



Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court
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“Judge Hollie Gallagher Named Chair of MHDD Court”

(Cleveland) – Judge Hollie Gallagher has been appointed chairperson of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court’s Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) Court docket.

Judge Gallagher was previously co-chair with Judge José Villanueva, who retired from the bench at the end of November. The docket also includes Judge Deena Calabrese, Judge Cassandra Collier-Williams, Judge Michael Donnelly, and Judge Robert McClelland.

“After I joined the bench in 2006, I developed an interest and passion for handling cases involving defendants with mental illnesses and/or developmental disabilities,” says Judge Gallagher. “I joined the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court in 2008 and could not be more proud to lead this team of Judges.”

The MHDD Court was established in 2003 as a response to the increasing number of defendants with serious mental illnesses entering the criminal justice system. The MHDD Court is funded by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and supported by local resources through the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD).

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and the MHDD judges are committed to managing challenging defendants by effectively and efficiently utilizing scarce resources that can improve long term connection/success in treatment and reduce recidivism. Further, the Court is committed to identifying additional resources that will continue to enhance the docket’s mission.

Judge Gallagher is a graduate of Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and received her law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Judge Gallagher is also co-chair of the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee, policy sub-committee, for the City of Cleveland Consent Decree. The committee is responsible for development of the new Crisis Intervention Team Program and Crisis Intervention Response Policy.

Judge Gallagher was appointed as chairperson by Administrative and Presiding Judge John J. Russo.