

News Release



The Honorable Alison M. Breaux
Presiding Judge HOPE Court
Summit County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Judge Alison M. Breaux Awarded ADM Board's 2026 Drs. Fred and Penny Frese Education Award

The Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADM) Board has proudly announced Summit County Court of Common Pleas General Division Judge Alison M. Breaux as the 2026 recipient of The Drs. Fred and Penny Frese Education Award.

Judge Breaux is the Presiding Judge over the Ohio Supreme Court Certified Summit County HOPE (Healing, Opportunity, Progress and Empowerment) Mental Health Court. In January 2018, Judge Breaux set out to develop HOPE as the first felony mental health court in Summit County. Garnering partnerships from local agencies and organizations dedicated to helping those diagnosed with mental illness, Breaux was able to begin HOPE Court in the fall of 2018.

Today, HOPE Court remains a true collaboration of multiple agencies and organizations dedicated to helping justice involved individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness achieve stability, housing, recovery and mental wellness. With wrap around services from these agencies, a dedicated and compassionate probation officer and unique individualized treatment plans, the majority of HOPE Court participants graduate successfully and maintain recidivism rates below 15%.

As one participant described the program: "Because of the dedicated team led by Judge Breaux, HOPE Court is guaranteed to guide a person towards leading a stable and healthy life. I have a Team ready and willing to help and to listen to my concerns. I am surrounded by people who care. Normally this much compassion is hard to find in the justice system."

The Drs. Fred and Penny Frese Education Award spotlights individuals who have made a significant, positive impact in educating others in an effort to decrease stigma that affects those with mental health disorders and substance use disorders.

According to the ADM Board, "Judge Breaux's support of individuals with mental health disorders and her dedication to helping them lead healthy, stable lives has changed the way Summit County engages mental health and the criminal justice system."

"I am so grateful to the Summit County ADM Board for the 2026 Trailblazer Award. To receive an award bearing the names of Drs. Fred and Penny Frese is incredibly meaningful. Fred's courage and advocacy changed the way so many people understand mental illness, and Penny's commitment to families, education and recovery is a testament to this work and their partnership. I am incredibly honored to have my work associated with the Frese legacy, and I will continue honoring their values and compassion in the work we do in HOPE Court." said Breaux.

The Summit County ADM Board's Trailblazer Awards dinner will be held tonight, October 8th at 5:30 pm at the John S. Knight Center. If you'd like to attend the event, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-county-of-summit-adm-board-trailblazer-awards-dinner-tickets-1997584705628>. For additional information about HOPE Court, please visit <https://www.summitcpcourt.net/specialty-courts/hope-court/>

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