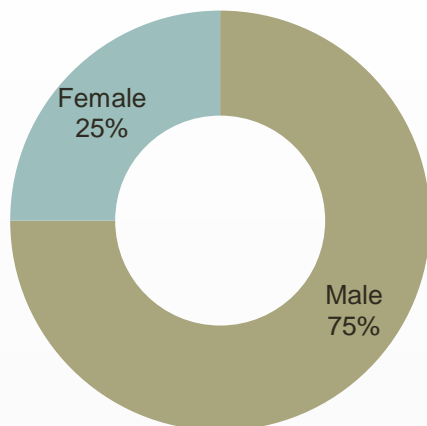
Adult Probation

BUDGET TRENDS IN MILLIONS

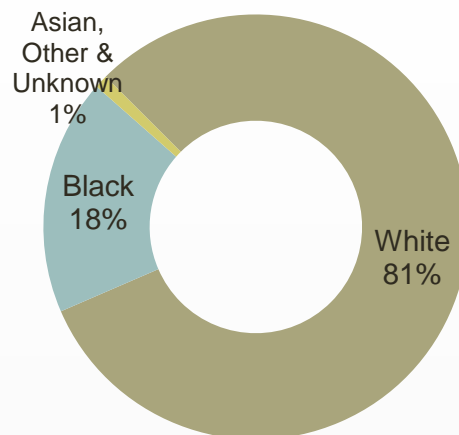


Adult Probation Client Profile

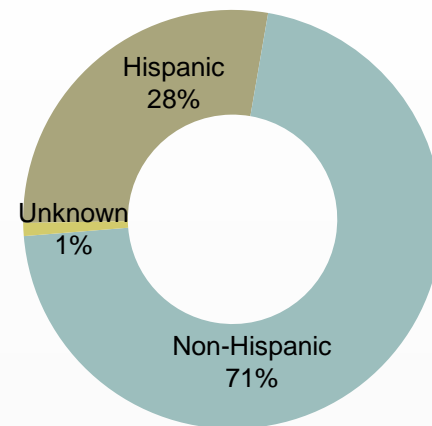
Gender



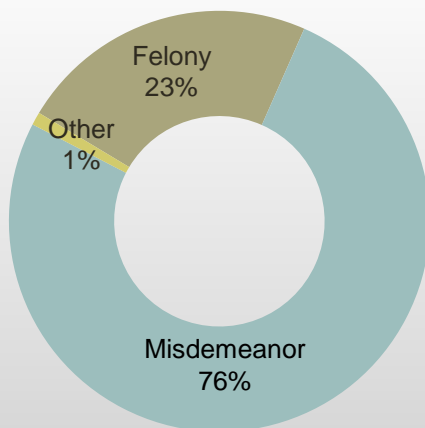
Race



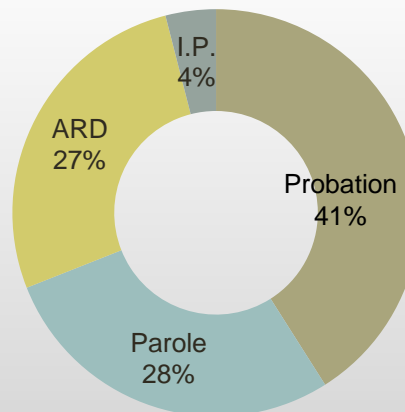
Ethnicity



Offense Type



Disposition



Adult Probation

13

Probation
Aides and
Clerical Staff

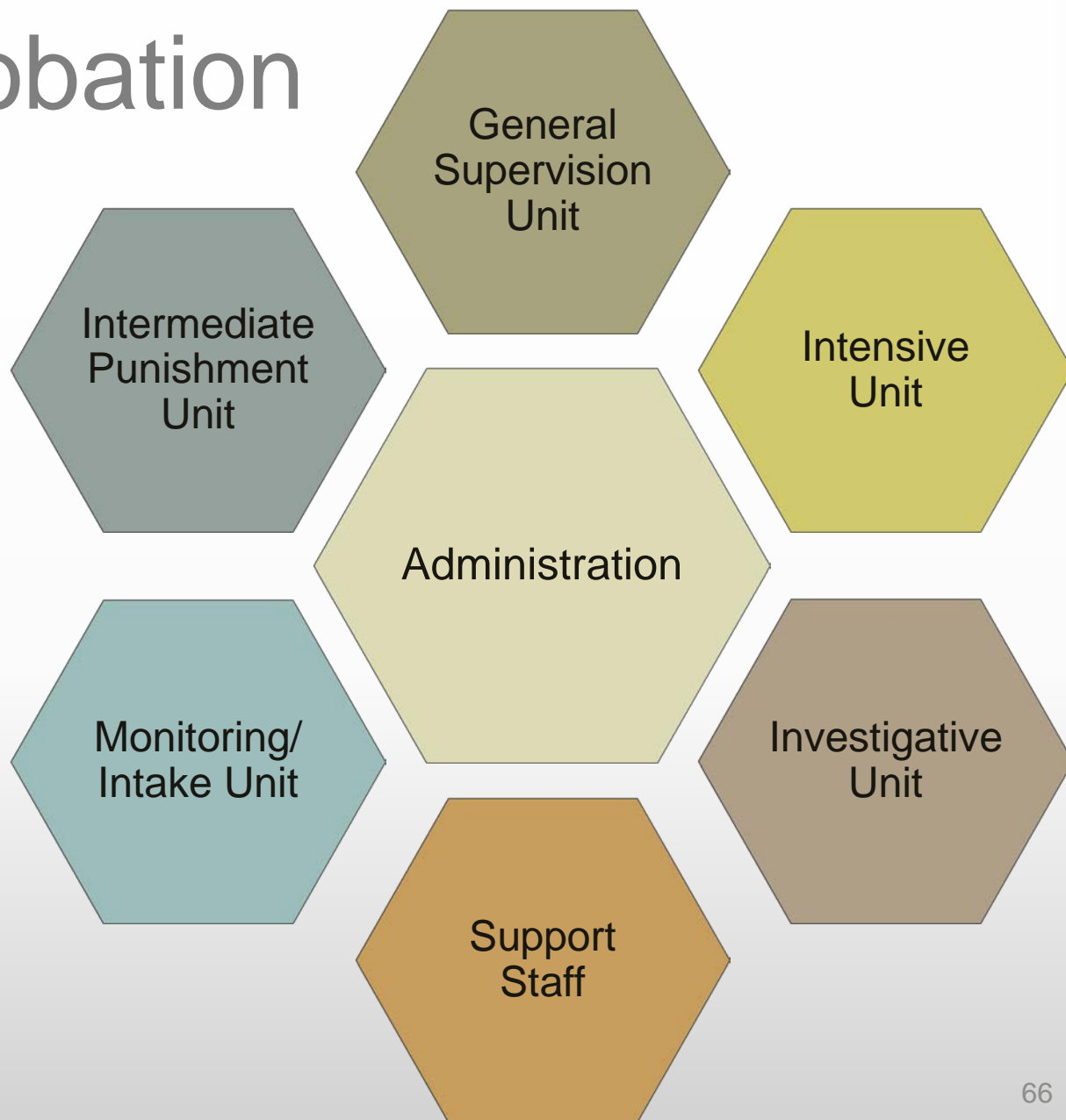
38
**Probation
Officers**

5010

Offenders
on Active
Supervision in
2015

Adult Probation

FUNCTIONAL UNITS



Adult Probation

2242

Pre-Parole
Investigations
Completed

481

Pre-Sentence
Investigations
Completed

1652

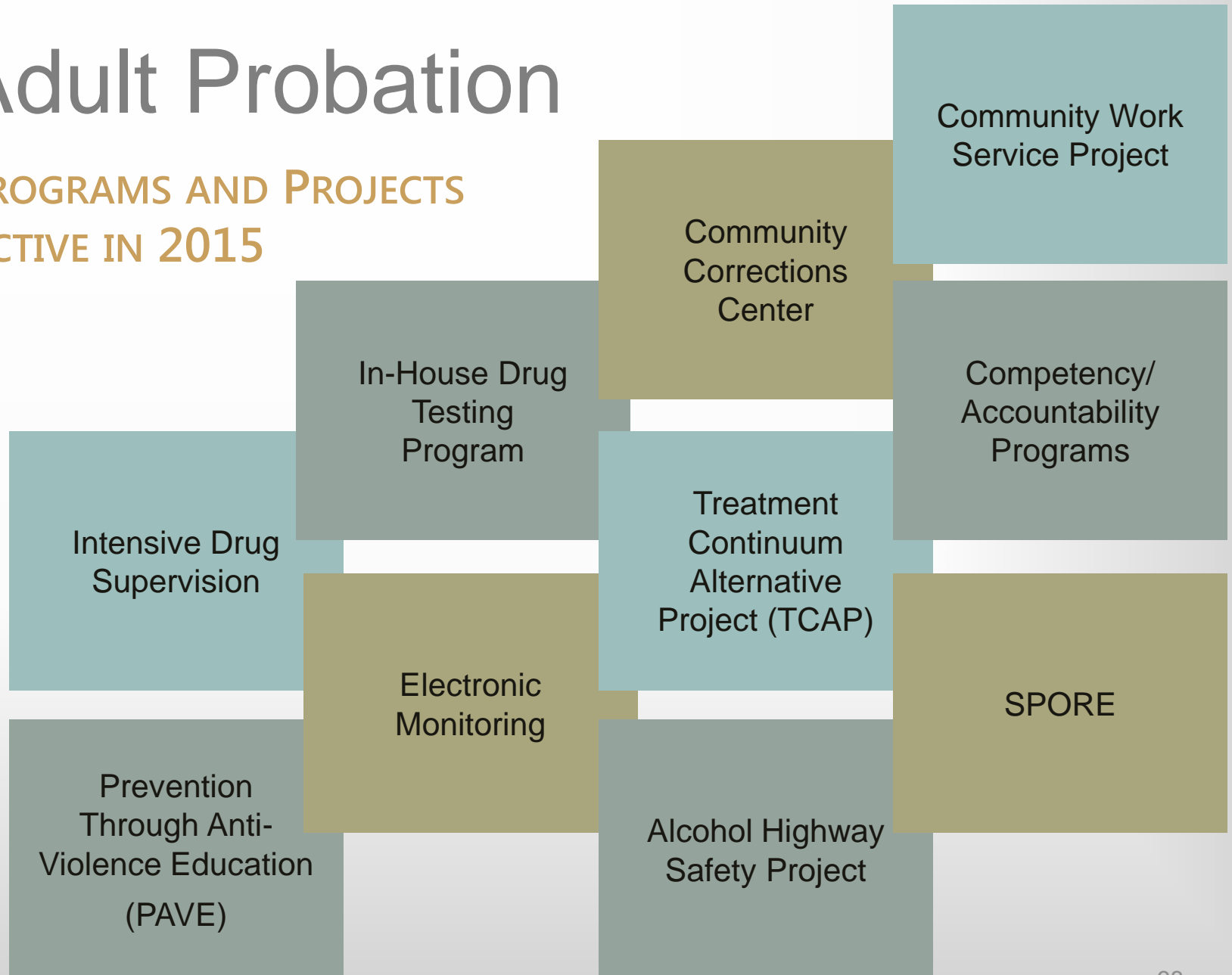
Court
Reporting
Network
(CRN)
Evaluations
Completed

1147

Offenders
Completing
Alcohol
Safe Driving
School

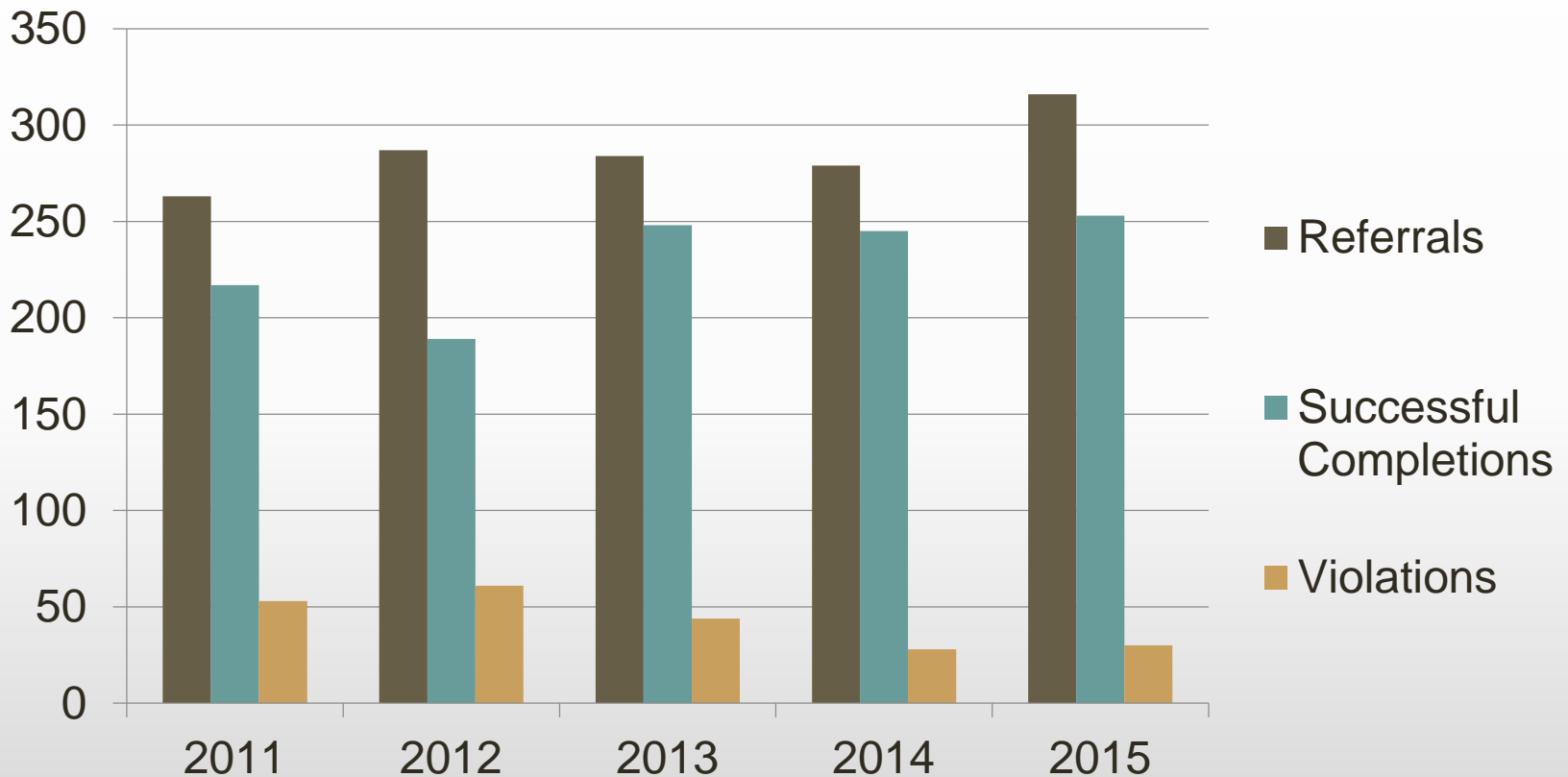
Adult Probation

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS ACTIVE IN 2015



Adult Probation

Electronic Monitoring Trends



Adult Probation

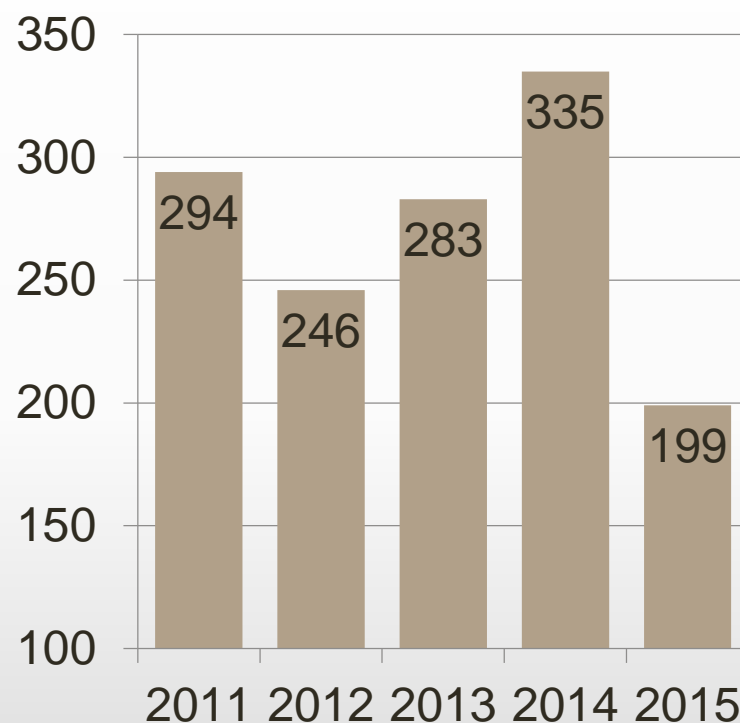
SPORE

Special Program for Offenders in Rehabilitation and Education (SPORE) provide services for mentally ill offenders. Adult Probation Officers and Mental Health Caseworkers jointly supervise offenders on intensive and maximum supervision levels. A psychiatrist and psychologist are available for evaluations.

During 2015, SPORE received 199 formal referrals and 36 psychiatric evaluations were completed.

SPORE TRENDS

REFERRALS





Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Probation

MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to working with juvenile offenders, their families, victims and the community by utilizing evidence based practices and balanced and restorative justice principles, in order to build competencies, reduce risk to reoffend, restore victims, protect the community and assist in promoting long term behavior change.

The Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department is a division of the Court of Common Pleas, reporting to the Administrative Judge responsible for juvenile probation activities. The department, under the supervision of Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Elizabeth Fritz, is responsible to the court and the community for delivering necessary and appropriate services to those juveniles referred to the department. The jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Probation Department extends to both “delinquent” and “dependent” children as defined in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Act, Section 6302. In light of the mandate of this Act, it is essential for the department to have operational principles to guide its decision making and delivery of services.

Juvenile Probation

THE BALANCED APPROACH

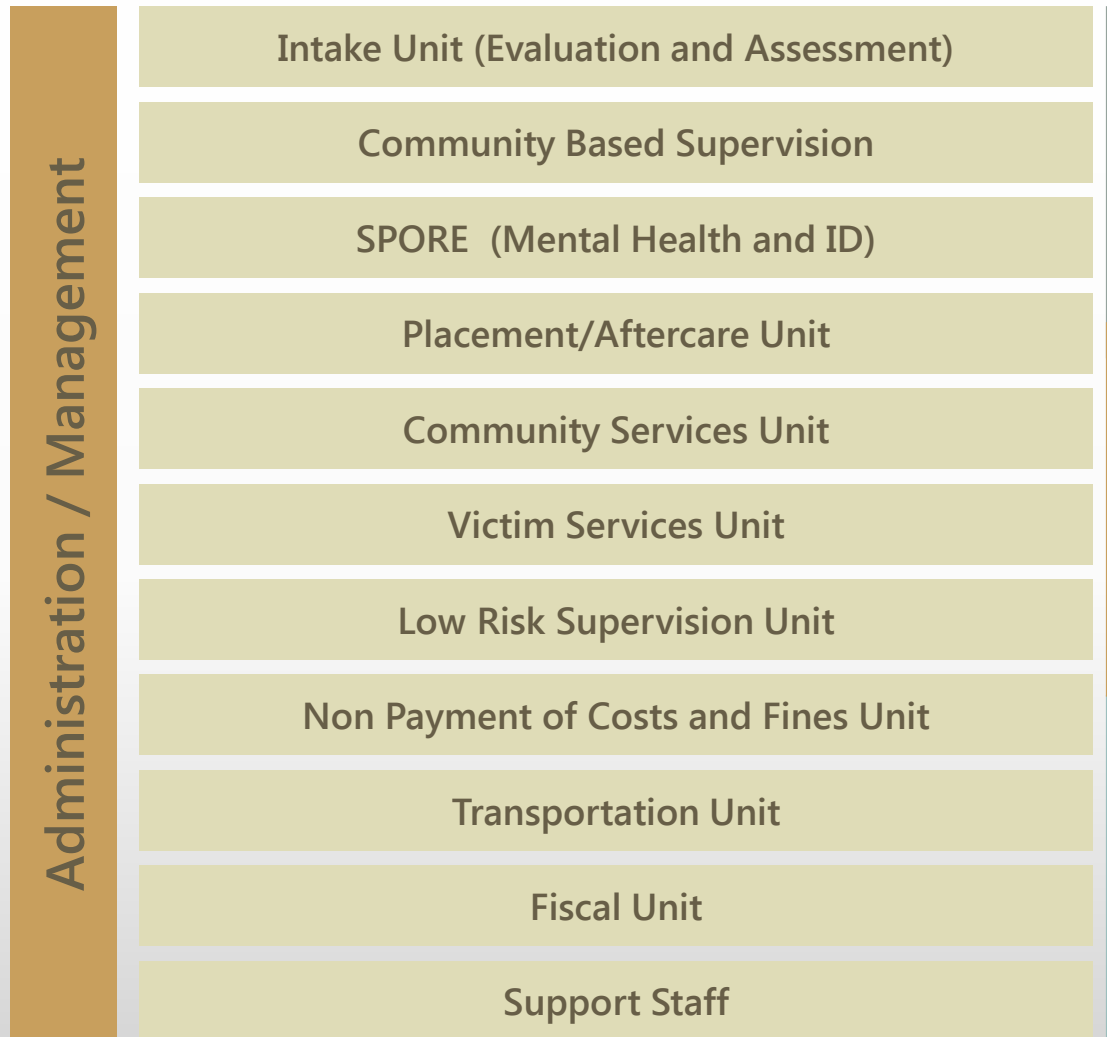


Community Protection: Residents have a right to live in a safe and secure community. Probation Officer's decisions must take into account the risk that each child poses and the degree of structure required to protect the community.

Accountability: Every juvenile offender is to be held accountable for his or her actions and behavior. When a juvenile commits an offense against a person or property, the juvenile incurs an obligation to the victim of that offense. Victims are to be compensated by the offender as a rehabilitative measure.

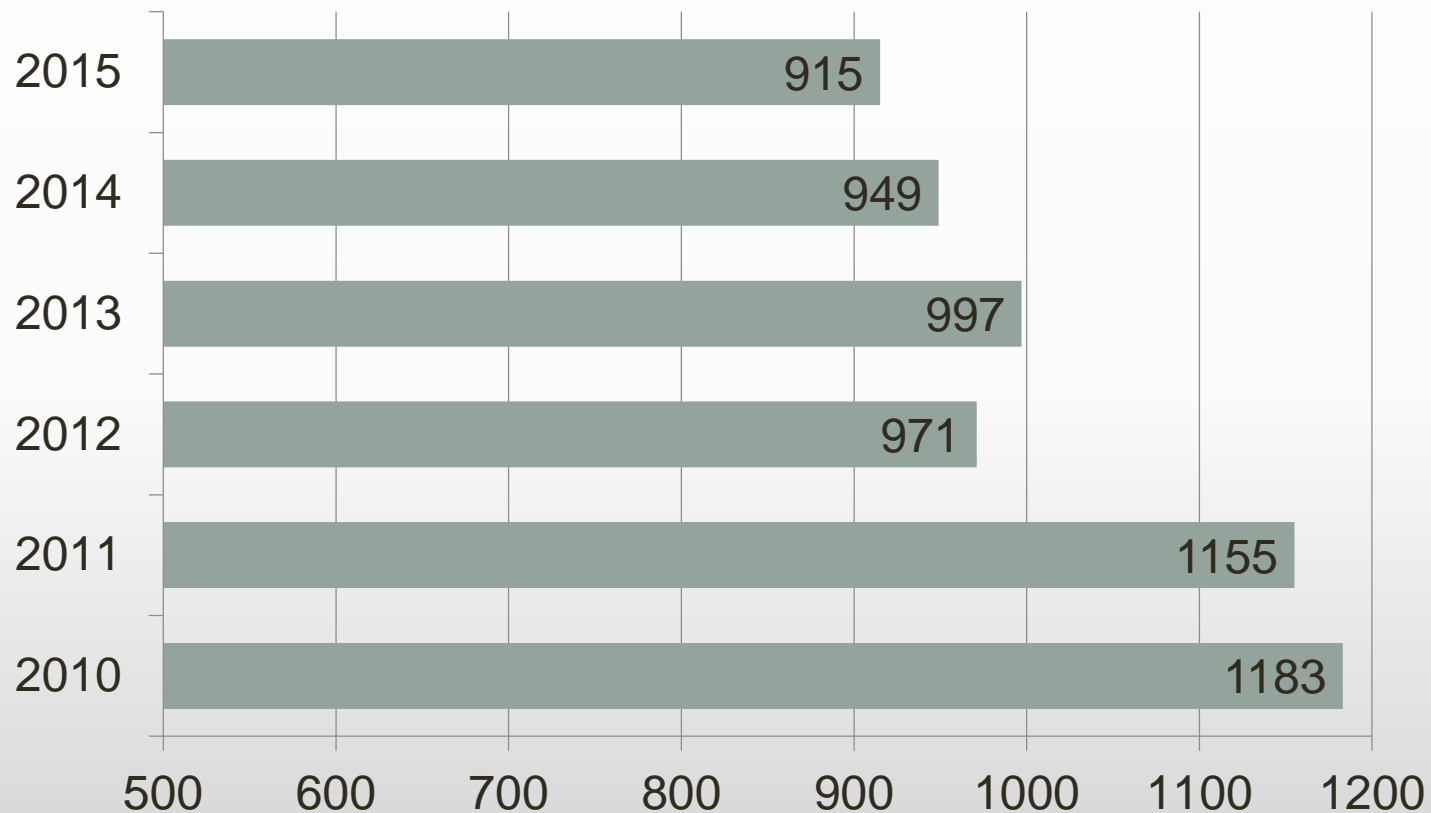
Competency Development: The department assesses each youth to determine how they can best become productive and responsible citizens. This is the part of our mission "that seeks to tap the strengths of young people, their immense capacity for change and growth, in order to achieve transformations."

Juvenile Probation

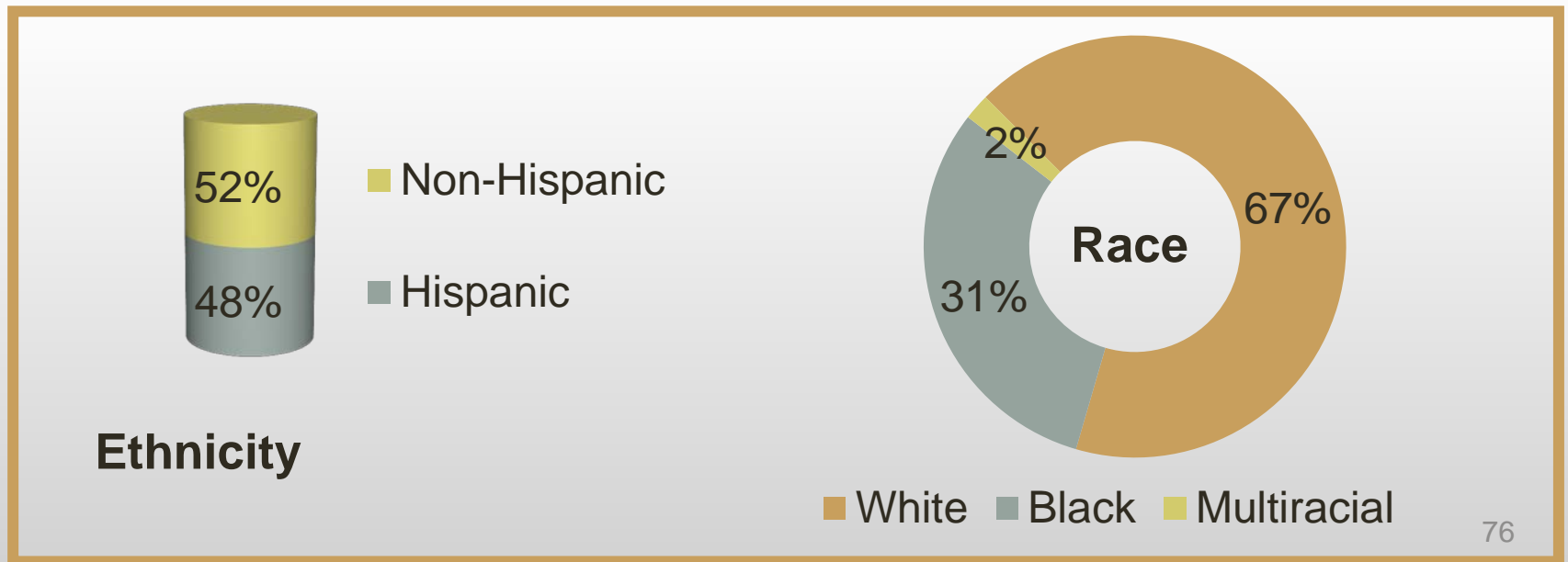
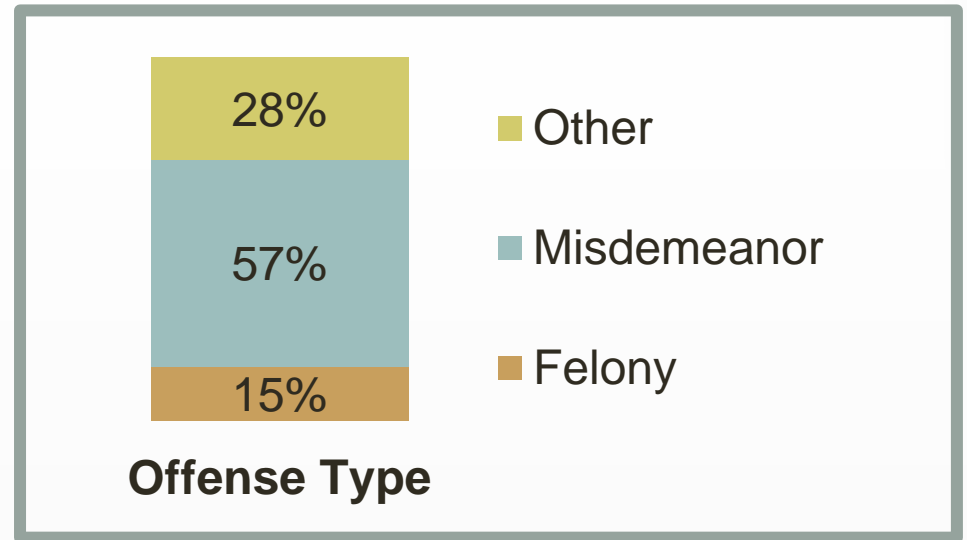
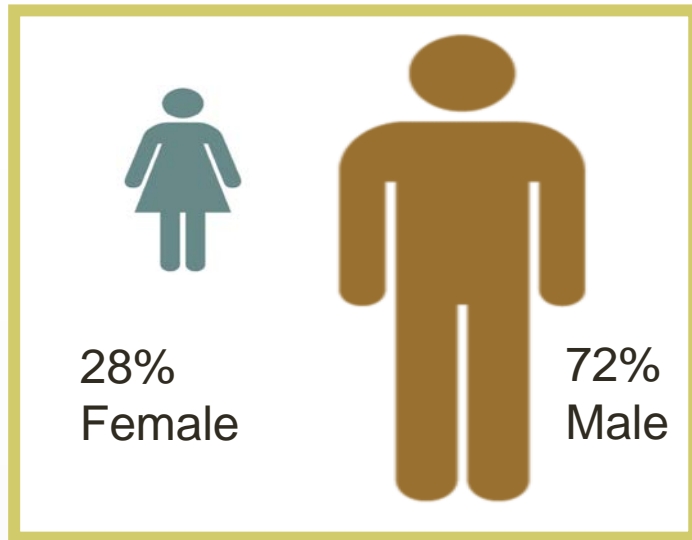


Juvenile Probation

YOUTH UNDER SUPERVISION 2010-2015



Juvenile Probation Client Profile 2015



Juvenile Probation

JUVENILE PROBATION PRIMARY DISPOSITIONS					
Year	Referrals/Written Allegations	Informal Adjustment	Consent Decree	Probation	Placement
2015	1268	62	160	325	118*
2014	1293	78	148	338	190
2013	1175	61	175	305	221
2012	1239	161	189	393	214
2011	1475	259	184	479	209

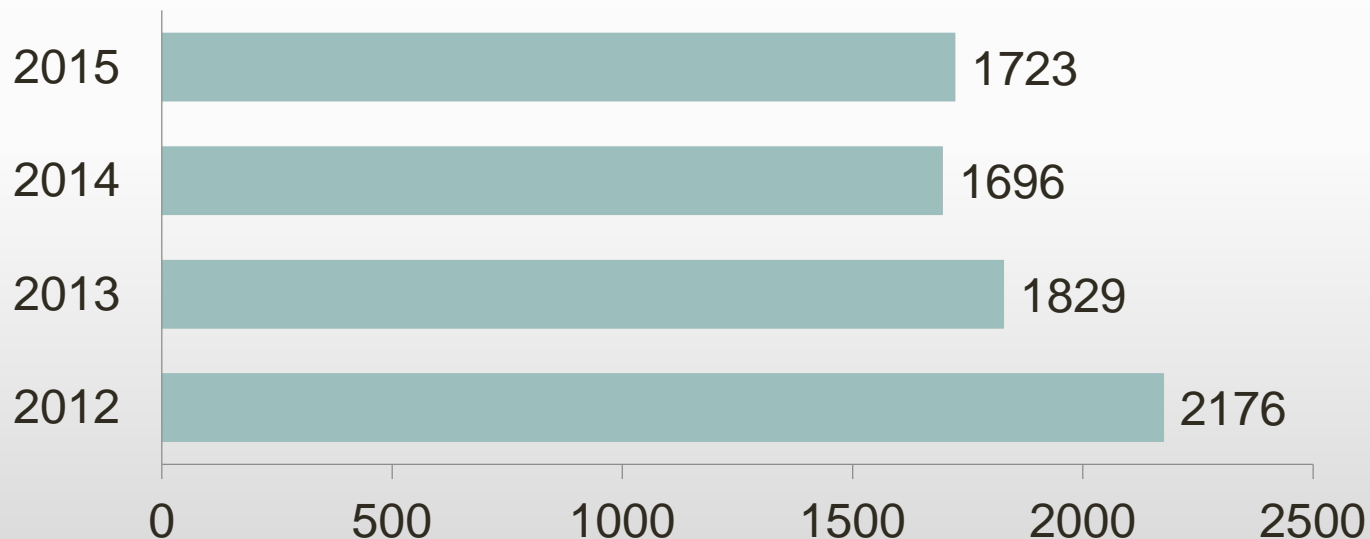
*The Placement data for 2015 does NOT include Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health placements that were not court commitments.

While referrals have been relatively flat for the past few years, complex issues within cases have increased significantly requiring more collaboration with system partners and heightened attention to the dynamics of the case. Heightened attention is also required for sex offender supervision. The use of drugs among youth, and gang activity, remain a concern for our probation officers and require an increased level of supervision. As has been the case for many years, the number of youth with a mental health diagnosis has continued to increase. These youth require special attention and interventions. **Each referral/written allegation may include multiple “cases” which may result in multiple dispositions per allegation. The numbers reflected above include our most frequent dispositions, but are not reflective of all our dispositions.**

Juvenile Probation

Probation and placement dispositions can be counted more than once for the same juvenile as they represent each “case”.

NUMBER OF JUVENILE CASES DISPOSED



Juvenile Probation RISK/NEED STATUS

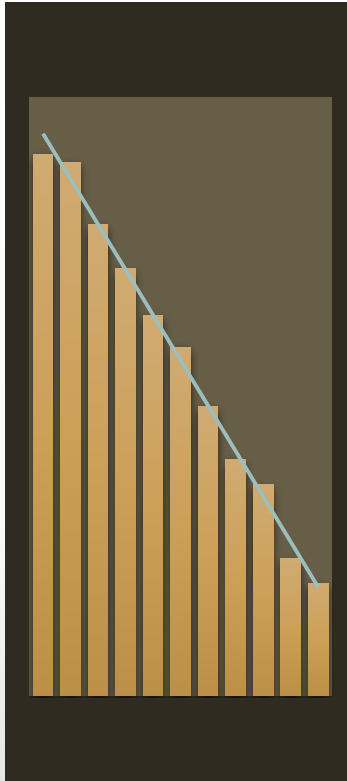
JUVENILE PROBATION RISK STATUS			
<u>Domain</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>High</u>
Prior and Current Offenses	68%	26%	6%
Family Circumstances / Parenting	74%	21%	5%
Education / Employment	26%	57%	17%
Peer Relations	56%	46%	19%
Substance Abuse	48%	32%	20%
Leisure / Recreation	30%	30%	40%
Personality / Behavior	30%	59%	11%
Attitudes / Orientation	59%	39%	2%
Overall Risk Status	45%	48%	7%

Research shows that to have the greatest impact on recidivism of delinquent behavior, the juvenile justice system must adhere to the principles of risk, need, and responsivity. In 2009, Lehigh County was one of the first 10 counties (now 66) in Pennsylvania to implement the Youth Level Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). This instrument measures the youth's risk to reoffend, and helps prioritize the services necessary to affect change. This information is used to determine appropriate levels of supervision, develop case specific goals, and better allocate resources. This will hopefully produce better outcomes for youth and keep our communities safer.

In 2015, Juvenile Probation completed 1365 assessments, showing that 45% of the assessments completed were low risk, 48% moderate risk, and 7% high risk. Each of the domains listed here represent the percentage of risk within each overall risk level.

Juvenile Probation

DETENTION TRENDS 2005-2015

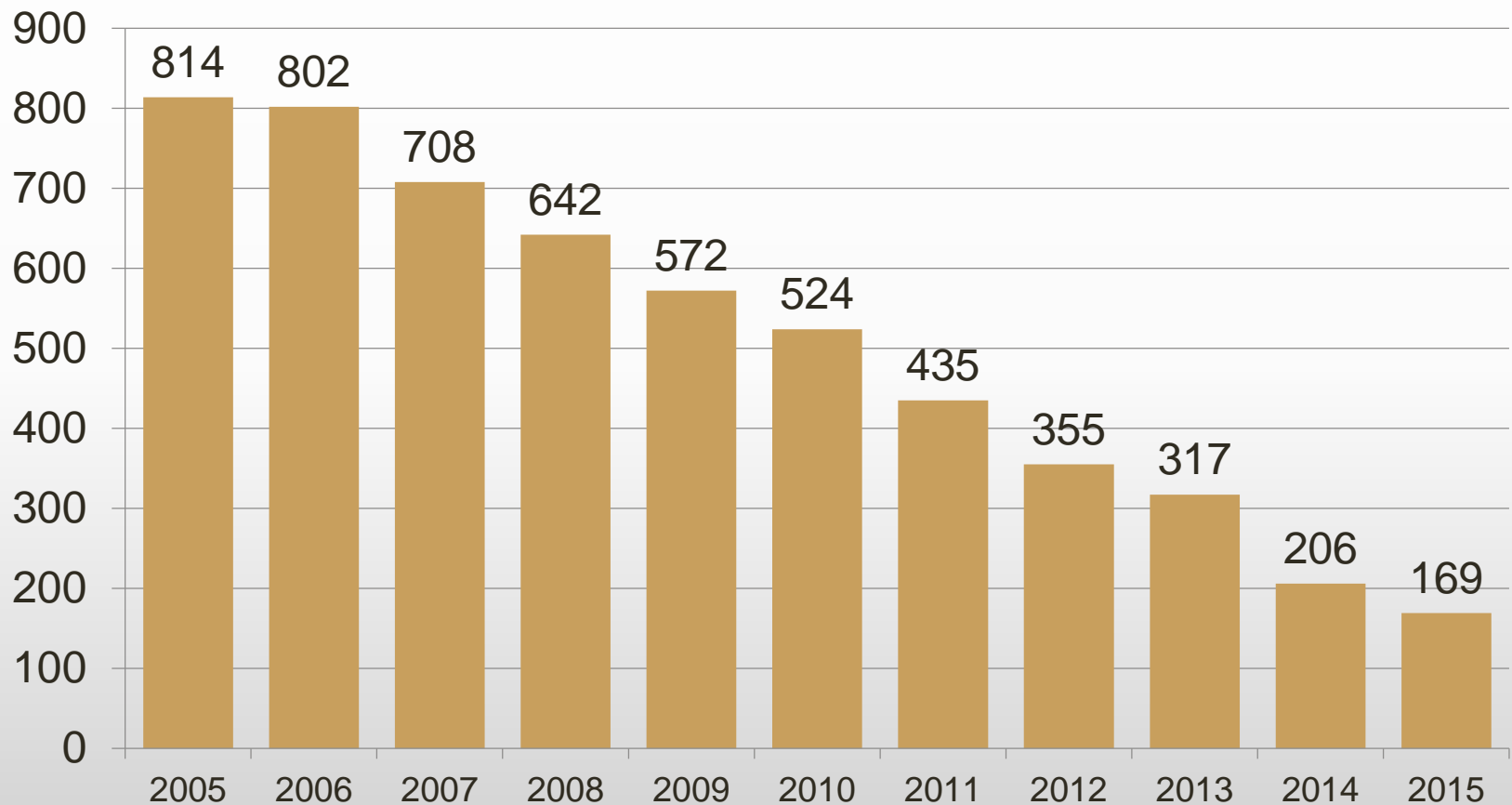


The decision to place a youth in a detention center is one of the most important decisions the juvenile court can make. Throughout the United States, recent emphasis has been on making better detention decisions based on whether each youth is at high risk to commit another crime or fail to appear for court. Lehigh County, as in many other jurisdictions throughout the country, has shown that by detaining the right youth, or selecting proper alternatives to detention, there has been little risk of reoffending or failing to appear for court. Lehigh County has seen decreasing numbers of youth placed in detention.

The decreasing trend is displayed clearly on the following graph.

Juvenile Probation

JUVENILES PLACED IN DETENTION 2005-2015



Juvenile Probation

Probation officers are required to report outcome measures whenever they release a juvenile from probation supervision.
These outcomes measure activities while under supervision.

OUTCOMES ON 498 JUVENILE PROBATION CASES CLOSED IN 2015

Juveniles who completed a community service obligation in full	93%
Juveniles in school or employed at case closing	86.6%
Juveniles who paid their restitution in full	75.9%
Juveniles who re-offended while under supervision	15.9%
Juveniles with a technical violation of probation requiring further court action	11.1%
Juveniles committed to placement (28 days or longer)	16.1%
Completion rate of juveniles ordered to Victim Awareness Curriculum	96.6%
Juveniles who completed a Competency Development activity while under supervision	96.9%

Juvenile Probation Programs

Young Offenders
Program

Evening Reporting
Center

College Mentoring

Retail Theft
Program

Underage Drinking
Program

Young Artist
Program

Marijuana
Awareness Program

Aggression
Replacement
Training

Forward Thinking
Journaling

Crossroads &
Victim Awareness
Curriculum

Thinking For a
Change

Community Work
Service Program



Magisterial District Courts

Magisterial District JUDGES 2015

The Lehigh County Magisterial District Court consists of 14 District Courts, Night Court and Central Court. The supervision of each District Court is the responsibility of the elected Magisterial District Judge, a state employee.

The employees within the specific office are County judicial employees and the personnel and administrative functions fall under the responsibility of the District Judge Administrator, H. Gordon Roberts.

31-1-01	Patricia M. Engler
31-1-02	Rashid O. Santiago
31-1-03	Ronald S. Manescu
31-1-04	David M. Howells
31-1-05	Michael D. D'Amore
31-1-06	Wayne Maura
31-1-07	Robert C. Halal
31-1-08	Michael J. Pochron
31-2-01	Karen C. Devine
31-2-02	Jacob E. Hammond
31-2-03	Donna R. Butler
31-3-01	Rod R. Beck
31-3-02	Michael J. Faulkner
31-3-03	Daniel C. Trexler

MDJ Court Administration

The Magisterial District Judge Administration makes efforts to modernize and streamline the operations of the courts.

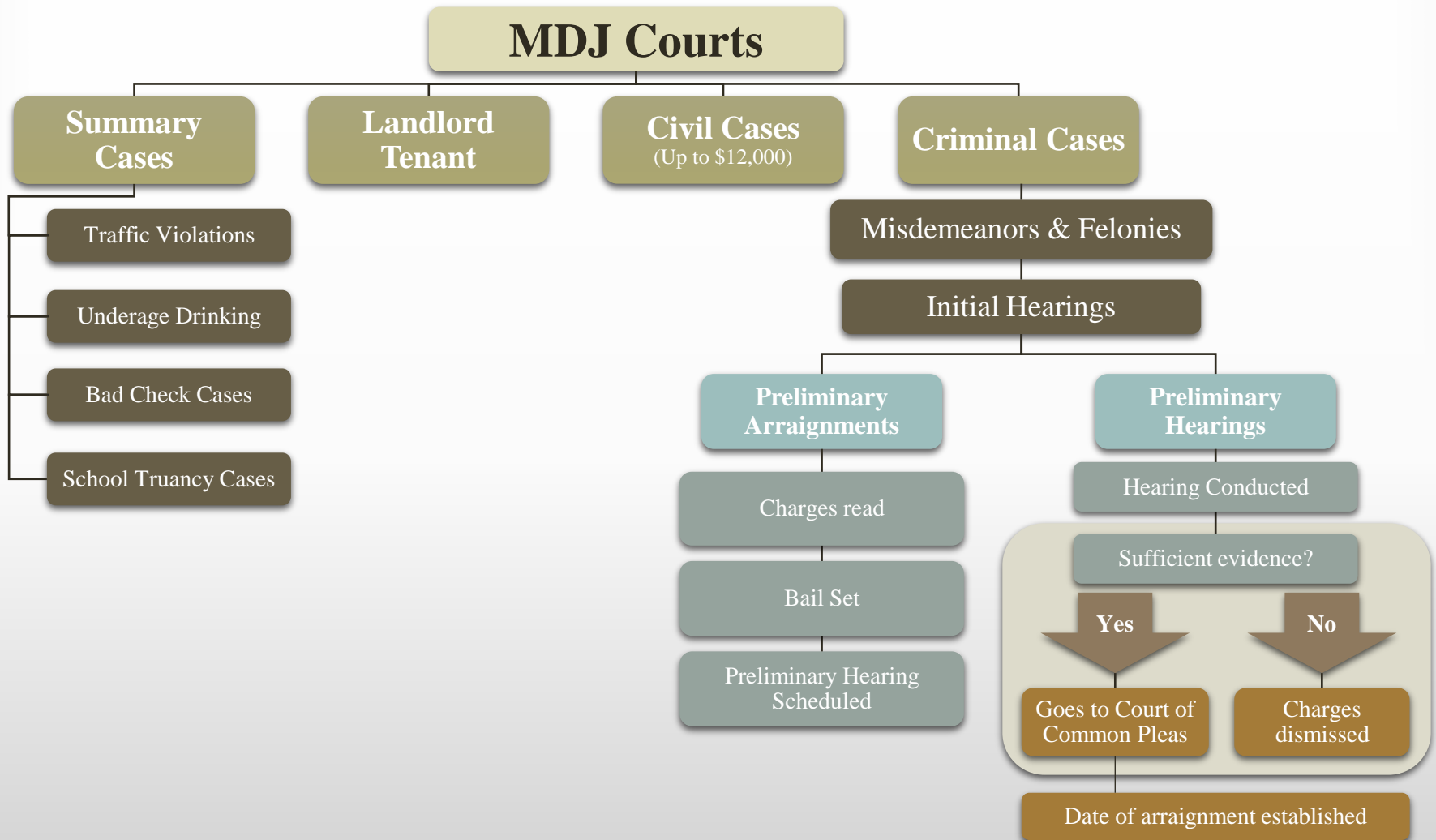
1

In 2015 and progressing into the next year there is an active move by many police departments within Lehigh County as well as with the Pennsylvania State Police to “e-file” traffic citations that are issued. E-filing allows the information from a citation to be received electronically, via the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, at the District Court at which time it is docketed electronically. There is a significant savings by eliminating the redundancy of double entry of the citation information.

2

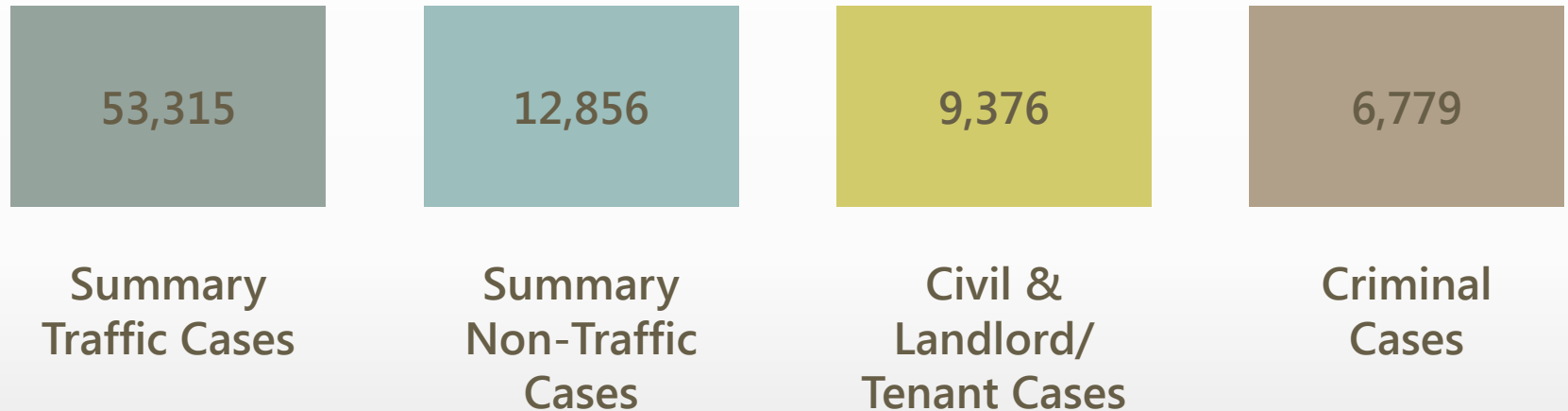
Also, while the district courts have the means to accept credit cards utilizing two different methods of on-line payments, there has been an interest expressed in having credit card payment machines in the district court offices. This would allow the Court customer to by-pass the need to even go on-line for credit card payments. The Courts are exploring a few credit card payment options and should initiate this program in the district courts in 2016.

Jurisdiction of the MDJ Courts



MDJ Court Filings

CASES HANDLED BY LEHIGH COUNTY MDJ COURTS IN 2015



Special MDJ Courts

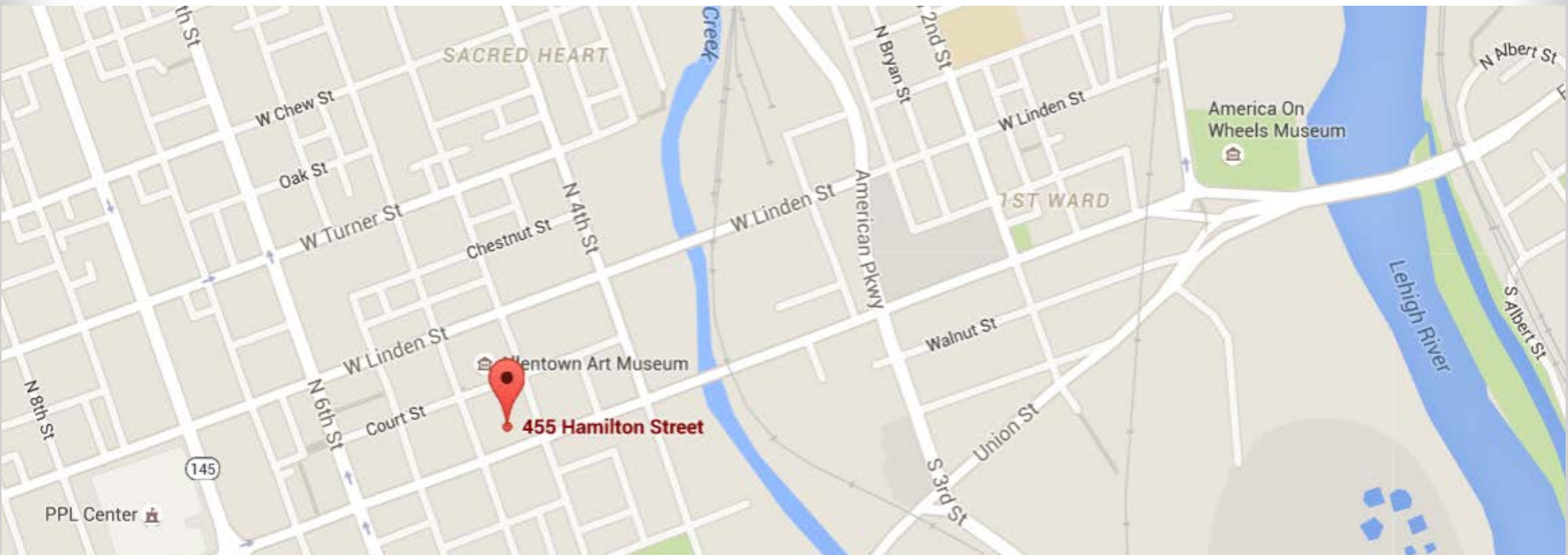
Night Court

- Preliminary Hearings for Arrests Made After Courthouse Hours
- Bail Payments
- Emergency PFA Orders
- Constable Warrant Matters

Central Court

- Preliminary Hearings for All Incarcerated Defendants
- Located within the Lehigh County Courthouse
- 14 MDJs Preside on a Rotating Schedule

Contact the Court



Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County

Telephone: 610-782-3014

455 W. Hamilton Street

www.lccpa.org

Allentown PA 18101