



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Judge Alison McCarty receives State re-certification for her Reentry Court**

Summit County, Ohio: Summit County Common Pleas Judge Alison McCarty's Reentry Court has earned final re-certification from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets. McCarty, the longest serving Common Pleas General Division judge currently sitting, has presided over the Reentry Court since 2011.

In order to receive re-certification, Judge McCarty submitted an application, underwent a site visit, and provided specific program materials in response to certification standards that went into effect in January 2014.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor congratulated Judge McCarty and the Reentry Court team for receiving final re-certification.

"Specialized dockets divert offenders toward criminal justice initiatives that employ tools and tailored services to treat and rehabilitate the offender so they can become productive members of society," said Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. "Studies have shown this approach works by reducing recidivism while saving tax dollars."

Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of offenses or offenders and use a combination of different techniques for holding offenders accountable while also addressing the underlying causes of their behavior. There are more than 210 specialized dockets in Ohio courts, dealing with a variety of issues.

"I'm so pleased that the Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Commission has shown confidence in our program, and that I will be able to continue working with

recently released offenders, closely monitoring them to help them adjust to a safe and sober lifestyle,” McCarty said.

The certification requirements include establishing eligibility requirements, evaluating effectiveness of the specialized docket, and assembling a treatment team for implementing daily operations of the specialized docket. The team can include licensed treatment providers, law enforcement, court personnel, and is headed by the specialized docket judge.

The Commission on Specialized Dockets has 22 members who advise the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts; and the creation of training programs for judges and court personnel. The commission makes all decisions regarding final certification.

For further information or to view one of Judge McCarty’s Reentry Court sessions (currently at this time, remotely), please contact Kiel Freeman at 330 643-2772.

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