

The Supreme Court of Ohio

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To: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CC: Michael L Buenger, Administrative Director
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Alyssa Guthrie, Supreme Court Staff Liaison to JFN

From: Tim Gorman
Chair, Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Network

Re: Annual Report of Advisory Committee Activities for the 2017-2018 Term

The Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Network's "year" runs from May 1 to April 30 and is based upon the JFN programming schedule. For the 2016-2017 term, the Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Network (JFN) continued to provide programming aligned with its mission to identify needs of Ohio judicial families, as well as to provide learning opportunities and a supportive networking environment.

Activities during the year included a program planning meeting in July and two programs for the spouses/partners of new judges in December of 2017 and May of 2018. Advisory Committee members also attended the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Judicial Conference in September, 2017. Additionally, Advisory Committee Members, and the Committee's current and previous Supreme Court liaisons were invited to a panel discussion at the September meeting of the American Judges Association Conference in Cleveland. Committee members and staff provided information to family members from other states on how to start their own judicial family network. They covered issues including, a model budget, the need for appropriate professional staff support, and programming ideas.

In August, members of the Advisory Committee attended the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Judicial Conference and staffed an informational table for JFN. Advisory Committee Members provided information about JFN, personal security, and ethical issues to the judges and spouses in attendance.

The educational program held during New Judge Orientation, Part I in December, “Welcome to the Judicial Family” was designed to support family members as they transition to life with a family member on the bench. Presentations were given on swearing-in activities, ethical issues facing judicial families and an overview of judges' employee benefits.

The May program, “The Inside View” held during New Judges Orientation, Part II, covered the topics of emotional intelligence and healthy judicial families, substance abuse, and social media considerations.

Finally, in May of this year, the Advisory Committee was sad to lose one of our longest serving, and founding members of the Advisory Committee, Robert Lanzinger. Bob was instrumental in getting the Judicial Family Network off the ground many years ago, and his continued support has been a valuable component to our programming and success throughout the years. Besides his reliable contributions to our committee work, all of us counted Bob as a dear friend and will miss him deeply.