

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Judicial District Summary Sheet

County Name: **Venango**

Judicial District #: **28**

Caseload and Magisterial District Elimination Analysis

The difference between the average annual caseload of Judicial District # 28 and its class of county: **-18 %**

Summary of Proposed Actions

28-3-01 Realign

28-3-02 Realign

28-3-03 Reestablish

28-3-04 **Eliminate**

Night/Central/Alternate Court Operations

This judicial district utilizes the following diversionary courts to assist in balancing workload:

Central Court: Yes Night Court: No

Criminal cases are heard weekly on Wednesday with two judges presiding - one presides over preliminary hearings and one accepts guilty pleas, waivers and imposes sentences. One factor in establishing central court was the disparity in filings between two courts; followed by standardization of processes, convenience and timeliness.

Population has decreased, and population centers have shifted within the county. Venango is in the heart of Utica Shale and on the fringe of Marcellus.

Public Comment

Proposal Posted for Public Comment: Yes Comments Received: No

General Comments *Note: Central court responsibilities are shared and statistics/analysis were revised to equalize criminal filings among all districts.*

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

County Name: Venango

Judicial District #: 28

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 28-3-01

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	2,314	Average Annual Workload:	22,315
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-11.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-8.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-28.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

1. Population increased since last census.
2. This district was realigned in 1994 at which time the district wanted to find a more central location for the court and was not able to; instead an adjunct facility was established where the judge presides and accepts filings once a week. The adjunct facility is located in Sugarcreek Borough, which is proposed to move. This district will now include the City of Oil City - and a new search for a location will occur.
3. This realignment will make workload more equitable (within -1% of the average).

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Andrew F. Fish	Birthdate:	4-15-76
140 West State Street P.O. Box 186	Mandatory Retirement:	2046
Pleasantville, PA 16341	Term Expires:	1-5-14

Existing Geography:

ALLEGHENY TWP Voting District; CHERRYTREE TWP Voting District; COOPERSTOWN Voting District; CORNPLANTER TWP DIST 01; CORNPLANTER TWP DIST 02; JACKSON TWP Voting District; OAKLAND TWP Voting District; OIL CREEK TWP Voting District; PLEASANTVILLE Voting District; PLUM TWP Voting District; ROUSEVILLE Voting District; SUGAR CREEK VTD 01; SUGAR CREEK VTD 02; SUGAR CREEK VTD 03; SUGAR CREEK VTD 05; SUGAR CREEK VTD 04

Proposed Geography:

ALLEGHENY TWP Voting District; CHERRYTREE TWP Voting District; COOPERSTOWN Voting District; CORNPLANTER TWP DIST 01; CORNPLANTER TWP DIST 02; JACKSON TWP Voting District; OAKLAND TWP Voting District; OIL CITY DIST 01; OIL CITY DIST 02; OIL CITY DIST 03; OIL CITY DIST 04; OIL CITY DIST 05; OIL CITY DIST 06; OIL CITY DIST 07; OIL CREEK TWP Voting District; PLEASANTVILLE Voting District; PLUM TWP Voting District; ROUSEVILLE Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Sugarcreek Borough Police Department

Major Highways: Routes 62, 8, 417, 227, 322, 36

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 28-3-02

Proposed Action: Realign

Average Annual Caseload:	3,301
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	26.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	3.00

Average Annual Workload:	32,336
% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	33.00

Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.

The realignment removing City of Oil City from this district will create a more equitable distribution of population and workload.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Douglas I. Dinberg

3156 State Route 257 P.O. Box 553

Seneca, PA 16346

Birthdate: 5-19-44

Mandatory Retirement: 2014

Term Expires: 12-31-17

Existing Geography:

CRANBERRY TWP DIST 01; CRANBERRY TWP DIST 02;
CRANBERRY TWP DIST 03; CRANBERRY TWP DIST 04;
OIL CITY DIST 01; OIL CITY DIST 02; OIL CITY DIST 03; OIL
CITY DIST 04; OIL CITY DIST 05; OIL CITY DIST 06; OIL
CITY DIST 07; PINEGROVE TWP Voting District;
PRESIDENT TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

BARKEYVILLE Voting District; CLINTON TWP Voting
District; CLINTONVILLE Voting District; CRANBERRY TWP
DIST 01; CRANBERRY TWP DIST 02; CRANBERRY TWP
DIST 03; CRANBERRY TWP DIST 04; EMLENTON Voting
District; IRWIN TWP Voting District; PINEGROVE TWP
Voting District; RICHLAND TWP Voting District;
PRESIDENT TWP Voting District; ROCKLAND TWP DIST 01;
ROCKLAND TWP DIST 02; SCRUBGRASS TWP Voting
District; SUGAR CREEK VTD 01; SUGAR CREEK VTD 02;
SUGAR CREEK VTD 03; SUGAR CREEK VTD 05; SUGAR
CREEK VTD 04

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Oil City Police Department

Major Highways: Routes 8, 62, 322, 257, 157

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 28-3-03

Proposed Action: Reestablish

Average Annual Caseload:	2,876
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	10.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-10.00

Average Annual Workload:	25,136
% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	3.00

Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Michael D. Snyder

217 Thirteenth Street

Franklin, PA 16323

Birthdate: 08-05-47

Mandatory Retirement: 2017

Term Expires: 1-3-16

Existing Geography:

CANAL TWP Voting District; FRANKLIN DIST 02 ED 01;
FRANKLIN DIST 02 ED 02; FRANKLIN DIST 03;
FRENCHCREEK TWP Voting District; MINERAL TWP
Voting District; POLK Voting District; SANDYCREEK TWP
Voting District; UTICA Voting District; VICTORY TWP
Voting District

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Franklin Police Department, Polk Borough Police Department

Major Highways: Routes 8, 322, 965, 62

Proposed Geography:

CANAL TWP Voting District; FRANKLIN DIST 02 ED 01;
FRANKLIN DIST 02 ED 02; FRANKLIN DIST 03;
FRENCHCREEK TWP Voting District; MINERAL TWP Voting
District; POLK Voting District; SANDYCREEK TWP Voting
District; UTICA Voting District; VICTORY TWP Voting
District

Existing and Proposed Magisterial Districts

Magisterial District #: 28-3-04

Proposed Action: Eliminate

Average Annual Caseload:	1,959	Average Annual Workload:	17,604
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-25.00	% Difference in Workload (magisterial district/judicial district):	-28.00
% Difference in Caseload (magisterial district/class of county):	-39.00	<i>Workload outside of a +/- 15% range requires realignment or support to maintain current configuration.</i>	

Proposed elimination of this district upon mandatory retirement of judge presiding in 28-3-02 at the end of 2014; where the recently elected judge of 28-3-04 will move to the current office in 28-3-02 which will receive all of this district's municipalities.

Magisterial District Judge & Office Information:

Patrick E. Lowrey

511 Hill Street, Suite 206 P.O. Box 456

Emlenton, PA 16373

Birthdate: 3-17-70

Mandatory Retirement: 2040

Term Expires: 12-31-17

Existing Geography:

BARKEYVILLE Voting District; CLINTON TWP Voting District; CLINTONVILLE Voting District; EMLENTON Voting District; IRWIN TWP Voting District; RICHLAND TWP Voting District; ROCKLAND TWP DIST 01; ROCKLAND TWP DIST 02; SCRUBGRASS TWP Voting District

Proposed Geography:

Office within district: Yes

Residence within district: Yes

Police Departments: Emlenton Police Department

Major Highways:

Magisterial District Reestablishment 2012

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

Judicial District and Class of County Comparison Statistics

Venango / 28

Judicial District Average Caseload			
2011 Class	2011 Filings	2012 Class	2012 Filings
6	2,612	6	2,612

2011 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2011 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	251	126	2,087	485	231	43	41	3,263

2012 Class of County Caseload Averages								
2012 Class	CR	PC	TR	NT	CV	LT	MD	Total
6	244	155	2,019	477	228	42	39	3,204

Notes on Analysis:

CASELOAD: The statistics provided are used to compare the average annual caseload of each magisterial district to the class of county average as one measure to assess whether any changes should be proposed. Reported values are provided by the judicial district; the comparison values are provided by the MDJS.

WORKLOAD: Where the average annual workload of a magisterial district is greater/less than 15% of the judicial district's workload average, the judicial district should realign - OR - explain why this difference does not impact workload equity within the judicial district. A value that is green indicates it is within range; red requires justification if realignment or elimination are not proposed.

Judicial District Caseload Averages		
Venango	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	259	259
NT	503	503
PC	130	130
TR	1,456	1,456
CV	152	152
LT	36	36
MD	76	76
AVG	2,612	2,612

Judicial District Workload Averages		
Venango	2011	2012
Class	6	6
CR	9,504	9,504
NT	5,406	5,406
PC	1,391	1,391
TR	3,320	3,320
CV	1,718	1,718
LT	515	515
MD	2,483	2,475
-15 % Workload	20,687	20,680
Average Workload	24,338	24,330
+ 15% Workload	27,989	27,979

Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

28-3-01 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,314		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-11	-11.40%	-11.40%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-28	-29.09%	-27.78%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
22,315		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-8	-8.31%	-8.28%
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28-3-02 Realign

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
3,301		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

26	26.38%	26.38%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

3	1.15%	3.02%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
32,336		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

33	32.86%	32.91%
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Magisterial District Caseload/Workload Analysis

28-3-03

Reestablish

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
2,876		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

10	10.11%	10.11%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-10	-11.87%	-10.24%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
25,136		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

3	3.28%	3.31%
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28-3-04

Eliminate

CASELOAD

Average Total Annual Caseload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
1,959		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-25	-25.00%	-25.00%
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Magisterial District Average: Class of County Average:

-39	-39.97%	-38.86%
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WORKLOAD

Average Total Annual Workload:

Reported	AOPC	
	2011	2012
17,604		

Magisterial District Average: Judicial District Average:

-28	-27.67%	-27.64%
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Venango County

Court Administrator

Venango County Court House
Franklin, PA 16323

Lynn M. Cummings-Wilson
District Court Administrator
(814) 432-9606
fax (814) 432-3149
email: lwilson@co.venango.pa.us

Rebecca L. Whitman
Assistant Court Administrator
(814) 432-9605
fax (814) 432-3149
email: rwhitman@co.venango.pa.us

March 22, 2012

Joseph Mittleman
Director, Judicial Programs
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts
1515 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102



IN RE: MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REALIGNMENT PLAN

Dear Mr. Mittleman:

Enclosed please find Venango County's realignment plan. We are proposing to eliminate Magisterial District 28-3-04 upon the mandatory retirement of Judge Douglas Dinberg of 28-3-02 on December 31, 2014. Our proposal includes the reestablishment of 28-3-03 and the realignment of 28-3-02 and 28-3-01. Judge Lowrey, newly elected judge of 28-3-04, would take over the Seneca district court (28-3-02), thereby keeping the three remaining magisterial district judges in office.

There is minimal change to the current configuration; only the transfer of Sugar creek Borough from 28-3-01 to 28-3-02 and the transfer of the City of Oil City from 28-3-02 to 28-3-01; and, of course, the municipalities currently in 28-3-04 would all transfer to 28-3-02 upon the elimination of 04. Under the new configuration, we would achieve a much more equitable workload scenario than we have currently.

Our plan was available for review in Venango County's three public libraries, on the Venango County website, in each of the four magisterial district court offices, and in the office of the District Court Administrator. Our posting, which is included with the plan, appeared in the newspaper of general circulation on February 17. We received no public comments.

If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



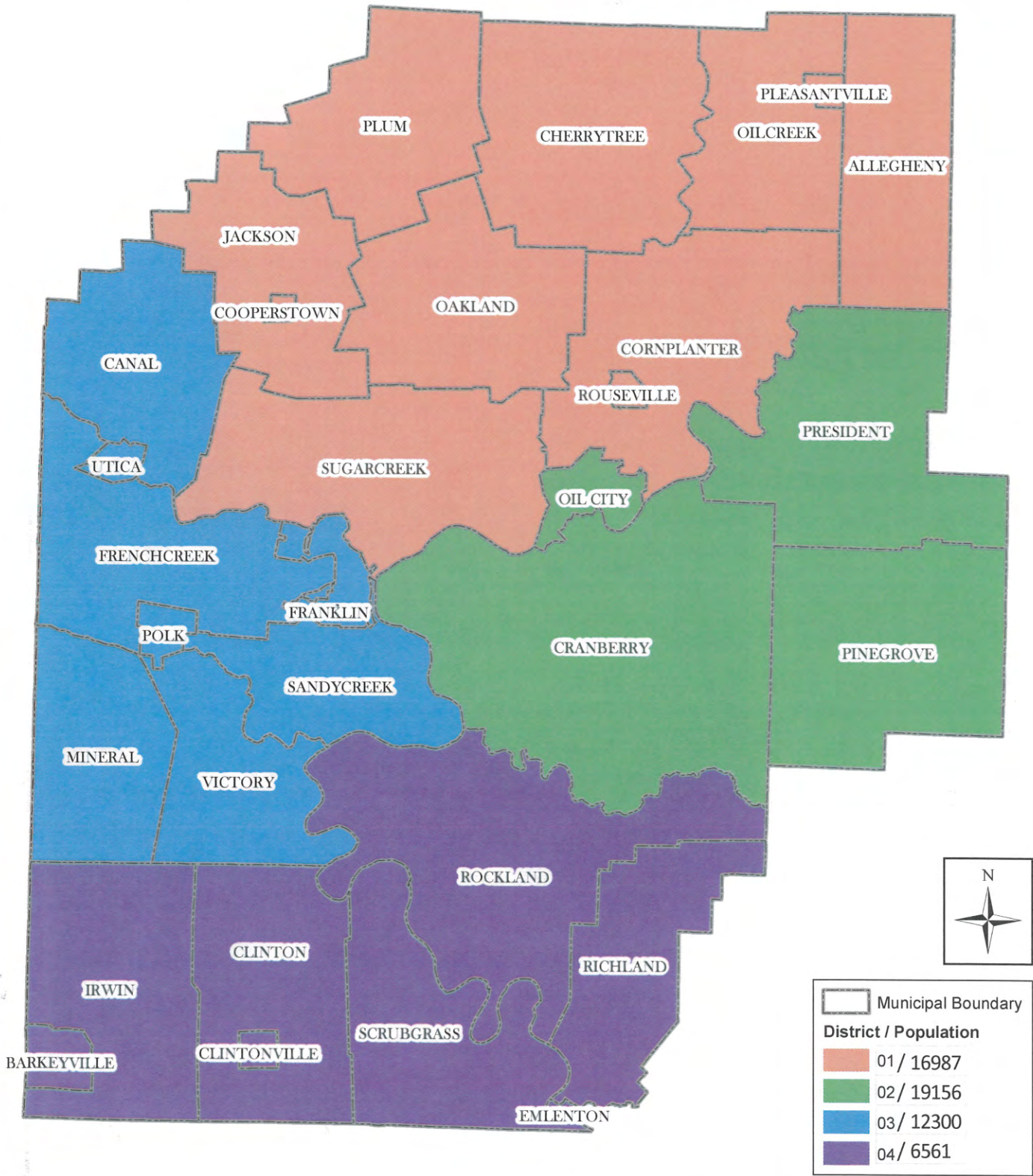
Lynn M. Cummings-Wilson

Enc.

(Current)

Venango County

Magisterial Districts, 2011



Average CASELOADS for 28th Judicial District / crim equalized

File 1

Judicial Dist. 28	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	AVG Caseload
AVERAGE	259	503	130	1,456	153	36	76	2,613
MDJ-28-3-01	259	418	152	1268	142	14	61	2,314
MDJ-28-3-02	259	867	252	1510	223	74	116	3,301
MDJ-28-3-03	259	539	61	1707	185	48	77	2,876
MDJ-28-3-04	259	189	53	1340	60	7	51	1,959

Comparison of each Dist. Court CASELOAD to 28's Judicial Dist Avg

Table 2

Judicial Dist. 28	AVG Caseload	Variance
AVERAGE	2,613	-
MDJ-28-3-01	2,314	-11%
MDJ-28-3-02	3,301	26%
MDJ-28-3-03	2,876	10%
MDJ-28-3-04	1,959	-25%

Comparison of Magisterial District Average to 6th Class County Average

Table 3

	AVG Caseload	MDJ-28-3-01	MDJ-28-3-02	MDJ-28-3-03	MDJ-28-3-04
		2314	3301	2876	1959
Armstrong	3102	-25%	6%	-7%	-37%
Bedford	4795	-52%	-31%	-40%	-59%
Bradford	2929	-21%	13%	-2%	-33%
Carbon	5746	-60%	-43%	-50%	-66%
Clarion	3197	-28%	3%	-10%	-39%
Clearfield	4066	-43%	-19%	-29%	-52%
Clinton	3283	-30%	1%	-12%	-40%
Columbia	4690	-51%	-30%	-39%	-58%
Crawford	2577	-10%	28%	12%	-24%
Elk	3002	-23%	10%	-4%	-35%
Greene	2838	-18%	16%	1%	-31%
Huntingdon	1727	34%	91%	67%	13%
Indiana	4378	-47%	-25%	-34%	-55%
Jefferson	3730	-38%	-12%	-23%	-47%
McKean	2045	13%	61%	41%	-4%
Mifflin	2872	-19%	15%	0%	-32%
Perry	3263	-29%	1%	-12%	-40%
Pike	2866	-19%	15%	0%	-32%
Somerset	4238	-45%	-22%	-32%	-54%
Susquehanna	2291	1%	44%	26%	-14%
Tioga	2541	-9%	30%	13%	-23%
Venango	2613	-11%	26%	10%	-25%
Warren	1950	19%	69%	47%	0%
Wayne	2165	7%	52%	33%	-10%
6th Class Average	3204	-28%	3%	-10%	-39%

Comparison of 28th Judicial District average to 6th Class County Average

Table 4

	AVG Caseload	Variance
Judicial Dist. 28	2,613	-18%
6th Class	3,204	
Armstrong	3,102	-16%
Bedford	4,795	-46%
Bradford	2,929	-11%
Carbon	5,746	-55%
Clarion	3,197	-18%
Clearfield	4,066	-36%
Clinton	3,283	-20%
Columbia	4,690	-44%
Crawford	2,577	1%
Elk	3,002	-13%
Greene	2,838	-8%
Huntingdon	1,727	51%
Indiana	4,378	-40%
Jefferson	3,730	-30%
McKean	2,045	28%
Mifflin	2,872	-9%
Perry	3,263	-20%
Pike	2,866	-9%
Somerset	4,238	-38%
Susquehanna	2,291	14%
Tioga	2,541	3%
Warren	1,950	34%
Wayne	2,165	21%

Average Workloads for Courts of 28th Judicial District

Table 5

Docket Type	Case Weight
CR	36.72
NT (Include PC)	10.74
TR	2.28
CV	11.28
LT	14.48
MD	32.57

Table 6

Judicial Dist. 28	CR	NT/PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	AVG Workload
AVERAGE	9510	6796	3320	1720	518	2483	24,348
MDJ-28-3-01	9510	6122	2891	1602	203	1987	22,315
MDJ-28-3-02	9510	12018	3443	2515	1072	3778	32,336
MDJ-28-3-03	9510	6444	3892	2087	695	2508	25,136
MDJ-28-3-04	9510	2599	3055	677	101	1661	17,604

WORKLOAD Comparison of each Dist. Court to 28's Judicial Dist Avg

Table 7

Judicial Dist. 28	AVG Workload	Variance
AVERAGE	24,348	-
MDJ-28-3-01	22,315	-8%
MDJ-28-3-02	32,336	33%
MDJ-28-3-03	25,136	3%
MDJ-28-3-04	17,604	-28%

Range	
Max.	Min.
28,000	20,696

WORKLOAD Comparison of Dist Avg to 6th Class County Avg

Table 8

	AVG Workload	MDJ-28-3-01	MDJ-28-3-02	MDJ-28-3-03	MDJ-28-3-04
		22,315	32,336	25,136	17,604
Armstrong	30,538	-27%	6%	-18%	-42%
Bedford	21,362	4%	51%	18%	-18%
Bradford	25,097	-11%	29%	0%	-30%
Carbon	36,292	-39%	-11%	-31%	-51%
Clarion	21,494	4%	50%	17%	-18%
Clearfield	32,776	-32%	-1%	-23%	-46%
Clinton	20,954	6%	54%	20%	-16%
Columbia	33,630	-34%	-4%	-25%	-48%
Crawford	22,055	1%	47%	14%	-20%
Elk	24,013	-7%	35%	5%	-27%
Greene	23,866	-7%	35%	5%	-26%
Huntingdon	15,907	40%	103%	58%	11%
Indiana	40,559	-45%	-20%	-38%	-57%
Jefferson	27,369	-18%	18%	-8%	-36%
McKean	19,900	12%	62%	26%	-12%
Mifflin	26,858	-17%	20%	-6%	-34%
Perry	29,028	-23%	11%	-13%	-39%
Pike	19,106	17%	69%	32%	-8%
Somerset	26,712	-16%	21%	-6%	-34%
Susquehanna	17,641	26%	83%	42%	0%
Tioga	18,705	19%	73%	34%	-6%
Venango	24,348	-8%	33%	3%	-28%
Warren	18,486	21%	75%	36%	-5%
Wayne	18,945	18%	71%	33%	-7%
6th Class Average	24,818	-10%	30%	1%	-29%

Workload Comparison of Magisterial Districts

Table 9

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-01	22,315	-
MDJ-28-3-02	32,336	-31%
MDJ-28-3-03	25,136	-11%
MDJ-28-3-04	17,604	27%

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-02	32,336	-
MDJ-28-3-01	22,315	45%
MDJ-28-3-03	25,136	29%
MDJ-28-3-04	17,604	84%

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-03	25,136	-
MDJ-28-3-01	22,315	13%
MDJ-28-3-02	32,336	-22%
MDJ-28-3-04	17,604	43%

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-04	17,604	-
MDJ-28-3-01	22,315	-21%
MDJ-28-3-02	32,336	-46%
MDJ-28-3-03	25,136	-30%



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	28-3-01
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,314
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-11%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-28%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	22,315
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-8%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2015
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Andrew F. Fish	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/5/2014

AOPC

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2051
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	140 West State Street Pleasantville, PA 16341
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Sugarcreek Borough Police Department
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Routes 62, 8, 417, 227,322 and 36
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Townships Of Plum, Cherrytree, Oilcreek, Allegheny, Oakland, Cornplanter & Jackson; Boroughs Of Pleasantville, Rouseville, Sugarcreek & Cooperstown
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Townships Of Plum, Cherrytree, Oilcreek, Allegheny, Oakland, Cornplanter, Jackson, Boroughs Of Pleasantville, Rouseville And Cooperstown & City Of Oil City
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	<p>The population of 28-3-01 is 16,987, an increase of 4.5% from 2000.</p> <p>District 28-3-01 was realigned on January 1, 1994, to include the Boroughs of Sugarcreek and Cooperstown, and Jackson Township, all of whom had previously been a part of Magisterial District 28-3-03. This magisterial court readily assumed the increase in population and case filings with no impact on the court's ability to process case filings. In conjunction with the realignment, the court recommended that, concurrent with the effective date of the realignment, the magisterial office be relocated to a central, equally accessible area within the newly realigned district. The County was unable to secure a suitable facility at that time in either Cherrytree or Oakland Townships, the center of the District. In an effort to minimize the inconvenience to the residents of the affected municipalities, an adjunct magisterial office was established in the Sugarcreek Borough Municipal Building, where the district judge presides and accepts filings one day a week.</p> <p>We are now proposing to transfer Sugarcreek Borough from 28-3-01 to 28-3-02 and to shift the City of Oil City from 28-3-02 to 28-3-01. This would be the only</p>



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

change to 01's current configuration.

We will continue our efforts to find a suitable location that is more centrally located in the newly realigned district and convenient to the Oil City Police Department. The PA State Police, Franklin Barracks, which is located on State Route 322 is currently 22.9 miles from the Pleasantville office. If relocated to the Rouseville area, PSP would have a travel distance of approximately 11 miles.

The average travel distance for the municipalities currently within this district is 13.4 miles. If the office were relocated to a location in Rouseville Borough, the average travel distance would be 9.8 miles.

	Distance to Pleasantville(current)	to Rouseville (proposed)
Allegheny Township	4 miles	16.8 miles
Cherrytree Township	12 miles	6.6 miles
Cooperstown Borough	24 miles	14.9 miles
Cornplanter Township	9 miles	4.8 miles
Jackson Township	23 miles	16.9 miles
Oakland Township	17 miles	8.7 miles
Oilcreek Township	4 miles	9.8 miles
Pleasantville Borough	--	13.4 miles
Plum Township	16 miles	13.5 miles
Rouseville Borough	13 miles	-- miles
Sugarcreek Borough	25 miles	(propose move to 02)
City of Oil City (currently in 02)	16 miles	3.4 miles

The City of Oil City, currently located in District 28-3-02, and proposed to be shifted to 28-3-01 has the highest population in the County with 10,577 (an 8.1% decrease from 2000).

The current workload average for 28-3-01 is 22,315 (variance of -8% from county average). The workload average would increase to 30,095 under this proposal, and the variance from the county's average workload would be reduced to -1%.

This configuration will produce a much more equal distribution of work among the remaining three magisterial district courts and will not produce an undue hardship to the affected municipalities or the Oil City Police Department, and in fact, the Court has spoken with the Chief of the Oil City Police Department and he indicated that he would be in favor of the shift of Oil City from 28-3-02 to 28-



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

3-01, with an office relocated at or near the Rouseville area.

PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	28-3-02
II. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD		
A.	Average Total Caseload:	3,301
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	26%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	3%
III. BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD		
A.	Average Total Workload:	32,336
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	33%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district? Please see comments below	
IV. PROPOSED CHANGE:		
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2015
V. MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:		
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Douglas I. Dinberg	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2017

Worksheet 28-3-02

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2014
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	Mellon Bank Building, State Route 257 Seneca, PA 16346
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Oil City Police Department
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Routes 8, 62, 322, 257, 157
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	City Of Oil City; Townships Of Cranberry, Pinegrove & President
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Townships Of Cranberry, Rockland, Richland, Pinegrove, President, Scrubgrass, Clinton, Irwin And Boroughs Of Emlenton, Clintonville, Barkeyville And Sugarcreek
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	<p>The Population of 28-3-02 is 19,156, a 6% decrease from 2000. The significant departures that exist in Venango County from the caseload equity figures are in Magisterial District 28-3-02, with case filings 26% higher than the county average of 2,613, and in Magisterial District 28-3-04 with case filings 25 % lower than the county average of 2,613. (04 proposed to be eliminated)</p> <p>In the past, a reconfiguration that would shift Cranberry Township, with a population of 6,685 and average annual case filings of 1170 to Magisterial District 28-3-04 had been considered. The transfer would have helped to create a more equitable distribution of population and case filings among the magisterial districts; however, relocating the magisterial office to a central site made such transfer illogical and impossible. The center of a realigned District 28-3-04 to include Cranberry Township would be Rockland Township, a sparsely populated township (1456) comprised of 48.6 square miles. There is no infrastructure and no commercial or industrial development in this township. There is no bank or post office. It is a residential area with vast areas of undeveloped land. It was the Court's opinion that an uneven distribution of work was warranted in order to provide convenient public access.</p>

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

A shift of the City of Oil City from 28-3-02 to 28-3-01 and a shift of Sugarcreek Borough from 28-3-01 to 28-3-02, however, will create a more equitable distribution of population and an equitable distribution of workload among the remaining three magisterial district courts and, although it will increase driving distances for some municipalities, will not produce an undue hardship. We also propose to transfer Rockland, Richland, Scrubgrass, Clinton, and Irwin Townships and Emlenton, Clintonville, and Barkeyville Boroughs from 28-3-04, which is proposed to be eliminated, to 28-3-02.

The average travel distance for the municipalities currently within the district is 10.25 miles.

Distance to office location (Seneca)

Cranberry Township	2 miles
President Township	22 miles
Pinegrove Township	13 miles
Oil City (propose move to 01)	4 miles

Travel distances for municipalities being transferred to 02:

Rockland Township	8 miles
Richland Township	16 miles
Emlenton Borough	20 miles
Scrubgrass Township	26 miles
Clintonville Borough	27 miles
Clinton Township	17 miles
Irwin Township	25 miles
Barkeyville Borough	27 miles
Sugarcreek Borough	11 miles

Average travel distance for all municipalities to the Seneca office: 17.8 miles

The PA State Police currently travel 2.7 miles to the Seneca MDJ Office and there would be no change for them, as the office location would not change. The Sugarcreek Borough Police, who currently travel -0- miles since the MDJ sits in Sugarcreek one day per week, would have a travel distance of 10.6 miles to the Seneca office. Sugarcreek has annual average case filings of 1454 and a population of 5,294, a 0.7% decrease from 2000.

Under the proposed configuration, the Magisterial District Judge of 28-3-02 could likely conduct hearings and accept filings in Emlenton Borough on an "as

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

needed" basis in order to accommodate the residents of Rockland, Richland, Emlenton, Scrubgrass, Clintonville, Clinton, Irwin, and Barkeyville and the Emlenton Borough Police Department.

The current workload average for 28-3-02 is 32,336 (a variance of 33% from the county average). The workload average would decrease to 32,127 and the variance from the new county average workload would be 6%.

PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	28-3-03
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	2,876
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	10%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-10%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	25,136
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	3%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	NO
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2015
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Michael D. Snyder	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2016



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (<i>m/d/yyyy</i>):	12/31/2017						
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	217 Thirteenth Street Franklin, PA 16323						
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES						
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES						
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Franklin Police Department; Polk Borough Police Department						
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Routes 8, 322, 965, 62						
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	City Of Franklin; Townships Of Canal, Utica, Frenchcreek, Mineral, Victory & Sandycreek; Borough Of Polk						
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Same						
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	<p>We are proposing no change to the boundaries of 28-3-03.</p> <p>The City of Franklin, located in this district, has the third highest population in the County with 6545, a 9.2% decrease from 2000.</p> <p>The population of the magisterial district is 12,300, a 14.6% decrease from 2010.</p> <p>The annual average workload of 03 is 25,136, a 3% variance above the county average. Under our proposal, we estimate an average workload for 03 of 28,802, a -5% variance from the increased county average of 30,341.</p> <p>The current configuration and location of the office enables all municipalities within Magisterial District 28-3-03 to have equal access to their court . The office is equally accessible to municipalities, with an average travel distance of 7.5 miles.</p> <p>Travel distances to office in Franklin:</p> <table> <tr> <td>City of Franklin</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canal Township</td> <td>10 miles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Utica Township</td> <td>11 miles</td> </tr> </table>	City of Franklin	--	Canal Township	10 miles	Utica Township	11 miles
City of Franklin	--						
Canal Township	10 miles						
Utica Township	11 miles						

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

Frenchcreek Township	7 miles
Mineral Township	11 miles
Victory Township	9 miles
Sandycreek Township	5 miles
Polk Borough	7 miles

The PA State Police, Franklin Barracks, currently travel, and would continue to travel, a distance of 6.9 miles to the Franklin MDJ Office.

PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.



MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET FOR EACH MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT NUMBER (#####):	28-3-04
II.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - CASELOAD	
A.	Average Total Caseload:	1,959
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and your judicial district's average total caseload:	-25%
C.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total caseload and applicable class of county's average total caseload:	-39%
III.	BREAKDOWN OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT - WORKLOAD	
A.	Average Total Workload:	17,604
B.	Difference (%) between this magisterial district's average total workload and the judicial district's average total workload:	-28%
C.	Does this magisterial district have an average total workload that is fifteen percent <i>greater than or less than</i> any other magisterial district within your judicial district:	YES
D.	If YES, how does this difference impact workload equity within your judicial district?	
IV.	PROPOSED CHANGE:	
A.	Please indicate any proposed change in this magisterial district. Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish <input type="checkbox"/> Realign <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eliminate
B.	What is the proposed effective date (m/d/yyyy):	1/1/2015
V.	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT INFORMATION:	
A.	Magisterial District Judge Name: Patrick E. Lowrey	
B.	Term Expiration (m/d/yyyy):	1/3/2018

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

C. Mandatory Retirement Date (m/d/yyyy):	12/31/2040
D. Office Location (Street, City and Zip code):	The Crawford Center Emlenton, PA 16373
E. Is the office within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
F. Is the residence of the magisterial district judge within the boundaries of the magisterial district:	YES
G. List any police departments located within this magisterial district:	Emlenton Police Department
H. List any major highways within this magisterial district:	Routes 8, 38, 208, 308
VI. LIST EXISTING MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Townships Of Irwin, Clinton, Rockland, Scrubgrass, Richland; Boroughs Of Barkeyville, Clintonville & Emlenton
VII. LIST PROPOSED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES:	Eliminate
VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	<p>We are recommending the elimination of 28-3-04 upon the mandatory retirement of Douglas Dinberg, Magisterial District Judge of District 28-3-02 on December 31, 2014. We propose to move Judge Lowrey, newly-elected Judge of 28-3-04 to the present office location of 28-3-02 in Cranberry Township, Seneca, PA.</p> <p>This magisterial district court has significant departures from the caseload equity figures with a variance of -25% from Venango County's average and a -39% variance from the average sixth class county. There is a -28% variance in the workload in 28-3-04 to Venango County's average.</p> <p>The former magisterial district judge of 28-3-04, who presided there for 18 years, indicated that the majority of his filings were from out of his district, a result of traffic violations on Interstate 80 and Route 8, which for the most part did not result in hearings. Most of the criminal cases were processed on his "duty week-ends" and again, not from his district. He held approximately 10-15 summary trials per week and 4-8 payment determination hearings per week.</p> <p>The municipalities currently in 28-3-04 would be shifted to 28-3-02, which include Irwin, Clinton, Scrubgrass, Rockland and Richland Townships and Barkeyville, Clintonville and Emlenton Boroughs. We believe the caseload, workload and population can be absorbed with no impact on the Court's ability</p>

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MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REESTABLISHMENT WORKSHEET

to process cases under our proposed plan. The City of Oil City would be shifted from 28-3-02 to 28-3-01 and Sugarcreek Borough would be shifted from 28-3-01 to 28-3-02.

The PA State Police, Franklin Barracks, currently travel a distance of approximately 18 miles to the Emlenton MDJ Office. They would travel a distance of 2.7 miles to the Seneca MDJ Office if 28-3-04 is eliminated.

The current population of 28-3-04 is 6,561, a 1% increase from 2000.

PLEASE SAVE A COPY OF THIS WORKSHEET PRIOR TO ENTERING DATA FOR THE NEXT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.

AOPC

JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET.

To enter data, press TAB to move between fields.

I.	JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER:	28
A.	Wh at is the class of county?	6
B.	Wh at is the percentage difference in the average annual caseload between this judicial district and the applicable class of county?	-18%
II.	PROPOSED ACTIONS:	
A.	List existing magisterial districts: 28-3-01; 28-3-02; 28-3-03; 28-3-04	
B.	Does this judicial district have an annual average caseload that is ten percent above the average caseload for the applicable class of county?	NO
	1. If the answer to II. B. above is <i>NO</i> , are eliminations proposed?	YES
	a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination. 28-3-04	
	b) If no eliminations are proposed based on II. B. above, what are the factors for this decision?	
	2. If the answer to II. B. above is <i>YES</i> , are eliminations proposed?	Choose Yes or No
	a) List magisterial districts proposed for elimination.	
C.	Are any magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment?	YES
	1. List magisterial districts proposed for reestablishment. 28-3-03	
D.	Are any magisterial districts proposed for realignment?	NO
	1. List magisterial districts proposed for realignment. 28-3-01 and 28-3-02	

III. NIGHT AND CENTRAL COURT OPERATIONS	
A. Is there a night court operating within the judicial district?	NO
B. Is there a central court operating within the judicial district?	YES
<p>C. Note comments regarding how night, central or other similar court programs impact operations within the judicial district.</p> <p>A central court system was established in Venango County in January of 1994. Criminal cases are presented weekly on Wednesday, with two district judges presiding. One district judge presides over preliminary hearings and the other accepts guilty pleas and waivers and imposes sentences. A prosecuting attorney is present for each case.</p> <p>One of the many factors considered in implementing a central court system was the disparity in filings in Magisterial Districts 28-3-04 and 28-3-02 as compared to the other two districts. Criminal filings in Magisterial District 28-3-04 historically have been lower than in the other districts, primarily because it is a rural district that is sparsely populated. Filings in Magisterial District 28-3-02 have typically been somewhat higher than in the other three districts. 02 contained the municipalities that ranked number one and three in population in Venango County. It was determined that parity in the number of criminal caes processed per district judge could be achieved by implementing a central court system, and that the manner and timeliness of preliminary hearings could be standardized in the county. It was also believed that Central Court would eliminate the logistical issues associated with scheduling and traveling from one end of the county to the other for our understaffed public defenders' office. Another concern prior to the implementation of central court was that a prosecuting attorney was present for preliminary hearings for only the most serious alleged crimes, thereby protracting the prosecution process for the majority of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. Scheduling conflicts for prosecutors and defense counsel have been eliminated because preliminary hearings are scheduled on Wednesday only. This also eliminated the substantial amount of time the magisterial staffs dedicated to continuances of prelimnary hearings and prosecuting police officers in rearranging their schedules each time a preliminary hearing was rescheduled.</p>	

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

Prior to the implementation of Central Court, a small percentage of cases resulted in guilty pleas because there was not a prosecuting attorney present at this stage of a criminal case to approve a negotiated plea.

Because of space constraints in the offices of the magisterial district judges, prior to central court, witnesses and victims who appeared for a preliminary hearing customarily sat in a room with the alleged perpetrator of the crime. There was no security or protection from the exchanges that may occur under such circumstances. Victims and witnesses are now provided a separate waiting area, there is a deputy present from the sheriff's office in the court room for security, and a victim-witness coordinator is present to provide orientation on court procedures and to provide support and accompaniment during court proceedings.

While central court is a less than perfect system, the goals established have been either met or exceeded. We view the impact of Central Court on the magisterial courts, Court of Common Pleas, victims and witnesses, prosecuting and defense attorneys, the county, communities, and police agencies as positive.

**** PLEASE NOTE:** Since we do utilize a Central Court system in Venango County, we have equalized all criminal caseload/workload statistics among the magisterial district judges, rather than counting them in the district in which they were filed.

The population in Venango County has been dropping since the 1950's census count of 65,328. The 2010 census results place the population at 54,984, an almost 16% decrease. The decrease from 2000 to 2010 is 4.5%. Per report from Judith Downs, Executive Director of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission, Venango County is not only losing population, it is losing families. The percentage of residents under 18 and those in the 30-50 year old category are dropping faster than the population as a whole. The loss of families has an impact on the County, particularly on the type of housing demand, falling enrollments at the school districts and the ability for existing and prospective new businesses to find employees. Shifts in Venango County's population are from the urban core communities of Oil City and Franklin into the suburban townships where water and sewer systems have expanded. The 2007 Southern Comprehensive Plan designates the I-80 corridor areas around Barkeyville, Clintonville, Emlenton and Route 8 as

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

future growth areas. Additional industrial development is occurring at the Sandycreek Industrial Park in Sandycreek Township, at the former Pennzoil refinery site in Rouseville Borough and at the Oil City industrial park.

As of November 30, 2011, there have been 50 non-Marcellus wells drilled in Venango County and one Marcellus. Venango County is on the edge of the Marcellus, but in the heart of the Utica shale area, with the possibility of expansion in the unconventional natural gas fields.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- | | |
|---|-----|
| A. A request for public comment was posted: | YES |
| B. Comments were received: | NO |
| C. Comments are attached: | NO |

V. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING PROPOSAL:

After an analysis of the data and consideration of other relevant factors, and considering the significant departure that exists in 28-3-04 from the caseload and workload equity from the other three Venango County magisterial district courts, and 04's significant departure from other sixth class county figures, we felt it was prudent to eliminate 28-3-04. With the realignment of 28-3-01 and 28-3-02 and the reestablishment of 28-3-03, we can gain workload equity among the remaining three magisterial district courts, and eliminate the imbalances that currently exist, without compromising the effective and efficient administration of justice and with very limited disruption.

We have considered public convenience, and although the residents of some municipalities may have to travel a greater distance to the MDJ office, we do not believe that any of the distances are excessive. If hearings can be conducted in Emlenton as needed for the residents of the southern municipalities there will be no change for those residents or the Emlenton Police Department since the 28-3-04 MDJ office is currently located in Emlenton Borough. This proposal more equitably distributes case filings and still maintains reasonable geographic access for residents.


We also note that there is no longer a rule that no one within a district should have to travel more than one-half hour to reach the MDJ office.

VI. DATE SUBMITTED TO AOPC: 3/22/12

VII. PRESIDENT JUDGE NAME: OLIVER J. LOBAUGH

AOPC

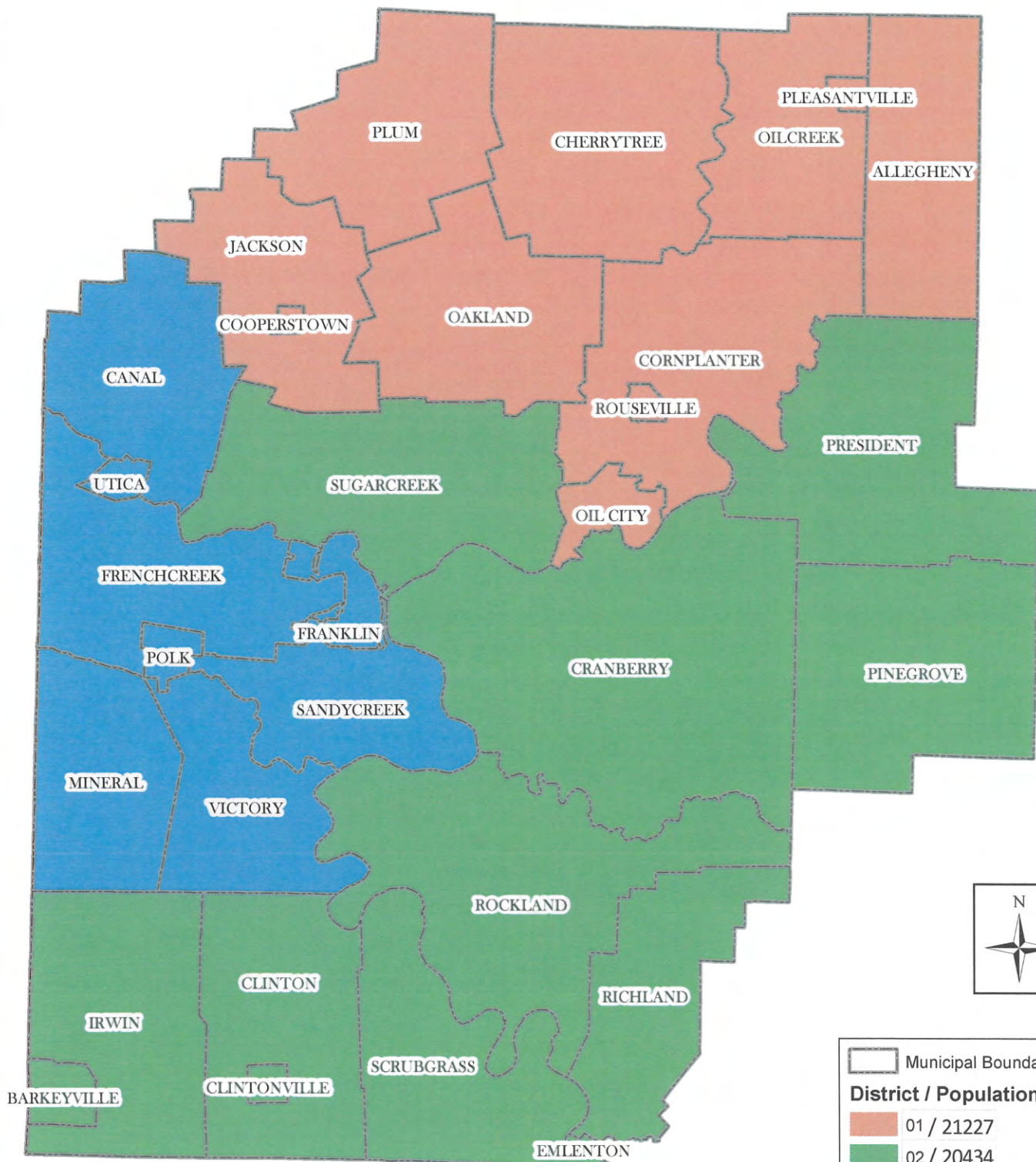
JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUMMARY WORKSHEET

Signature	
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(Proposed)

Venango County

Magisterial Districts (Proposed), 2012



MUNICIPALITY STATS UNDER PROPOSAL 2005-2010

28-3-01

MUNICIPALITY	CR	NT	PC	TR	CIV	LT	MD
Allegheny	9	21	2	56	35	0	0
Cherrytree	112	220	20	434	49	5	9
Cooperstown	24	55	2	53	30	5	3
Cornplanter	122	210	23	573	135	8	11
Jackson	45	132	0	131	48	10	1
Oakland	59	181	5	322	0	4	8
Oil City	1575	3924	995	4481	664	315	0
Oilcreek	36	32	35	133	28	1	16
Pleasantville	23	55	27	106	44	2	80
Plum	30	98	1	68	27	4	4
Rouseville	69	106	24	453	78	6	7
TOTAL	2104	5034	1134	6810	1138	360	139
AVERAGE	351	839	189	1135	190	60	23

28-3-02

Barkeyville	65	63	15	2585	6	0	3
Clinton	29	88	43	800	17	0	5
Clintonville	44	106	3	410	30	14	0
Cranberry	708	1129	513	4342	280	49	0
Emlenton	95	164	197	514	99	11	38
Irwin	73	101	4	1562	60	9	3
Pinegrove	45	80	0	135	0	0	0
President	15	93	0	79	0	0	0
Richland	27	0	19	271	16	0	1
Rockland	56	394	1	260	77	3	6
Scrubgrass	68	95	37	1591	59	3	2
Sugarcreek	716	1452	775	5279	370	38	92
TOTAL	1941	3765	1607	17828	1014	127	150
AVERAGE	324	628	268	2971	169	21	25

28-3-03

Canal	39	91	0	279	2	1	2
Franklin	1786	2020	258	7291	875	238	481
Frenchcreek	63	150	3	463	4	1	6
Mineral	12	178	6	46	5	2	2
Polk	64	57	1	751	11	8	4
Sandycreek	169	598	92	741	205	33	24
Utica	14	22	3	53	4	2	4
Victory	23	167	0	692	2	2	3
TOTAL	2170	3283	363	10316	1108	287	526
AVERAGE	362	547	61	1719	185	48	88

CRIMINAL CASES EQUALIZED BETWEEN THREE COURTS:

$362+324+351=1037/3=346$

Average CASELOADS UNDER PROPOSED REALIGNMENT

Table 1

Judicial Dist. 28	CR	NT	PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	AVG Caseload
AVERAGE	346	671	173	1,942	181	43	45	3,401
MDJ-28-3-01	346	839	189	1135	190	60	23	2,782
MDJ-28-3-02	346	628	268	2971	169	21	25	4,428
MDJ-28-3-03	346	547	61	1719	185	48	88	2,994

AVERAGE WORKLOADS UNDER PROPOSED REALIGNMENT

Table 2

Docket Type	Case Weight
CR	36.72
NT (Include PC)	10.74
TR	2.28
CV	11.28
LT	14.48
MD	32.57

Table 3

Judicial Dist. 28	CR	NT/PC	TR	CV	LT	MD	AVG Workload
AVERAGE	12705	9065	4427	2045	623	1477	30,341
MDJ-28-3-01	12705	11041	2588	2143	869	749	30,095
MDJ-28-3-02	12705	9623	6774	1906	304	814	32,127
MDJ-28-3-03	12705	6530	3919	2087	695	2866	28,802

WORKLOAD COMPARISON UNDER PROPOSED REALIGNMENT

Table 4

Judicial Dist. 28	AVG Workload	Variance
AVERAGE	30,341	-
MDJ-28-3-01	30,095	-1%
MDJ-28-3-02	32,127	6%
MDJ-28-3-03	28,802	-5%

Range	
Max.	34,892
Min.	25,790

Table 6

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-01	30,095	-
MDJ-28-3-02	32,127	-6%
MDJ-28-3-03	28,802	4%

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-02	32,127	-
MDJ-28-3-01	30,095	7%
MDJ-28-3-03	28,802	12%

	AVG Workload	Variance
MDJ-28-3-03	28,802	-
MDJ-28-3-01	30,095	-4%
MDJ-28-3-02	32,127	-10%



Venango County

Court Administrator

Venango County Court House
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NOTICES

MEMORANDUM TO: Ms. Jane Beach @ Cooperstown Public Library
Ms. Deb Oakes @ Franklin Public Library
Ms. Sharon Duarte @ Oil City Public Library

FROM: Lynn M. Cummings-Wilson, District Court Administrator

DATE: February 13, 2012

Thanks to all of you for agreeing to have the Reestablishment Plan of the Venango County Magisterial Districts available for review in your libraries. Each president judge is required to submit such a plan every ten years. This year, in addition to the Venango County public libraries, our plan is available at each magisterial district office, on the county website, as well as in the District Court Administrator's Office.

There will be a notice or news article in the paper within the next few days that may stimulate interest in individuals who use our magisterial courts. While the newspaper article will articulate the procedure for persons who desire to comment on our recommendation, if they inquire of you, please inform them that comments must be put in writing and mailed to: District Court Administrator, c/o Venango County Court House, P.O. Box 831, Franklin, PA 16323. Responses via email can be sent to: lwilson@co.venango.pa.us. All comments must be received by March 15, 2012.

The Plan is also available for review on-line at www.co.venango.pa.us

Thank you again.

Cc: Magisterial District Judges

Judicial redistricting plan on display for comment

By **SHEILA BOUGHNER**

Newsroom.TheDerrick@gmail.com
Staff Writer

A judicial redistricting plan that would reduce the number of Venango County district courts from four to three is on display for public comment.

The review — with an eye to possible realignment based on the latest federal census population data — is required by the state every 10 years.

The plan, devised by Venango County President Judge Oliver Lobaugh and his staff in consultation with district judges Douglas Dinberg (Seneca), Michael Snyder (Franklin), Andrew Fish (Pleasantville) and Patrick Lowrey (Emlenton), recommends the elimination of the magisterial district court (District 3-4) in Emlenton upon the mandatory retirement of Dinberg on Dec. 31, 2014.

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Lowrey, who presides in Emlenton, would move to District 3-2 in Seneca, where Dinberg currently presides.

The Seneca and Franklin offices would remain at their locations under the plan but the Pleasantville office (District 3-1), which now serves Plum, Jackson, Oakland, Cherrytree, Cornplanter, Oilcreek, and Allegheny townships and Cooperstown, Sugarcreek and Pleasantville Boroughs, would be shifted to a more central location in Cornplanter Township or Rouseville Borough, according to district court administrator Lynn Cummings-Wilson.

Under the proposal, the municipalities served by the Emlenton office — Rockland, Scrubgrass, Clinton, Irwin and Richland townships and Emlenton, Barkeyville and Clintonville boroughs — would be covered by the Seneca office.

Oil City, now served by the Seneca office, would be shifted to District 3-1 at its new location, and Sugarcreek Borough, now served by the Pleasantville office, would be shifted to the Seneca office.

The jurisdiction for the Franklin office, which serves Franklin, Polk and Utica boroughs and Sandycreek, Frenchcreek, Canal, Mineral and Victory townships, would remain unchanged.

The state Supreme Court establishes the guidelines for the decennial reviews, aimed at ensuring that the configuration of the state's 539 magisterial districts are appropriate to serve residents over the next decade.

Guidelines for previous reviews included the requirement that no one should have to drive more than 30 minutes to reach the district court. That directive is not included this year, Cummings-Wilson said. Rather, public convenience and safety are to be

the statistics for the other sixth-class counties in the state, Cummings-Wilson said.

The analysis found the caseload in the Emlenton office to be 25 percent less than the county average and 39 percent below the average for sixth-class counties. The workload was determined to be 28 percent less than the county average. Filings in the Seneca office, which now serves the City of Oil City and Cranberry, Pinegrove and President townships, were found to be higher than in the other districts.

The proposal argues that the realignment would achieve workload equity among the three remaining magisterial districts and "eliminate the imbalances that currently exist, without compromising the effective and efficient administration of justice and with very limited disruption."

"We have considered public convenience, and although the residents of some municipalities may have to travel a greater distance to the MDJ office, we do not believe that any of the distances are excessive," the document continues. "If hearings can be conducted in Emlenton as needed for the residents of the southern municipalities there will be no change for those residents or the Emlenton Police Department . . . This proposal more equitably distributes case filings and still maintains reasonable geographic access for residents."

The proposed plan would provide some cost savings for the state and the county.

The state would save about \$82,000 on the salary of one district justice and the county, which pays for office staff, supplies and equipment as well as rental fees for the offices in Pleasantville, Seneca and Emlenton, would save some money as well.

Fiscal administrator Diona Brick has estimated the county's savings at about \$25,000, Cummings-Wilson said.

The proposal will be on display for 30 days on the court offices page of the Venango County web site at www.co.venango.pa.us, in the Venango County courthouse and in each of the district court offices as well as at the Franklin, Oil City and Cooperstown libraries, Cummings-Wilson said.

said. Rather, public convenience and safety are to be considered along with other factors.

New to this year's process is the state Supreme Court's desire, in response to the state's budget constraints, to develop a plan to reduce the number of magisterial district judgeships across the state by 10 percent through the redistricting plans and by eliminating some posts when they become vacant.

The local plan was devised after a comprehensive analysis of population trends as well as case filings and workload, which were compared to the average for the four districts in the county as well as

court offices page of the Venango County web site at www.co.venango.pa.us, in the Venango County courthouse and in each of the district court offices as well as at the Franklin, Oil City and Cooperstown libraries, Cummings-Wilson said.

During the 30-day comment period, written comments on the plan may be submitted to District Court Administrator, Venango County Court House, 1168 Liberty St., P.O. Box 831, Franklin, 16323.

After the public comment period, the proposal will be sent on to the state Supreme Court for review, Cummings-Wilson said.