

News Release



The Honorable Susan Baker Ross
Presiding Judge Valor Court
Summit County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: July 1, 2026

Contact: Deniela T Williams
Public Information Officer & Community Relations Liaison
dwilliams@cpcourt.summitoh.net
330.643-7840

JUDGE SUSAN BAKER ROSS' VALOR COURT ACHIEVES RE-CERTIFICATION FROM OHIO SUPREME COURT

Summit County, Ohio: Presiding Judge Susan Baker Ross' Valor Court has once again earned final certification from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets.

To receive the certification, Judge Ross submitted an application, underwent a site visit, and provided specific program materials in response to certification standards that went into effect in January 2014.

"It is an honor to work with my Team to help our veterans overcome the challenges that landed them in our justice system. Valor Court has been in place for over 13 years, and this is its fourth certification. I am grateful for the service it provides and for the community impact it makes." Said Judge Ross.

Courts with specialized dockets address specific treatment needs of people who are charged with a variety of offenses using recommended best-practices that focus on offender

accountability, behavior change and recovery. There are 250 certified dockets in Ohio courts with expertise in areas such as:

Drug and Alcohol Addiction

Mental Health

Domestic Violence

Human Trafficking

Veterans Issues

The certification standards provide a minimum level of uniform practices for specialized dockets throughout Ohio and allow local courts to innovate and tailor programs to meet their community's needs and resources.

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

The Commission on Specialized Dockets has 22 members to advise the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the 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.

###