

# 2003 Annual Report



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THE AKRON  
MUNICIPAL  
COURT 

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Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center  
217 South High Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
(7th, 8th and 9th Floors)



Judge John E. Holcomb  
*Presiding /Administrative  
Judge for 2003*

**T**he Akron Municipal Court serves the people of Akron, Fairlawn, Bath, Richfield, Springfield, Lakemore, and the Summit County portion of Mogadore. A total of 59,238 new cases were filed in 2003, an increase of over 2000 cases from the previous year. The total number of criminal cases filed was 15,406. The total number of civil cases filed was 12,122, plus 1,450 small claims cases. 30,260 new traffic cases were filed with the court.

The court disposed of 58,147 cases in 2003.

The court web site which was unveiled in 2001 underwent some user requested changes

## A WORD FROM ADMINISTRATIVE/PRESIDING JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB

which made it easier to search court records, locate special programs and check for outstanding checks. By the close of the year over 300,000 visitors had viewed the court's website.

2003 was a year of change at the Municipal Court. Judge Marvin Shapiro resigned from his seat on the bench in May to take on his new role of Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge. Judge Brian Stormer was appointed by Governor Taft to fill this seat until the general election. Judge Annalisa S. Williams took the bench in December of the year, having defeated Judge Stormer in the general election.

Magistrate Thomas Lynett retired from the court after thirteen years of service. His

depth of knowledge will not be lost however, as Tom will continue to serve the court as a relief magistrate.

Akron Municipal Court continues to be a national leader in providing cost effective, quality alternatives to incarceration and litigation. In addition to the Drug Court, Family Violence Court, and the Mental Health Court, the court also runs a Mediation Program, a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP), and a License Intervention Program(LIP). The Municipal Court has been able to provide this wide variety of dispositional alternatives while decreasing staffing levels by one employee and not raising programmatic costs.

Judge John E. Holcomb

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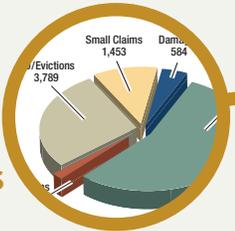
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# THE JUDGES

The Court's six judges are attorneys and are required by Ohio law to have practiced law at least six years prior to becoming a judge. The judges are elected on a nonpartisan basis and serve six-year terms. Their role is to supervise the administration of justice in their respective courts and insure that all trials, court hearings, and administrative procedures are fair and just.



**JUDGE LYNNE S. CALLAHAN**

is a graduate of University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. She has served as an Akron police officer, an Assistant Director of Law and an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor. She was

appointed Judge in May 1997, and elected to the bench in November 1997.



**JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB**

is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Akron School of Law. In the past, Judge Holcomb served as Director of Law for the City of Akron and also served as a member of the

Ohio State Board of Education as well as the Akron Board of Education.



**JUDGE ALISON McCARTY**

graduated from Wheaton College and Wake Forest University School of Law. She served as an Assistant Summit County prosecutor handling felony criminal cases. She was appointed Judge in May, 1999, and

elected to the bench in November, 1999.



**JUDGE CARLA D. MOORE**

an Akron native, earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law. She has served as Municipal Court Judge since her appointment in June of 1989.



**JUDGE MARVIN A. SHAPIRO**

lifetime Akron resident, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Akron in 1960 and his Juris Doctorate degree at the University of Akron in 1965. He has served

the Akron Municipal Court since January of 1991.



**JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER**

graduated from Davidson College with an undergraduate degree in history. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron graduating in the top of her class. She was

elected to the bench in 1991, re-elected in 1993 and 1999.

## A YEAR OF CHANGE



Judge Marvin A. Shapiro resigned his from his seat on the municipal bench in May of 2003 to take on his new role as judge at the common pleas level. Judge Brian Stormer was appointed by Governor Taft to fill the seat until the general election. Annalisa S. Williams won the election and took her seat on the bench in December of 2003.



Judge Williams is joined by friends and family at her formal swearing in ceremony.



# HISTORY OF COURT

In 1910 the legislature established a police court in Akron vested with jurisdiction over offenses under the ordinances of the city and all misdemeanors committed within the limits of Summit County. It was made a court of record and was presided over by an attorney duly admitted to practice in this state.

In 1919 the legislature established the Akron Municipal Court with three sitting judges elected for four-year terms. In 1930 two

judgeships were added to the court. In 1939 the legislature reduced the number of judges from five to four. A fifth judge was again made a member of the court in 1967 and the sixth judgeship was created in 1975. The judges now serve six-year terms.

The court now serves a jurisdiction which includes the cities of Akron and Fairlawn; the townships of Bath, Richfield, and Springfield; the villages of Lakemore and

Richfield; and that part of Mogadore in Summit County.

In 1966 the court moved into the City-County Safety Building which was renamed the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center in 1991 located in downtown Akron. The sitting judges are Judge John E. Holcomb the Presiding/ Administrative Judge for 2003, Lynne S. Callahan, Elinore Marsh Stormer, Alison McCarty, Carla D. Moore, and Marvin A. Shapiro.

Pardee, L.S. ....	1920 - 1923	VanBerg, H.N. ....	1964 - 1975
Marsh, F.G. ....	1920 - 1923	Roulhac, J.D. ....	1968 - 1987
O'Neil, A.F. ....	1920 - 1925	Hartnett, R.B. ....	1970 - 1981
Zesiger, E.E. ....	1924 - 1927	McFadden, D.B. ....	1970 - 1978
Underwood, A.B. ....	1924 - 1925	Colopy, R.H. ....	1972 - 1995
Davies, G. ....	1926 - 1931	Winter, J.P. ....	1976 - 1983
Hoyt, C.C. ....	1926 - 1931	George, J.J. ....	1976 - 1983
Cox, J.E. ....	1928 - 1931	Spicer, W.F. ....	1979 - 1981
Emmons, C.V.D. ....	1931 - 1942	Murphy, J.E. ....	1980 - 1982
Roderick, O.M. ....	1931 - 1961	Schneiderman, T. ....	1981 - 1991
Colopy, S. ....	1932 - 1937	Mack, M. ....	1983 - 1997
Werner, H. ....	1932 - 1935	Williams, J.R. ....	1983 - 1989
Harvey, F.H. ....	1932 - 1935	Maxson, R. ....	1983 - 1993
Isham, D.P. ....	1935 - 1943	Stubbs, H.K. ....	1987 - 1989
Watters, R.B. ....	1936 - 1937	Bond, J. ....	1989 - 1991
Davies, G. ....	1938 - 1939	Moore, C.D. ....	1989 - present
Kelly, C.M. ....	1938 - 1950	Bayer, E. ....	1991 - 1991
Powers, T.M. ....	1939 - 1971	Shapiro, M.A. ....	1991 - 2003
Sacks, C. ....	1943 - 1949	Stormer, E.M. ....	1991 - present
Zook, A.D. ....	1944 - 1959	Callahan, M. ....	1993 - 1995
McRae, C.B. ....	1951 - 1963	Carr, D. ....	1995 - 1998
Victor, W.H. ....	1950 - 1959	Holcomb, J.E. ....	1996 - present
Price, T.R. ....	1960 - 1969	Callahan, L.S. ....	1997 - present
Koplin, N. ....	1960 - 1963	Unruh, B. ....	1998 - 1999
Riddle, J.P. ....	1962 - 1969	McCarty, A. ....	1998 - present
McCarty, A. ....	1998 - present	Stormer, B., ....	2003 - 2003
Reed, E.J. ....	1964 - 1967	Williams, A. S. ....	2003 - present

## DRUG COURT



The Drug Court team with Judge McCartney.



Judge McCartney speaks with Drug Court client from the bench.

Judge Alison McCartney is the Akron Municipal Drug Court Judge, having taken over from Judge Marvin Shapiro in March of 2003. The Akron Municipal Drug Court began in 1995 and is the longest running specialty court in Akron. Akron's Drug Court continues to serve as a model program for many Drug Courts across the state. It is a collaborative effort between the Akron Municipal Court, Akron Police Department, Akron City Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Akron Municipal Probation Department, Summit County Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Board, and Oriana House, Inc.

The Drug Court philosophy promotes court-ordered, judicially supervised treatment. The participants are male and female offenders originally

charged with felonies, either possession of cocaine or methamphetamine.

All prospective offenders are initially screened by the Oriana House admissions Department to determine eligibility. Police and prosecutors must also approve the offender for admission into the Drug Court program.

The program requires that the offender must come to court and plead guilty to a reduced, misdemeanor charge of Attempted Drug Abuse. A six-month jail sentence is then imposed, but suspended. During the course of the next year, the participant will undergo assessment and treatment. The level of treatment is determined by the seriousness of the offender's addiction. At a minimum, each offender will meet with a caseworker at least once a week, and must attend

AA meetings and undergo frequent drug testing.

The program is based on a reward/sanction model: if a participant stays sober and performs well in the program, he or she will receive rewards. If the offender relapses with new drug use, or fails to comply with other aspects of the program, he or she will face graduated sanctions, starting with courtroom observation or a few days in jail, leading up to the final sanction for noncompliance: termination from the program and six months in the Summit County Jail.

The Drug Court is a successful method of treatment for offenders, and a major component of its success is the close supervision and involvement of the judge.

# FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT

The Family Violence Court was implemented in April of 1998, in response to the growing number of domestic violence cases, the need to provide a sanctioning option to reduce jail crowding, the desire to address both victim and offender needs, and the desire to enhance probation supervision and to protect the public safety.

Akron's Family Violence Court is a domestic violence diversion program, the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of very few throughout the country. The actual program is the combined brain-child of the Oriana House, Inc., the Akron Municipal Court and its probation



Judge Callahan and Jill Forster are presented with flowers at the 5 year anniversary of this court.

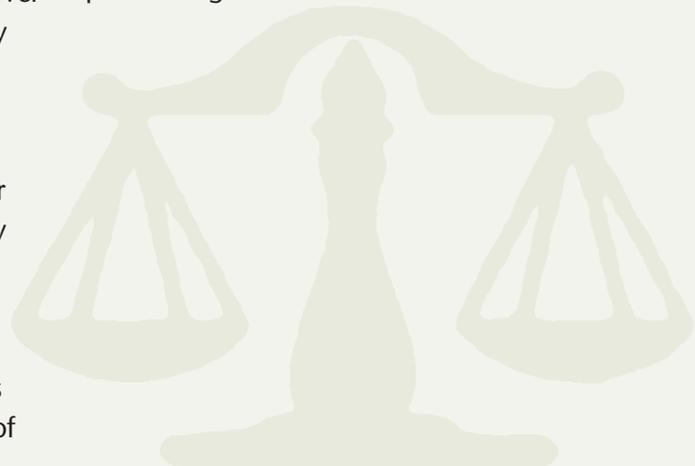


department, Akron's prosecutor's office and police department, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Assistance, the Battered Women's Shelter, and

the Public Defender's Office. The program provides increased supervision of the offender as well as increased coordination of services. Judge Lynne S. Callahan presides over the Family Violence Court. Offenders who enter the Family

Violence Court Program are required to complete a twenty-six week violence cessation program, as well as case management, one year of

probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling, when needed, and employment counseling, when needed. Victims are urged to attend the Early intervention Program and Stop the Cycle at the Battered Women's Shelter and have access to a victim advocate through every step of the proceedings.



# MENTAL HEALTH COURT



Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer with Chief of Probation Ingram and MHC staff.

The Akron Mental Health Court was the first of its kind in Ohio and remains one of a handful in the United States. The Mental Health Court was formed, in part, as a response to the overwhelming numbers of mentally ill offenders being seen by the Akron Municipal Court.

This program is a collaborative effort between the Summit County ADM Board, Community Support Services, and the Akron Municipal Court. Residential treatment is provided by Oriana House, Inc., Sharp Program. The program is envisioned as a diversion program with a significant jail reduction component in the short and long term. The model follows the drug court model with early intervention and stable release into the community with multi-year intensive probation and

frequent court appearances. Prior to the Mental Health Court, mentally ill offenders who were not stable on medications, were waiting in jail for up to six weeks before a competency evaluation was completed. This diversion court reduces the time spent in jail to less than two weeks. One of the goals of the Mental Health Court is to end the cycling of the mentally ill offender through the local jail and the state hospital.

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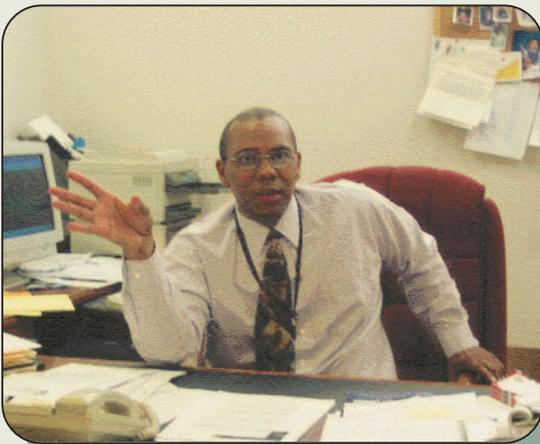


Judge Stormer talks with MHC client.

# THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT PROBATION STAFF



Stacie Rouse, Lori Florin, Linda Mack, Dan Sojourner, Judy McKinney, Alissa Streeter, Jessie Tucker, Jeff Sturmi, Tony Ingram and Jill Forster.



Tony Ingram was appointed Chief of Probation in February of 2003.

## Below are listed some important departmental statistics for 2003:

- 5542** offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.
- 218** Presentence Investigations referrals were received.
- 526** Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.
- 385** persons were placed on traditional probation.
- \$41,387** was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.
- 2790** community service placements were made.
- 125** defendants entered the Family Violence Court, with a retention rate of 86%.
- 98** defendants entered the Drug Court with a retention rate of 83%.
- 703** defendants were screened for the Discretionary Rehabilitation Program...
- 593** were found to be eligible and approved, with a retention rate of 70%.

# THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICE BAILIFF'S STAFF



Kelly Warner, Dave Soder, Vivian Tomko, Dawn Steed, Jonathan Groya, Dennis Parks, Kim Hubbard, Cheryl Price, Pat Boyle, Todd Spicer, and kneeling Chief Bailiff Helen Hurlburt.

The Service Bailiffs' Office is comprised of 6 Service Bailiffs, 2 Court Secretary/Court Records Officers, an Office Manager, and the Chief Bailiff. This office is charged with the responsibility to perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales,

remove clubs, and provide personal service of all court documents generated by The Akron Municipal Court that

require individual service. Unlike the courtroom bailiffs who perform their duties in the courtroom, the Service Bailiffs go out into the community to do their job.

The Outside Bailiffs travel throughout Summit County, into virtually every segment of society to serve Bank Aids, F&D's, Garnishments, Mandatory Orders, Show Causes, Small Claims, Subpoenas, and Summons. They also perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, and remove clubs from vehicles immobilized by Akron, Richfield, Bath, Fairlawn, Lakemore, Springfield and Cuyahoga Falls Police Departments.



Chief Bailiff Helen Hurlburt and Cheryl Price.

## SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

Small claims magistrates handle many different types of cases. They hear evictions, small claims, rent deposits, garnishments/executions, mandatory orders, contempt/show cause, replevin and revivor hearings. The office is staff by two part-time magistrates and support staff. The magistrates are Sophie Albrecht and Belinda Hinton. The support staff are Melissa Briggs and Carrie Christ.



## TRAFFIC DIVISION

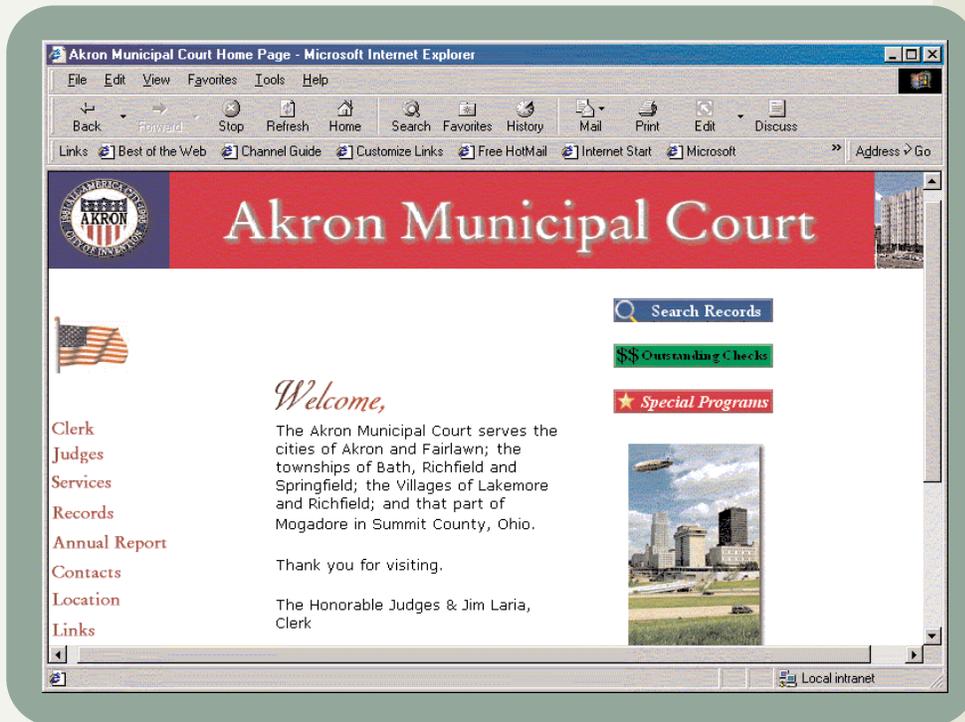


In 2003 the traffic court staff handled 9,034 cases. 217 of those cases were for DUI offenses, 2,795 were for DUS offenses, 4,383 MM, and 1,637 M1-M4 cases. Pictured left are Mick Williams, Traffic Safety Officer, Kathy Wheeler, Jim Conti and seated is Kathy Culver Traffic Magistrate.

# AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT WEBSITE

By the end of 2003 over 300,000 visitors had accessed the court website. In response to user feedback the site was rearranged to provide easier access to the special programs, records search and outstanding check icons.

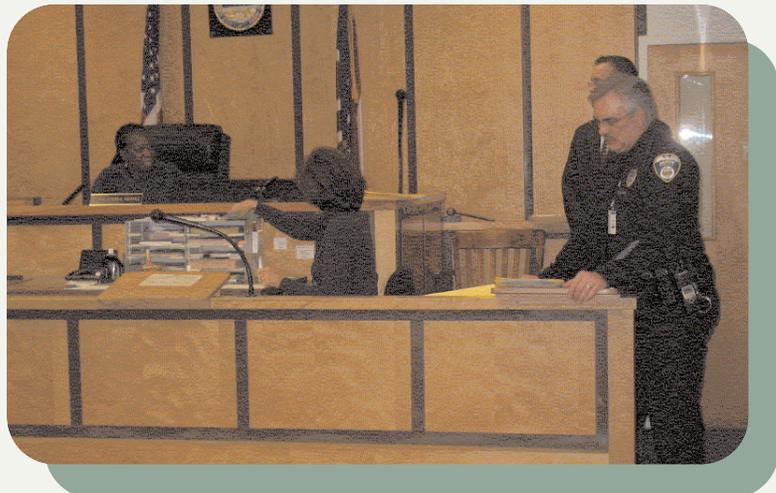
Visit our web site at: <http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us/>



The Akron Municipal Court website offers another means of providing additional information for the people it serves.

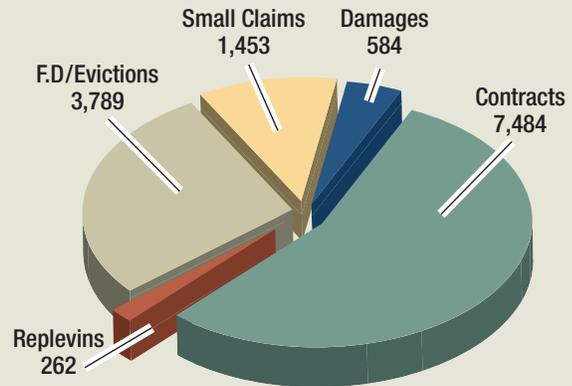
# ARRAIGNMENT COURT

Arraignments of misdemeanor and felony prisoners are heard in the mornings in the arraignment room. This courtroom is usually one of the busiest courtrooms on any given day. Video equipment allows the Judge to see and hear the defendant while the defendant remains in the county jail.

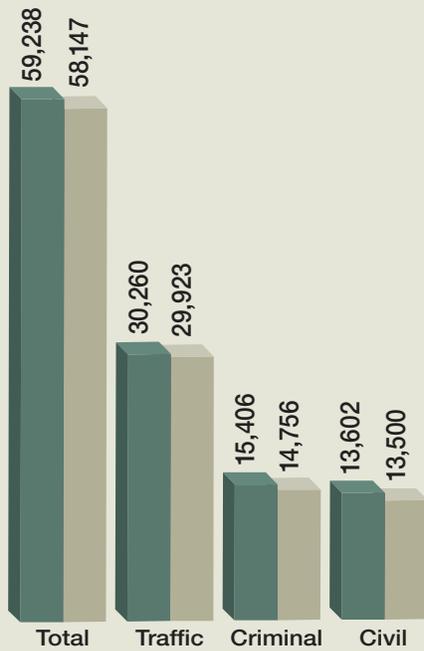


# FAST FACTS

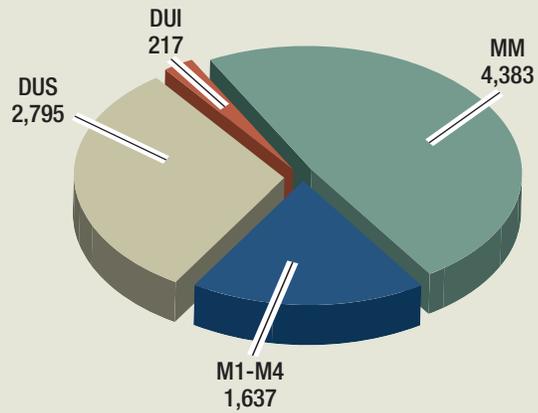
## Top Five Civil Case Filings 2003



## Total Cases Filed / Disposed



## Traffic Court Cases 2003



# Glimpses



Judge Carla Moore speaks during the September 11, Memorial Service



## MEDIATION PROGRAM



Judicial Associate Laura Killian (center), heads the mediation program.

## VISITING JUDGES



The Court is fortunate to have several retired judges available to seat when a conflict arises, the municipal judges attending a training seminar or conference, or when they just need a vacation day. Currently, Judge William Pike, Judge Perry Dickinson, Judge Monte Mack, Judge Ted Schneiderman, and Judge Joyce George serve the court as visiting judges.



**JIM LARIA**, has been Clerk of Courts since January 1, 1997. Laria is a graduate of The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Education and the National Judicial College with certification in Court Administration. Jim was an elected member of the Akron School Board and has worked in our court systems for more than 24-years, serving as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Akron Municipal Courts and Court Administrator for the Summit County

Probate Court. Jim Laria was elected by his peers as the President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association.

Visit our website at:  
<http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us>

This annual report was created by the Court Administrator's Office, with the assistance of our friends at the City of Akron Graphics Department. Photos by Bruce Ford, Peter Spearing and Ken Kuckuck.



Cynthia Caprez, Executive Assistant, Lee Mattes, Summit County Prosecutor's Office and Court Administrator Ken Kuckuck.