



Trauma Response and the Criminal Justice System: A Virtual Summit on Knowledge, Healing, and Resilience

“Trauma-Informed Courts”

Judge Theresa Dellick will discuss her experience in developing Courts that are trauma-informed and balanced with attention to youth accountability and responsibility, public safety and restoration of victims’ rights. She will share her experiences in implementing specialized dockets and explain how to incorporate trauma informed approaches work in this setting. She will share her journey working in the criminal justice system, sharing real life examples of working with individuals and how trauma informed approaches improved their experiences while going through the system.

Presenter: Judge Theresa Dellick

In 1999, she became a county court judge, where she implemented the first misdemeanor county drug court. Since 2001, Judge Theresa Dellick has served as judge of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court overseeing the administration of the Court as well as the Detention Center, intake services, probation, Clerk of Courts, counseling services, community services. Her administration of the Court is directed to trauma-informed, balanced and restorative justice with focused attention to youth accountability and responsibility, public safety, and restoration of victims’ rights. Dellick received the Champion of Hope Award from Sandy Hook Promise, and has received recognition for her court programs by the Obama White House, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education, and The Supreme Court of Ohio. Judge Dellick and the Mahoning County High School are invited to address the United Nations in summer 2021. She is also a Fellow of the Georgetown’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Recognizing the complexity of many of the issues before the Court, Judge Dellick has brought evidence-based programs to Mahoning County that address both juvenile and family rehabilitation, many which have received state recognition for their effectiveness and have served as model programs to other courts. Under Judge Dellick’s leadership, the Court has been involved in early intervention and diversion programming, reducing recidivism, increasing family self-reliance, and ensuring the safety and well-being of youths and the protection of those served.

Specialized Dockets: Mahoning County Juvenile Court is the only court in Ohio with five Ohio Supreme Court certified specialized dockets, namely the Treatment Court (Drug and Alcohol), Family Dependency Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Sex Offender Treatment Court, and Re-Entry Court. The Court has the only Sex Offender and Education Court Dockets in the State. Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of offenses or offenders which use a combination of different techniques for holding offenders accountable while addressing the underlying causes of behavior and have been proven effective at reducing recidivism.

Mahoning County High School: MCHS was created by Judge Dellick and is in partnership with Columbiana County Educational Service Center to provide an alternative education for at-risk students. The principles of trauma-informed care and restorative justice embody the school.

The Court also has a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Unit to address behaviors of medium to high risk youth. The program was created to prevent institutionalization of youth and to keep students close to home and family while providing positive behavioral therapies.

She is past-president of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges and currently is the District 6 Trustee. She has assisted drafting juvenile legislation as well as testifying in support. She has been a national, state, and local seminar presenter at juvenile court judges' conferences, bar associations, schools, colleges, and community organizations and agencies. Judge Dellick is chair of the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets and is Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee for the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges. Dellick is Chair-Elect of the Department of Youth Services Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Commission. She is a trained racial justice dialogue facilitator and trauma-informed trainer. Judge Dellick is a member of Phi Kappa Phi. She is also a member of the Catholic Diocese Finance Council.

Judge Dellick created the [Juvenile Court Advisory Board](#) whose members represent the community. The Board provides advice and assistance to the court as well as sponsoring various events and seminars, on topics such as adolescent grief and trauma, bullying, delinquency, adolescent brain development and other relevant juvenile topics.