



AOPC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS



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Message from the court administrator

I am pleased to present this 2022 Annual Report of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). First, we must acknowledge the profound loss of Chief Justice Max Baer, whose passing in September left a void in our judiciary and in our hearts. Justice Baer's legacy of fairness, integrity and unwavering commitment to justice will continue to inspire us all.

In 2022, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania proudly celebrated its 300th anniversary – a historic milestone for the nation's oldest appellate court. Since its founding in 1722, the Court has been a cornerstone of justice and this tricentennial served as a testament to its enduring legacy. As we reflect on this remarkable history, we also renew our commitment to ensuring that Pennsylvania's judiciary remains a model of excellence for generations to come.

In the beginning of the year, the Supreme Court welcomed Justice P. Kevin Brobson as its newest member. Justice Brobson is the 178th member to serve on the Court and the third Commonwealth Court judge elected to the Supreme Court. Before his election to the Supreme Court, Justice Brobson served for more than a decade as a judge of the Commonwealth Court, having held the role of president judge since 2020.

Throughout the year, we have continued to innovate and adapt, ensuring that our operations remain efficient and effective. The commitment of our judges, staff and partners has been instrumental in maintaining the high standards of our judicial system. Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the future as the appointment of Justice Debra Todd as the new chief justice marks a new chapter for our courts. Chief Justice Todd's leadership, vision and dedication to justice will undoubtedly guide us toward continued success and innovation.

As we move forward, we are continually grateful for the support and collaboration of our judicial community and all who work on behalf of the effective administration of justice, and we remain committed to upholding the principles of justice, fairness and service.



Sincerely,

GEOFF MOULTON
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

How the court system works

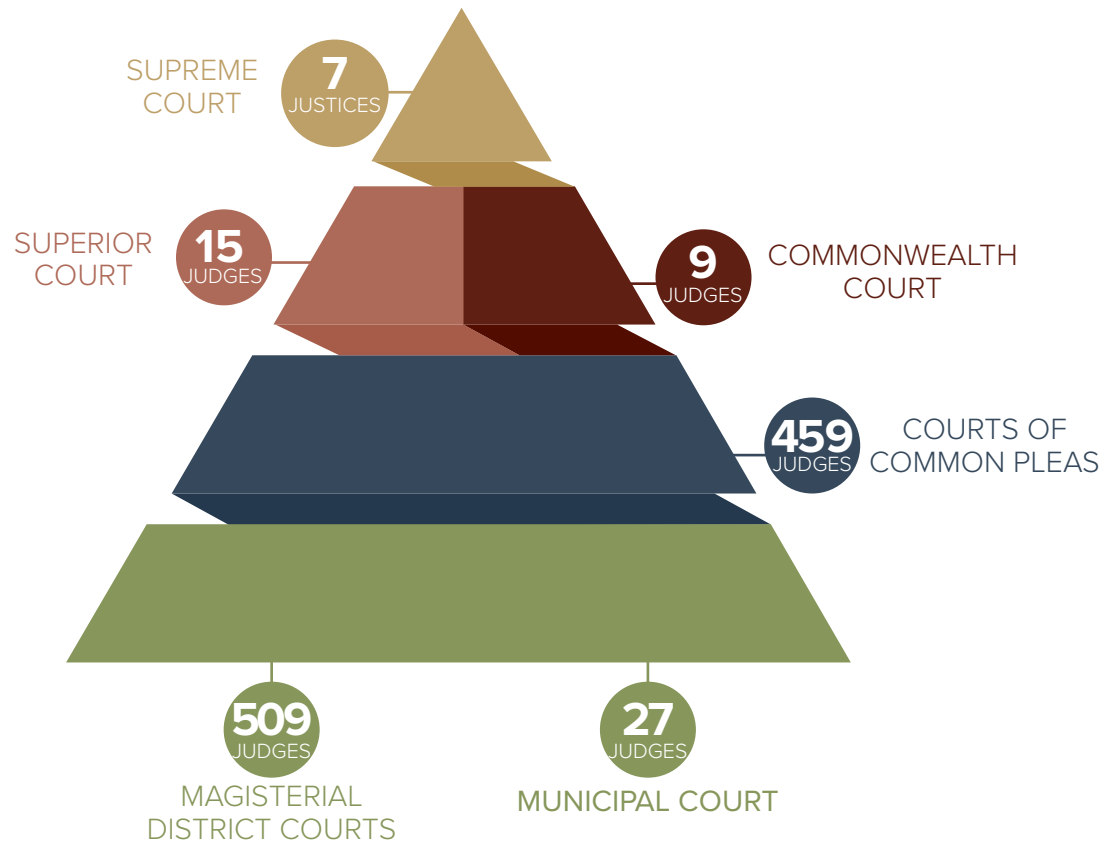
FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COURTS.

We approach every day with this focus – to keep courts open, safe, accessible, fair, effective, responsive and accountable.

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in our use of technology to make the courts accessible and efficient. Our court data is used widely in government to help make informed policy decisions and to foster public safety.

Our programs provide opportunities for dramatic differences in peoples' lives and are proving to be cost-savers as well.

The Pennsylvania court system is structured like a pyramid, with the Supreme Court at the top. All courts fall under the umbrella of the judiciary headed by the Supreme



Court. In the interest of full transparency and accountability, Pennsylvania's judiciary provides comprehensive public access to court records online and upon request. [Learn more about Pennsylvania Courts.](#)

WHO WE ARE

Defining the AOPC

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is the administrative arm of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Led by the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court supervises and administers Pennsylvania's judicial branch of government. The Supreme Court appoints the court administrator of Pennsylvania.

THE AOPC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:



Representing the court system to the public and at all government levels, providing each with reliable information.



Developing and maintaining information technology resources, such as case, financial and administrative management systems.



Facilitating safe and accessible courts for all.



Providing legal services to system personnel.



Recommending **court system improvements** and program innovations.



Conducting **continuing education programs** for judges and staff.



Managing administrative functions including finance and human resources.



Educating the public about the courts' roles and functions, ensuring all court information is as transparent and publicly accessible as possible.



Assisting president judges and district court administrators in **management** of local courts.

How the court system is funded

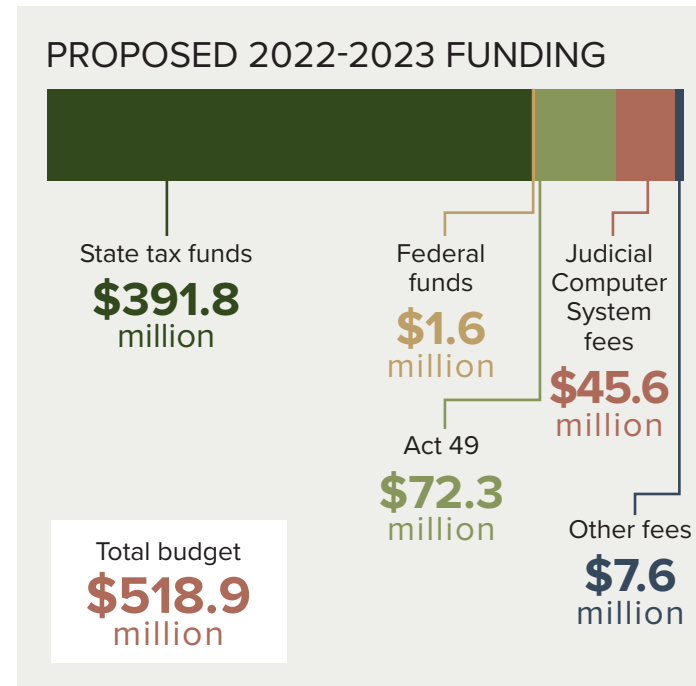
AOPC/Finance provides critical management of budget, accounting and payroll systems for the entire judiciary and serves as the primary resource for the organization on financial matters.

The Pennsylvania Constitution calls for justice to be administered without “sale, denial or delay.” That mandate shapes the core mission of the courts – delivering fair, timely and accessible justice for all. Adequate funding with an ongoing commitment to efficiency and the wise and transparent use of public funds allows the mission to be met.

The judiciary strives to use tax dollars wisely and efficiently. Over the past 10 years, reducing its personnel complement, renegotiating leases and contracts, containing benefit costs and limiting merit and cost-of-living increases has saved more than \$95.2 million.

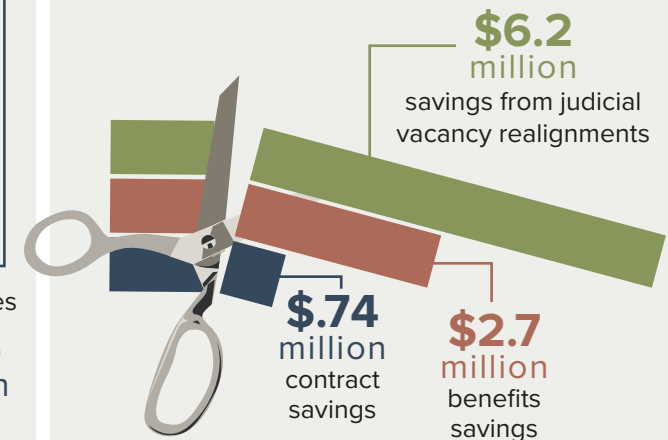
2022-2023 BUDGET REQUEST

FUNDING SOURCES



SAVING TAX DOLLARS

Saving tax dollars through various cost saving measures remains a priority through renegotiating leases and contracts, containing benefit costs and the right sizing of the judiciary including the realignment of Pennsylvania’s magisterial district courts.



Over the past 10 years, the judiciary has saved a combined

\$95.2
million.

The judiciary receives about

0.5%
of the state budget.

Fee revenue has been used to fund a portion of the judiciary’s annual general fund budget, currently about

16%
of the total.

WHO WE ARE

By the numbers



Pennsylvania's problem-solving courts had a **70% combined successful graduation rate.**



Pennsylvania courts collected over **\$423 million** in fees, fines, costs and restitution.



37% of Pennsylvania's active judges were women.



1,962,598 million new cases were filed in magisterial district courts.



40,623 protection from abuse (PFA) orders were filed.



73% of children who were under court supervision were either returned to or remained in their home.



117.3 million docket sheets were viewed for free on our website.



16,476 written allegations, and **15,418 dispositions** representing **15,338 juveniles.***



34,846 jurors were impaneled or sworn.



Facilitated **36,140** requests for interpreters.



More than **11,100 followers** on Twitter **@PACourts.**



Trial and appellate judges completed more than **34,000 hours** of continuing education.

For more numbers see the [AOPC's interactive data dashboards.](#)

*Provided by Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC)

WHO WE ARE

Human Resources

Providing support to approximately 2,000 active judges and staff, the [Human Resources Department](#) counsels and guides individuals throughout the employment lifecycle. From recruitment and onboarding to the development of policies, procedures and services, HR assists with strategies to retain our workforce by securing benefits and identifying development programs. HR serves as a regular point of contact for many judges and staff helping long-term employees prepare for retirement, listening to general concerns and navigating employees through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to coordinating and maintaining employee benefit programs and counseling employees and retirees on the provisions and use of benefits, AOPC/HR staff develop training curriculum, administer judiciary wide policies, and ensure compliance with federal and state employment laws. The department is also responsible for administering the compensation program, the employee leave accounting program, and the performance evaluation system.

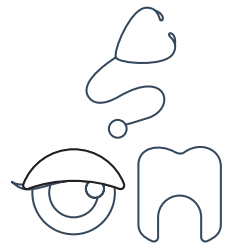
2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

Adjusted to the “Great Resignation” by **updating our recruitment strategies to improve our visibility to candidates.**

Posted 73 positions for hire and **on-boarded 70 staff members** to these open positions.

Conducted presentations and trainings to current and newly hired managers and supervisors on a variety of topics.

In conjunction with Finance and IT, began the search for an ERP provider in an effort to **move to a new HR/Payroll system.**



Renegotiated **medical benefit contracts.**

Instituted changes to specialty prescription drug program which **reduced members' co-pays and increased rebates for the judiciary.**

PA COURTS ARE HIRING!

Jumpstart your law career.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO CLERK FOR PA COURTS:



1
Invaluable
learning
experience



2
Learn a wide range
of legal styles and
abilities from a
variety of practicing
attorneys



3
Become a
valued member
of the legal
community



4
Training offers
experience not
obtained by working
for a law firm



5
Possible
post-clerkship
employment

Whether you're seeking a career with great benefits, flexible schedules or a work-life balance that genuinely values your well-being, law clerk positions with Pa. Courts are available statewide - from appellate courts to county courts.

Come join our team as a highly respected law clerk, where you will further develop critical thinking, writing skills and the practice of law itself with an experienced, respected judge mentor. A clerkship quickly molds law graduates into better lawyers with experience that would otherwise take years to accumulate.

Take advantage of this incredible opportunity and unlock your potential.

Looking for a job that combines the law with public service? Apply today and join a clerkship family of past and future clerks, providing a broad network from different law schools, geographic areas and practices of law.

Learn more about open Pa. judicial law clerk positions:



Appellate courts:
<https://paascourts.org/myworkdayjobs.com/PAcourts>



County-level courts:
<https://www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/human-resources/job-opportunities>

Twitter: @PACourts
Facebook: @pennsylvaniaiscourts



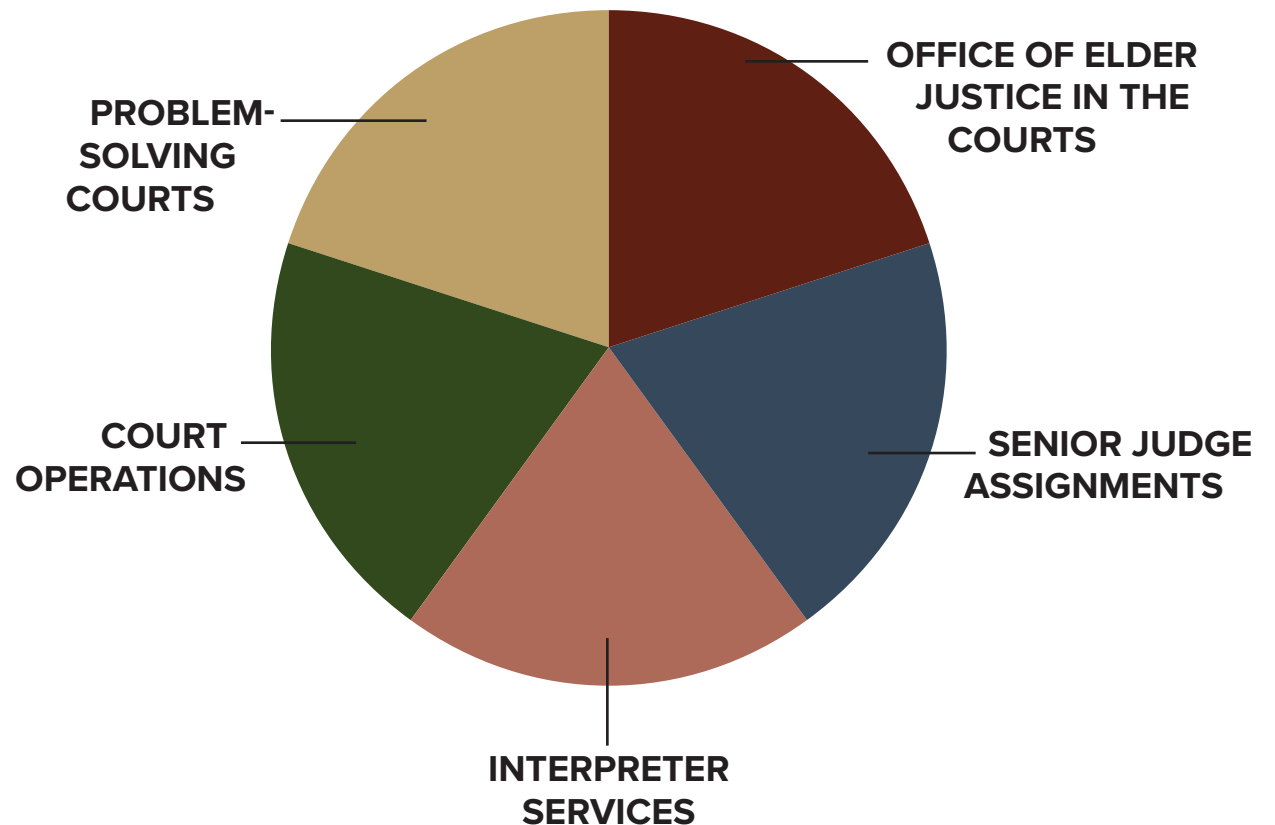
FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judicial operations

AOPC/[Judicial District Operations and Programs](#) department works closely with court administration at both the state and local level to support the efficient operation of magisterial district and trial courts and to promote equitable access to justice.

While funding for all AOPC operations comes mainly from state appropriations and fee funding, it receives a small amount of federal funds – including a STOP Grant (see page 16).

COMPONENTS OF JUDICIAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT:



FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Problem-Solving Courts

More than 20 years ago, Pennsylvania established [problem-solving courts](#), in an effort to address a growing need in the community for those struggling with addiction. Since that time, the need for additional services and support to address major social policy issues has grown, and the role of the courts along with it.

As of Dec. 2022, more than 130 problem-solving courts were operational across the state, serving those with DUI offenses, veterans, those living with a mental illness and more. These specialized courts focus on behaviors and conditions that many times are linked to crime and social problems and have a major impact on the court system.

Rather than serve jail time, defendants may complete community service and are given access to counseling, treatment opportunities for addiction, educational assistance and healthcare support.

Completing the program and graduating opens doors to the future for these defendants, with many seeing their charges dismissed, sentences reduced or criminal records expunged.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



169 participants achieved an increase in education



417 participants who were unemployed found jobs



One new Drug Treatment court opened in Lebanon County.



Seven problem-solving courts had their accreditations renewed.

Successful graduation rates by court:



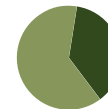
57% Drug Court



77% DUI Court



81% Veterans Court



64% Mental Health Court



1,886 participants were admitted.

1,100 participants graduated successfully.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Problem-Solving Courts

2022 INITIATIVES

Veterans Treatment Court Statewide Strategic Planning Technical Assistance - In 2019, Pennsylvania was one of five states to receive Veterans Treatment Court Statewide Strategic Planning Technical Assistance from the Center for Court Innovation. This was also accompanied by a \$200,000 sub-award from the Center for Court Innovation. An assessment was conducted by the Center for Court Innovation and was designed to assist the AOPC in identifying the current strengths of Pennsylvania's veterans' treatment courts, resources and challenges.

Assessment identified the following needs:

- Team training in substance use disorders, treatment, and veteran-specific issues
- Early and accurate identification of justice-involved veterans
- Targeting the right population for veterans' treatment courts
- Better recruitment, training, and retention of veteran peer mentors
- Measures to address transportation challenges
- Improved statewide coordination

The strategic planning committee developed eight goals to address these needs, however with many of the plans sidelined due to COVID-19, the grant was extended for another year and expired in Sept. 2022.



Funds were also used to begin developing a **mobile app for Pennsylvania's veterans' courts**. The app will provide information specific to Pennsylvania's Veterans' Treatment Courts as well as feature guides to assist veterans with topics such as Battling Depression, Drug Awareness, Military & Veteran Culture, Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and Suicide Prevention.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Problem-Solving Courts

2022 TRAININGS

- **Lunch & Learn Series** – In 2022, eight webinars were offered with topics including professional burnout, treating meth-addicted clients, supporting LGBTQ+ participants, giving African Americans a voice in treatment court, following best practices, and addressing capacity building in treatment courts.
- **Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know** – This course, through the National Judicial College, focused on the neurology of addiction with an emphasis on heroin and painkillers. AOPC provided scholarships to five treatment court judges to attend this course in Denver, CO.
- **Annual Coordinators' Symposium** – The 2022 symposium was held in June with 57 coordinators in attendance. Topics included team dynamics and confidentiality, therapeutic responses and MAT, equity and inclusion, updates from AOPC Research and Statistics, as well as a presentation by AOPC Legal on DOJ's guidelines for individuals with opioid use disorder.
- **National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Addictions ("The Rural")** – The AOPC awarded seven scholarships to treatment court team members from rural counties to attend this conference in Menomonie, WI. Some topics included identifying and addressing the impact of trauma in rural and frontier communities, implementing treatment court best practices in rural jurisdictions, cultural diversity issues, getting started with drug courts, critical response to substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders, and many more relevant topics.
- **National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) RISE22 Conference** – The AOPC awarded 35 scholarships to treatment court team members to attend the national conference in Nashville, TN.
- **Pennsylvania Association of Treatment Court Professionals (PATCP) Conference** – The AOPC awarded 58 scholarships to attend this conference in State College, PA.
- **PA DUI Association Annual Meeting** – The AOPC awarded six scholarships to DUI Court team members to attend the annual meeting in Seven Springs, PA.
- **Incentives and Sanctions Virtual Workshops** – The AOPC contracted with three national speakers to train DTC, DUI, Drug/DUI Hybrid and VTC teams on the appropriate use of incentives and sanctions within their court.

Supporting Pennsylvania's older adults

AOPC's [Office of Elder Justice in the Courts \(OEJC\)](#)

assists the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts in implementing the recommendations made by the Elder Law Task Force.

Committed to protecting Pennsylvania's rapidly growing population of older adults from all forms of abuse and exploitation, the OEJC educates judges, court staff, attorneys, guardians and the public about the warning signs of elder abuse and how to respond.

In collaboration with other elder justice entities and branches of government, the OEJC works to enhance older adult Pennsylvanians' ability to fully participate in legal proceedings and promote best practices around elder abuse, neglect, guardianship and access to justice.

2022 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

As of Dec. 31, 2022, there were **18,434 active guardianship cases** in the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS), and over **\$1.7 billion in total assets under court supervision** for guardianships. There were **28,043 family/lay guardians** and **547 professional guardians** serving in the Commonwealth.

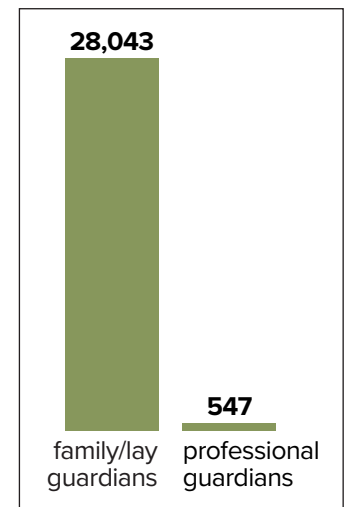
Pennsylvania's nationally recognized **GTS received major new enhancements**, including a new feature that allows GTS to alert judges and court staff in other counties when a guardian is suspected of committing abuse, neglect or financial exploitation.

A **pilot project** to help courts identify and address guardians' overdue annual reports was launched by the OEJC.

In September, the OEJC was awarded a three-year (approximately \$3 million) **Elder Justice Innovation Grant** from the federal Administration for Community Living to assess and implement improvements in the handling of adult guardianship cases.

The OEJC presented **In Your Court: Identifying Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation** to all new magisterial district judges.

The OEJC **published and distributed the Resource Guide for Financial Institutions** Regarding Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania-Compliant Powers of Attorney and Guardianship Orders.



FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Language access

[Language services](#) for individuals who are limited English proficient or deaf or hard of hearing are essential to ensure that all court users are able to fully participate in judicial proceedings, in which their rights or interests are at stake, and court services, programs and activities.

One of the top priorities of the AOPC is to ensure that the Pennsylvania courts are accessible to everyone and the AOPC Language Access Team works hard to make this possible.

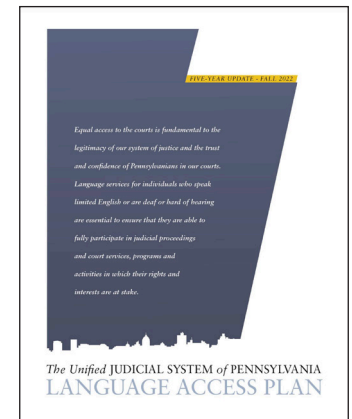
2022 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In 2022, the Language Access team virtually held its **Coordinator Summit**. The Summit focused on working effectively with interpreters, translation, Scheduling Dashboard, and interpreter ethics and complicated scenarios.

Released a [Five-Year Update Report](#) on the [Language Access Plan for the Unified Judicial System \(UJS-LAP\)](#).

Launched the Scheduling Dashboard, a web-based application, to assist the judicial districts in finding certified court interpreters for upcoming proceedings.

- By the end of 2022, **over 500 interpreter encounters were scheduled through the application with nearly 80 interpreters onboarded.**



Recruiting and certifying court interpreters

In 2022 [Interpreter Certification Program \(ICP\)](#) continued with its main mission of augmenting the roster of qualified interpreters. The ICP allows the PA Courts to fulfill its goal of making the courts accessible to limited English speakers and those who are deaf or hard of hearing and promotes confidence in the courts by guaranteeing the rights of all citizens irrespective of the language they speak or sign. The Interpreter Certification Program (ICP) holds four orientation workshops, administers four written exams and four oral exams each year.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

245 candidates took exams in **23 languages**.

The ICP **collaborated with Judicial District Operations and Programs to deliver six Culturally Competent Court sessions** in six locations throughout the Commonwealth.

ICP continued collaborating with Berks County Bar Association and First Judicial District Shadowing program to recruit and train interpreters for certification. The program did not lose momentum after the pandemic and saw **500 new candidates join in 2021-2022**.

2022 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In 2022, **\$6 million** was spent on **46,000 interpreter requests**.

As of Dec. 2022, the roster consisted of **246 interpreters** representing **40 languages**.

THE TOP 10 LANGUAGES REQUESTED IN 2022:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Spanish | 6. Arabic |
| 2. Nepali | 7. Vietnamese |
| 3. Chinese | 8. Haitian Creole |
| 4. ASL | 9. Portuguese |
| 5. Russian | 10. French |

KEEPING COURTS SAFE AND SECURE

Judicial District Security

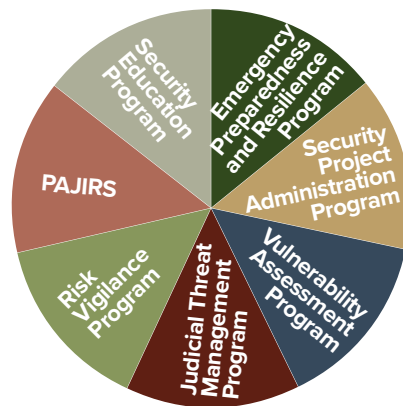
AOPC's [Office of Judicial District Security](#) evaluates and assists in responding to emerging threats, in addition to implementing innovative protective measures and security protocols.

Staff review security policies and procedures, develop training and educational materials to enhance situational awareness and incident avoidance, and provide online and in-person seminars.

Staff also evaluate security needs and requests for security enhancements in its administration of ongoing grant programs to provide courts with essential security equipment.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

Addressed 739 security incidents reported for common pleas and magisterial district courts. Of those, **652 resulted in involvement with law enforcement**



The **Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PAJIRS)** permits reporting of security incidents to the AOPC Office of Judicial District Security.

The **Risk Vigilance Program** identifies Internet sites and social media content of a threatening nature that

specifically target Pennsylvania courthouses, judicial officials or Pennsylvania's judicial system.

The **Judicial Threat Management Program** affords qualitative and quantitative risk assessments, the provision of personal security-related guidance and the availability of Internet privacy-enhancing services.

The **Vulnerability Assessment Program** offers security assessments completed for county courthouses and magisterial district court offices throughout the Commonwealth.

The **Security Project Administration Program** provides for the equitable distribution of legislatively

appropriated funding for court security enhancements.

- **Almost \$1 million was spent on court security enhancements in 2022.**

The **Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Program** provides for developing emergency action plans and tabletop exercises for all judicial district common pleas and magisterial district courts.

The **Security Education Program** provides for developing and delivering security-oriented training programs for judicial officials, judicial district court employees and sheriff's offices.

PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Protecting children

The judiciary's federally-funded [Office of Children and Families in the Courts \(OCFC\)](#), a program initiated by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, continues to have dramatic impacts on the lives of children while contributing savings to the state.

OCFC works with judicial leaders and child advocates to place neglected and abused children in permanent homes rather than in temporary foster care. This improves a child's opportunity to succeed and significantly reduces the cost of institutional care – a savings of hundreds of millions of dollars in the past decade.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

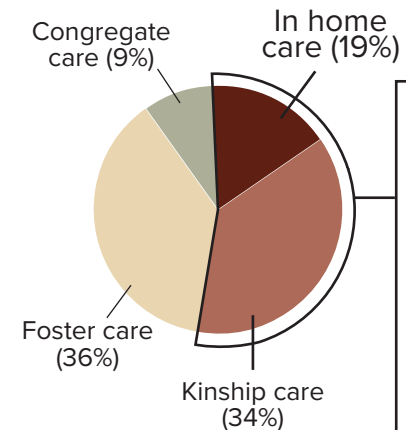
Launched an **Autism and the Dependency Courts educational roll-out** through the Autism and the Dependency Courts Taskforce, led by Supreme Court Justice Kevin M. Dougherty.

- A total of **1,865 dependency court professionals** attended the Autism and the Dependency Courts educational roll-out throughout 2022.

Created and provided sensory bags for all judges, juvenile court hearing officers, and child welfare administrators attending the in-person education sessions to use in courtrooms and child welfare agencies.

Philadelphia's Family Court Dependency Section and the Department of Human Services, including all ten community umbrella agencies, fully implemented the **Family Engagement Initiative**, with Bradford, Lycoming, and Washington counties joining Phase Four in May 2022, now overseeing approximately 64% of all children under Pennsylvania Dependency Courts.

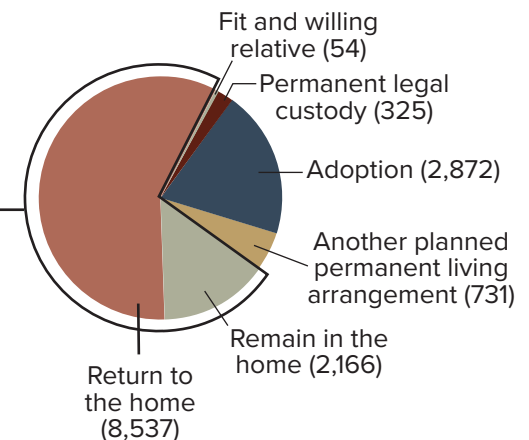
Kinship care placements over the past five years



53%
of children
remained
safely in their
home or were
placed in
kinship care
in 2022.

Reasons court supervision ended in 2022

73%
of children
who were
under court
supervision
either
returned to or
remained in
their home.



PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE STOP Grant

Administered through the Office of Violence against Women (OVW), the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program awards federal grant money annually to states and territories to help enhance their communities' efforts to combat violence against women.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency distributes the grant – 5 percent of which goes to the judiciary.

The AOPC uses that funding to provide support and enhance court services available to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and offers local and national training opportunities tailored to Pennsylvania's jurists and court staff highlighting new research and best practices.

2022 PROJECTS AND TRAININGS FUNDED BY STOP:

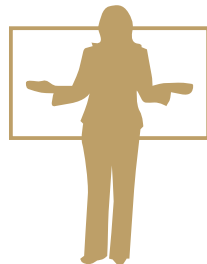
Human Trafficking & The Court presentation at the 75th Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of Prothonotaries and Clerks of Court (June 2022)

This presentation included an overview of Pennsylvania's anti-trafficking laws, dispelled common misconceptions about trafficking, shared trauma-informed best practices, and provided attendees with a list of resources to help improve their jurisdiction's response to human trafficking.

Protection from Abuse Assessment Follow-Up

Following 2021's PFA Assessment undertaken by The Center for Justice Innovation, roundtable meetings were held to discuss possible improvements to protection order processes. Findings from the assessment and meetings have been used to guide training objectives and systems enhancement projects.

Offered judges and court staff judicial training scholarships to attend national training and conferences.



Culturally Responsive Courts Regional Trainings – This unique six location multi-disciplinary training series brought Pennsylvania justice system stakeholders together to learn about the diverse cultures and languages spoken in their region of the Commonwealth. These trainings, which took place in Pittsburgh, State College, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Bethlehem and Scranton over a two-week period, highlighted critical nuances about domestic and sexual violence through a culturally-sensitive lens and also explored best practices for working with interpreters in a court setting.

Venues / industries with connections to human trafficking

- Food service
- Agriculture
- Janitorial services
- Strip Clubs
- Illicit massage businesses
 - PA has at least 262 illicit massage businesses that operate as fronts for human trafficking
 - PA has 7th largest concentration of illicit massage businesses in the USA (Polaris)
 - Bucks County recently implemented an illicit massage business ordinance
- Hotels/Motels
 - Kline & Spector lawsuits
 - Bartonsville hotel manager & corporate entity indicted
- Residential or "pop up" brothels
- Online
 - Grooming on social media
 - Advertisements, review boards



Leading in court innovations

[AOPC/Information Technology](#)

develops, maintains and updates statewide case management systems for all levels of Pennsylvania's courts. The systems are linked, allowing case data and information to be shared as cases move through the court system saving time and money.

Court technology helps make court information significantly more accessible, improves collection of fines, fees, costs and restitution, and creates administrative efficiencies for courts and other government agencies.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



2.36 million cases were docketed.



\$148 million in fines, fees, costs collected online through PAePay®.



117.3 million docket sheets were viewed on our website.



481,871 documents were e-filed statewide.



38,000 law enforcement and public safety officials used our case management systems to perform daily duties.

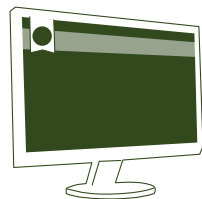
System design and development

Funded by fees and fines rather than taxpayer dollars, AOPC/IT provides general IT support for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and AOPC, and performs all aspects of the software development lifecycle in designing systems – from writing the code and testing its functions, to implementing the technology, and providing all necessary training and help desk support.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

Cybersecurity – Based on insights from a Cyber Infrastructure Survey and Risk and Vulnerability Assessments by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Judicial Computer System (JCS) implemented various security improvements, including an organizational digital signature for all emails, an upgraded cloud synchronization service, a security zone for better network traffic control and continuous monitoring of industry threats to safeguard judiciary data, documents and assets.

Judicial Ethics Advisory Board – Tasked with rendering advisory opinions on judicial conduct, and by July 2022, in collaboration with JCS and the UJS website vendor, launched public-facing webpages and a secure Opinions search with the same design as the Pennsylvania Judiciary website, enabling judges to search all opinions by defined parameters or keywords.



UJS Web Portal Modernization – JCS completed a **comprehensive upgrade of the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS)**, enhancing security, user experience, and court operations with streamlined navigation, icons and scrollbars, while also modernizing the eCommerce system for the first time since 2010, improving payment security, user experience and processing efficiencies in the case management systems.

Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee (JCSFAC) – Concerns surrounding the diversion of JCS funds led to the statutorily established review of the annual financial needs and revenue streams that support the continuous and uninterrupted operation of the JCS. After extensive input on JCS operations and finances from both AOPC and many system users and stakeholders, a favorable report was issued in January 2022.

Autism Taskforce & CPCMS Enhancement – The Autism in the Courts Taskforce requested a method to more easily identify individuals who may require special services or equipment prior to appearing in court due to Autism. To accommodate this request, a new special consideration of ‘Autism’ was added to CPCMS. Further, more detailed categories of ‘Diagnosed’ and ‘Self-Reported’ were included to further classify the participant’s circumstance. These values were initially released for dependency and delinquency courts with the intention of expanding to be available for criminal courts as well.

ASSEMBLING AND ANALYZING COURT DATA

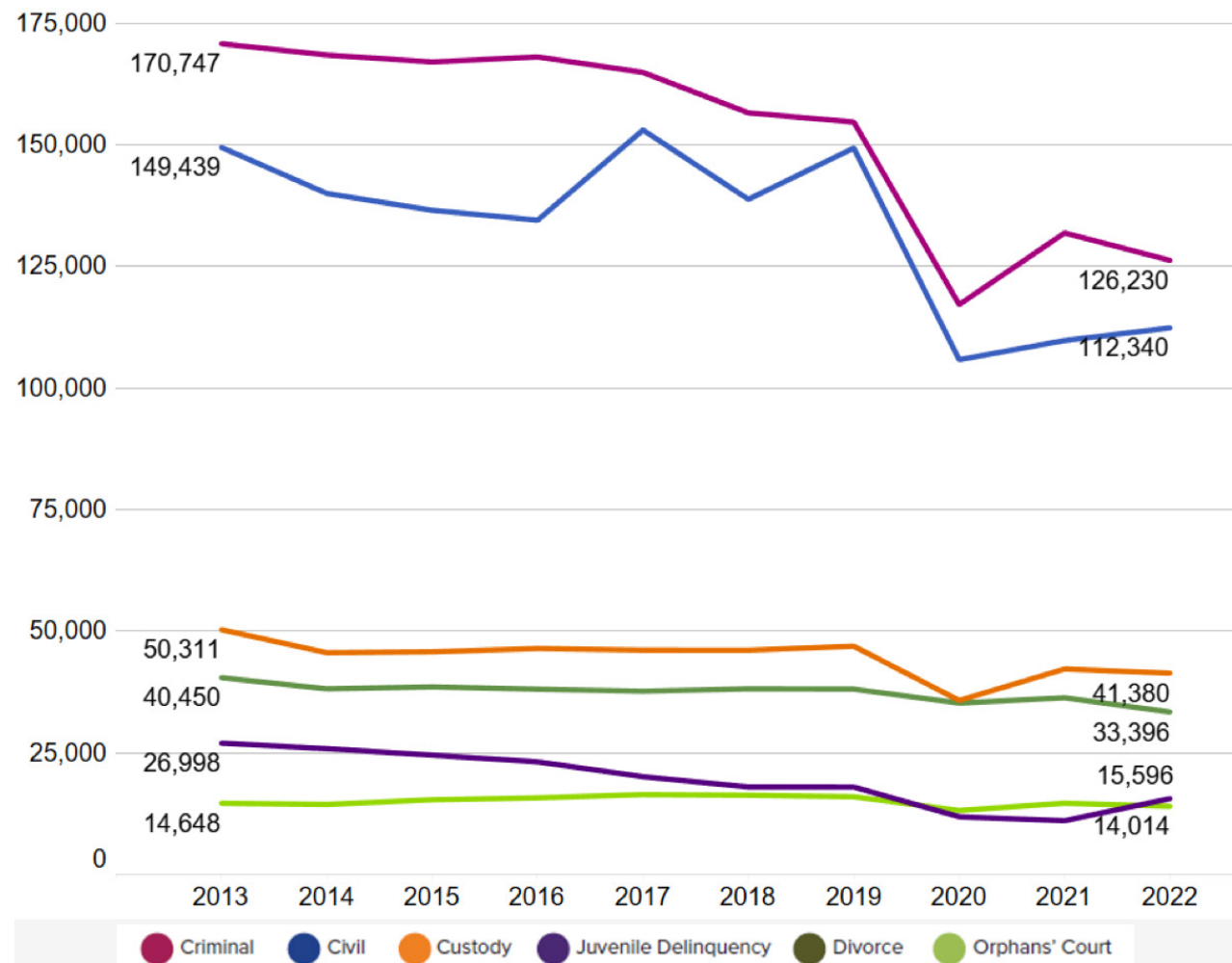
Research and Statistics

[AOPC/Research and Statistics](#)

collects and analyzes statewide court data, developing annual caseload statistics to help determine trends that inform policy and practice improvements.

In addition to providing data and analysis to the courts on topics related to case management, and court programs and operations, AOPC/Research and Statistics facilitates the public's access to this information by publishing data online via web-based reports and interactive data dashboards.

STATEWIDE FILINGS FROM 2013-2022:



View the full collection of [2022 court data](#) from all levels of the court system.

Drafting and recommending rules

More than 180 appointed volunteers — most of whom are lawyers and judges — make up the various boards, committees and advisory groups that aid the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on a wide range of court matters.

More specifically, the rules committees assist the Court in establishing statewide rules governing procedures in cases. These committees study and draft rules before making recommendations to the Court.

Rule change proposals are published for public comment before being submitted to or adopted by the Supreme Court.

RULES COMMITTEES 2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

The **eight committees** are made up of **100 members** that met **24 times**.



22 proposed recommendations were published for public comment.

21 recommendations were submitted to the Court for consideration.



16 recommendations were adopted by the Court.

RULES COMMITTEES

- Appellate Court
- Criminal
- Civil
- Domestic Relations
- Orphans' Court
- Evidence
- Juvenile Court
- Minor Court

Read more about the [roles and functions of the different rules committees](#).

Regulating the practice of law

The following Supreme Court Boards are responsible for regulating lawyers and the practice of law throughout the Commonwealth. Most of the boards are funded by fee revenue* – for example, the **\$275 attorney registration fee** collected by the Disciplinary Board annually.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



Board of Law Examiners

- **2,998 applicants** were processed in 2022.
- 2022 Pennsylvania Bar exam pass rates:
 - **February 37.20%**
 - **July 67.65%**



Disciplinary Board

- **88% of attorneys completed registration** by the July 1 deadline.
- **272 attorneys** were placed on administrative suspension in 2022.



Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Board (IOLTA)

- **More than \$29 million** was awarded in total grants.
 - More than **\$1 million** was awarded to Law School Clinical and Internship Programs.
- IOLTA-funded civil legal aid providers closed **35,447** cases for low-income Pennsylvanians.
- Nearly **\$500,000** was distributed through IOLTA's Loan Repayment Assistance Program to help legal aid attorneys pay their student loans.
- Nearly **14,000** attorney IOLTA accounts were monitored for compliance with the IOLTA rules.



Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security Board

- ensures clients will be reimbursed when lawyers misappropriate funds.
- During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Board of the Fund made disposition of **150 claims** where **72 claims** reviewed resulted in the approval of awards, which **totaled \$641,704**.

Read more about the [specific functions of each board](#), and learn about the Court's different [advisory groups and independent entities](#).

* With the exception of the Minor Judiciary Education Board and Judicial Ethics Advisory Board.

ASSISTING THE SUPREME COURT

Continuing education

Under rules adopted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, all judges and lawyers in the state are required to complete continuing education requirements each year. Volunteers are appointed by the Court to make up the various boards that are responsible for overseeing these efforts.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:



Minor Judiciary Education Board

- 647 magisterial district judges each attended 32 hours of the statutorily required judicial education.

Pennsylvania Continuing Judicial Education Board

- Trial and appellate judges completed a combined total of nearly **13,645.5 hours of continuing education**.



Continuing Legal Education Board

2022 Lawyer Compliance Rates:

145 lawyers were administratively suspended for failure to meet 2022 CLE requirements.

99.7% of lawyers met the requirements of the CLE Rules.

2022 CLE Credits Taken:

60,707 attorneys participated in continuing legal education.

812,282 CLE credits were taken in 2022.

CLE for Pro Bono Initiative:

The Supreme Court formalized rules that permit lawyers the option of earning CLE credit through certified pro bono work.

- There were 20 participating accredited providers of Pro Bono CLE.
- **1,839 lawyers received CLE credit** for pro bono work.
- 4,114 CLE credit hours were earned through pro bono service.
- These credits represent 20,570 hours of volunteer service.

Read more about the [specific functions of each board](#), and learn about the Court's different [advisory groups and independent entities](#).

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Educating jurists

During 2022, the Judicial Education Department navigated on-going public health concerns that made most in-person education difficult, if not impossible.

The Department transferred nearly all its educational offerings to remote modalities.

Based on that experience, the Department institutionalized remote education into its overall program strategy.

For the Department, developing remote offerings allowed them to expand the universe of potential faculty with the ability to enlist presenters from across the country without incurring the cost or inconvenience of travel.

For their purpose, remote education allows judges to hear cases for most of the day and, beginning at 3:00 pm, continue their education while sitting in their chambers.

The Department realized significant savings through remote offerings and by leveraging resources that are publicly available online.

TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURT JUDGE EDUCATION

In 2022, **616 judges** recorded **13,645.5 hours** of continuing education, an average of 22.15 hours per judge.

The Judicial Education Department offered courses including:

- Adjudicating Sex Crimes Involving Children
- Student Speech in the COVID Era
- Minimizing the Impact of Implicit Bias
- Criminal Case Management
- Elder Issues in Guardianship
- Civil Commitment
- Civil Case Management
- Judicial Ethics: Disqualification

Working with state government partners

AOPC's [Office of Legislative Affairs](#) represents the AOPC before the state's executive and legislative branches of government.

Legislative Affairs staff is responsible for coordinating all interaction with the legislature, subject to the guidance of the chief justice, court administrator, and the Legislative Committee of the Conference of State Trial Judges. Input and participation by members of the Legislative Committee is crucial to providing the perspective of jurists who have acquired knowledge and expertise on a myriad of issue areas in the course of their judicial duties, and several members of the committee are former legislators.

Staff provides legislative support to the judiciary including all courts, boards, advisory groups and the AOPC.

As an important result of the judiciary's commitment to working with their government partners, proposed legislation receives crucial input from AOPC's legislative staff regarding the effects it may have on courts, as well as on Pennsylvania's judicial system as a whole.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Secured adoption of language within the budget Fiscal Code legislation – Act 54 of 2022 – to reauthorize the “Act 54” surcharges. Revenue from the surcharges provides a significant portion of the Judiciary's general operations budget.
- Achieved enactment of a **second-year suspension of the annual \$15 million diversion** from the judicial computer fund, which allowed the Judicial Computer System (JCS) to continue uninterrupted operation of the Common Pleas Case Management System.
- Worked with the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts and legislative partners on developing legislation to **strengthen guardianship laws and expand provisions of Pennsylvania's state statute to include elder abuse.**



- Continued engagement with policymakers on **probation reform, clean slate, limited access amendments, and indigent defense legislation** in concert with AOPC Legal and IT and members of the Legislative Committee of the Conference of State Trial Judges.
- **Facilitated data and other legislative requests** that assisted the legislature in its crafting of legislation amending the Crimes Code, Transportation Code, Crime Victims Act and other statutes.

Judicial Budget Request 2022-23

In 2021 Pennsylvania Courts...

Created an **Autism in the courts task force** to examine access to justice issues for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and explore ways to educate judges and the public that will lead to a better understanding of and communication with these individuals.

Facilitated **36,231** requests for interpreters.

Continued to implement the **Clean Slate Act** through a system that automatically removes certain criminal history record information from public view.

Nearly **42 million** cases have been sealed (as of Jan. 1)

Developed and launched a social media campaign about **recognizing the signs of domestic abuse** and creating plans to help keep victims and their families safe.

Public education and outreach

AOPC's [Office of Communications](#) manages media inquiries, social media accounts, website content, public information and educational opportunities to engage with the judicial branch.

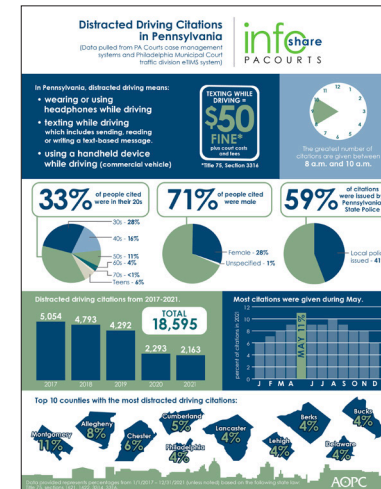
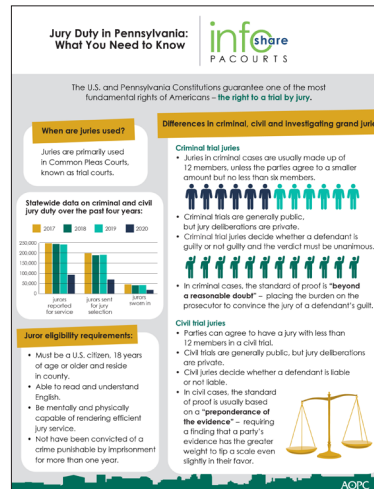
By focusing on communication and outreach, the Office of Communications ensures that the public has access to information about the key court programs, services and support available to them.

From educational videos to monthly infographics and an increased focus on the use of social media channels, case information, data and general information about the courts is more readily available and accessible to the public.

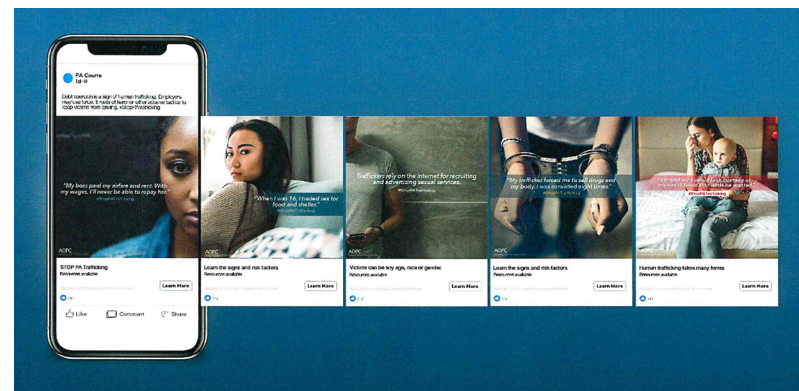
2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Twitter** - The [@PACourts Twitter page](#) had more than **11.1k followers** and generated nearly **6.1 million tweet impressions**.
- **Facebook** - Gained nearly **309 followers** of [PA Courts Facebook page](#).

- **Infoshare** - Developed monthly infographics on different court data topics.



- **STOP abuse campaign** - Ran a **social media campaign** on YouTube and Google to educate victims of abuse that protection orders are available as an option.



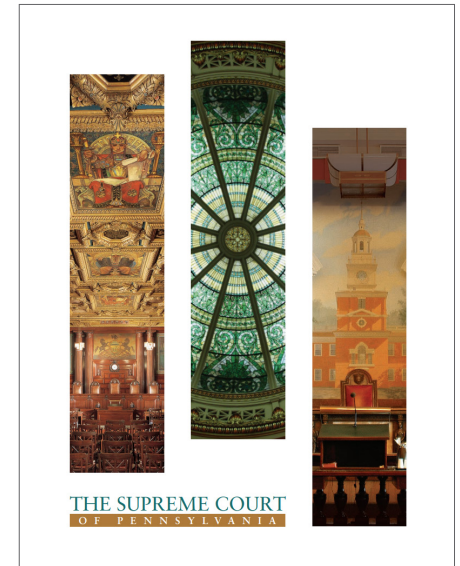
Public education and outreach

SUPREME COURT 300TH ANNIVERSARY

- Held a **two-day tricentennial symposium** in Philadelphia aimed at highlighting the Court's history and achievements. Panelists included judicial and academic leaders who discussed the Court's decision-making, its interplay with federal courts, and its administrative responsibilities within Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System.



- Released a **historical booklet** (right) taking readers through an illustrated history of the Court. The booklet offers a detailed timeline of the Court, including Pennsylvania's early attempts at a judiciary, and explains the different powers the Court has derived from the Pennsylvania Constitutions and how those powers have evolved over time.



- Organized **statewide coloring and essay contests** for K-12 students as part of a civics education initiative.





AOPC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS