



AOPC ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS



WHO WE ARE

Message from the court administrator 1
How the court system works. 2
Defining the AOPC 3
How the court system is funded. 4
By the numbers 5
Human resources 6

FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judicial operations 7
Treatment courts 8
Court access 10
Recruiting and certifying interpreters 11

KEEPING COURTS SAFE AND SECURE 14

PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Protecting children 13
STOP Grant 14

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA'S OLDER ADULTS . 15

ADVANCING IN TECHNOLOGY

Leading in court innovations. 16
System design and development. 17

ASSEMBLING AND ANALYZING COURT DATA 18

ASSISTING THE SUPREME COURT

Drafting and recommending rules 19
Regulating the practice of law 20
Continuing education. 21

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Educating jurists 22
Working with state government partners 23
Public outreach and education. 24

Message from the Court Administrator

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) as the year marked a period of historic transition and continued dedication to the mission of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System.

In 2023, we witnessed a momentous occasion in the history of our judiciary as Chief Justice Debra Todd was formally installed as the first woman to lead the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Chief Justice Todd brings to the position a long-standing commitment to fairness, integrity and public service – values that will undoubtedly continue to shape the judiciary for years to come.

This year also marked a new chapter for the AOPC as I had the privilege of assuming the role of Court Administrator of Pennsylvania in October. I am humbled to be the first woman attorney to hold this position and am committed to advancing the goals of transparency, efficiency and accessibility across all levels of the court system.

Throughout 2023, the AOPC continued to work tirelessly to support the courts in their constitutional mission. From ongoing modernization initiatives and technology improvements to judicial education, data management and administrative support, our work remains grounded in service – both to the judiciary and to the people of Pennsylvania. These efforts are made possible by the professionalism and collaboration of our judges, court staff and justice system partners across the Commonwealth.

As we reflect on the year's accomplishments and challenges, we remain focused on strengthening public trust, ensuring equal access to justice and fostering innovation in court administration. I look forward to continuing this important work in the years ahead.



Sincerely,

ANDREA B. TUOMINEN
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

How the Court System Works

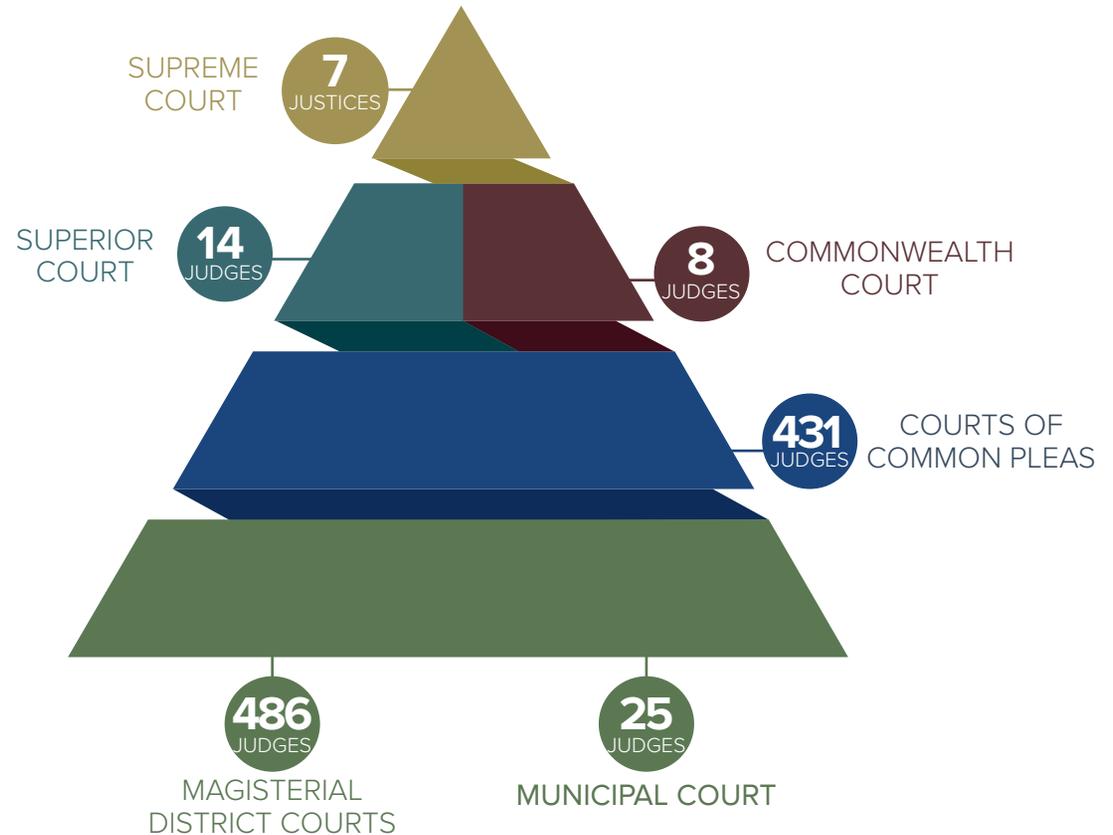
FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COURTS.

We approach every day with this focus – to keep courts open, safe, accessible, fair, effective, responsive and accountable.

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in our use of technology to make the courts accessible and efficient. Our court data is used widely in government to help make informed policy decisions and to foster public safety.

Our programs provide opportunities for dramatic differences in peoples' lives and are proving to be cost-savers as well.

The Pennsylvania court system is structured like a pyramid, with the Supreme Court at the top. All courts fall under the umbrella of the judiciary headed by the Supreme



Court. In the interest of full transparency and accountability, Pennsylvania's judiciary provides comprehensive public access to court records online and upon request. [Learn more about Pennsylvania Courts.](#)

WHO WE ARE

Defining the AOPC

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is the administrative arm of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Led by the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court supervises and administers Pennsylvania's judicial branch of government. The Supreme Court appoints the court administrator of Pennsylvania.

THE AOPC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:



Representing the court system to the public and at all government levels, providing each with reliable information.



Developing and maintaining information technology resources, such as case, financial and administrative management systems.



Facilitating safe and accessible courts for all.



Providing legal services to system personnel.



Recommending **court system improvements** and program innovations.



Conducting **continuing education programs** for judges and staff.



Managing administrative functions including finance and human resources.



Educating the public about the courts' roles and functions, ensuring all court information is as transparent and publicly accessible as possible.



Assisting president judges and district court administrators in **management** of local courts.

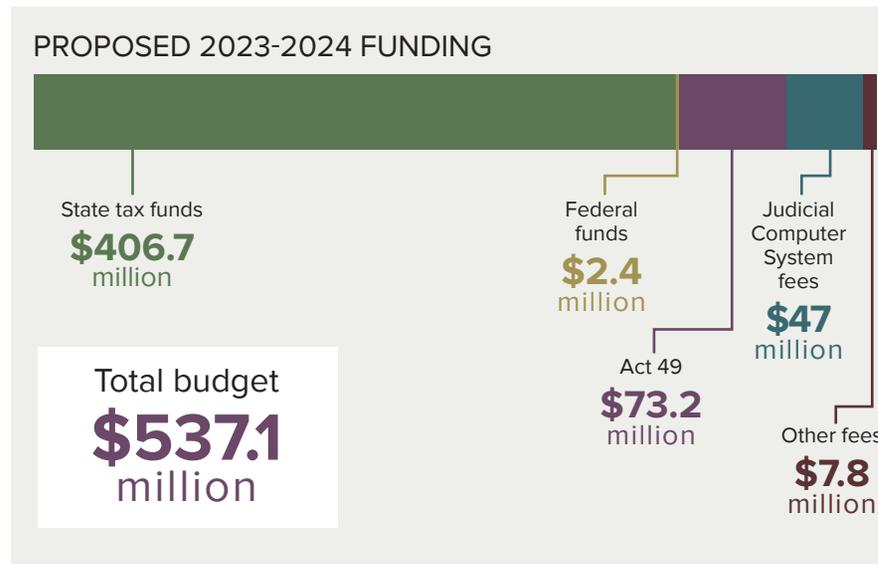
How the Court System is Funded

AOPC/Finance provides critical management of budget, accounting and payroll systems for the entire judiciary and serves as the primary resource for the organization on financial matters.

The Pennsylvania Constitution calls for justice to be administered without “sale, denial or delay.” That mandate shapes the core mission of the courts – delivering fair, timely and accessible justice for all. Adequate funding with an ongoing commitment to efficiency and the wise and transparent use of public funds allows the mission to be met.

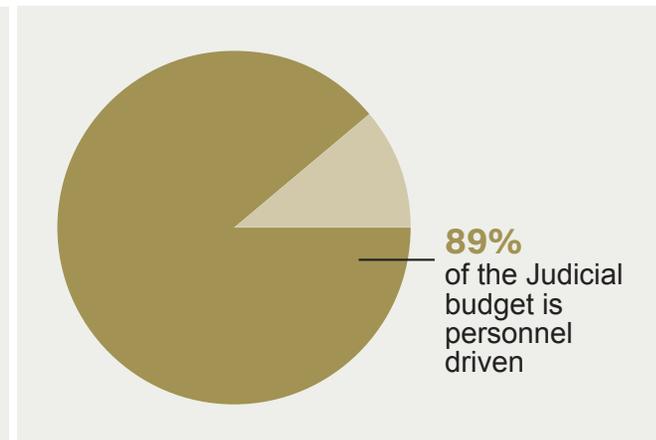
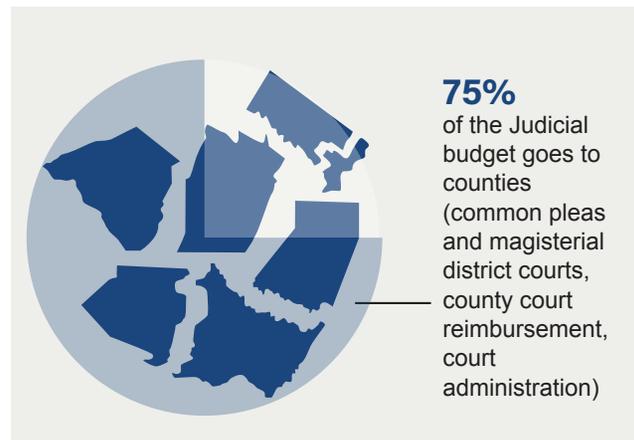
2023-2024 BUDGET REQUEST:

FUNDING SOURCES



The judiciary receives about **0.5%** of the state budget.

Fee revenue has been used to fund a portion of the judiciary's annual general fund budget, currently about **15%** of the total.



WHO WE ARE

By the Numbers



Pennsylvania's treatment courts had a **71% combined successful graduation rate.**



Pennsylvania courts collected over **\$407 million** in fees, fines and costs.



32% of Pennsylvania's active judges were women.



2,088,661 new cases were filed in magisterial district courts.



41,736 protection from abuse (PFA) orders were filed.



73% of children who were under court supervision were either returned to or remained in their home.



108 million docket sheets were viewed for free on our website.



22,486 written allegations, and **18,509 dispositions** representing **17,398 juveniles.***



35,919 jurors were impaneled or sworn.



Facilitated **55,662** language services interactions.



More than **11,100 followers** on X @PACourts.



Trial and appellate judges completed more than **34,000 hours** of continuing education.

For more numbers see the [AOPC's interactive data dashboards.](#)

*Provided by Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC)

WHO WE ARE

Human Resources

AOPC/HR coordinates and manages various functions related to supporting approximately 8,000 individuals within the judiciary which includes judges, staff, dependents and retirees.

HR is the primary point of contact for recruiting and hiring state-level judiciary employees, implementing HR policies and guidelines, supporting judges and staff with retirement planning in conjunction with SERS and assisting members with medical insurance questions or claims issues.

The department regularly performs analysis of benefit plan trends and evaluates the cost and value of judiciary programs to make informed decisions that balance member satisfaction with fiscal restraints.

HR is also responsible for developing and delivering a variety of training programs and collaborating with other state judiciaries on HR issues of shared interest.

Finally, they develop and administer the judiciary's personnel policies, classification and compensation plans, absence plans and performance evaluation programs and processes.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

Onboarded **nine new CP judges** and **16 new MDJs**



Offboarded **136 retirees**

Continued recruiting efforts leading to **52 staff jobs filled** and **900 applicants evaluated**



In 2023, there were 477 total active employees (AOPC – 280, District Courts – 197), representing a **5.5% increase** in the complement from 2022.



The turnover rate in 2023 was 9.5% – a **23% decrease** in turnover from 12.4% in 2022.

Updated the **merit pay** award system.

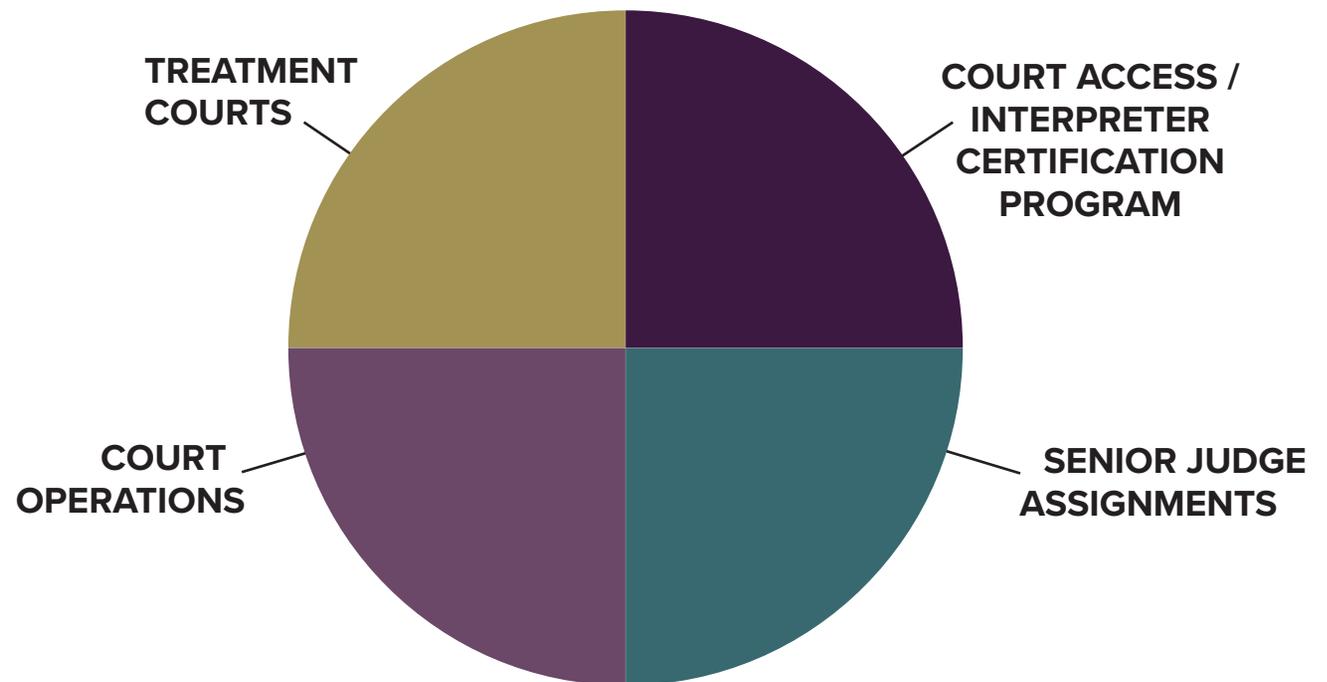
FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judicial District Operations

AOPC/[Judicial District Operations and Programs](#) department works closely with court administration at both the state and local level to support the efficient operation of magisterial district and trial courts and to promote equitable access to justice.

While funding for all AOPC operations comes mainly from state appropriations and fee funding, it receives a small amount of federal funds – including a STOP Grant (see page 14).

COMPONENTS OF JUDICIAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT:



FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Treatment Courts

More than 20 years ago, Pennsylvania established [treatment courts](#), in an effort to address a growing need in the community for those struggling with addiction. Since that time, the need for additional services and support to address major social policy issues has grown, and the role of the courts along with it.

As of December 2023, more than 133 treatment courts were operational across the state, serving those with DUI offenses, veterans, those living with a mental illness and more. These specialized courts focus on behaviors and conditions that many times are linked to crime and social problems and have a major impact on the court system.

Rather than serve jail time, defendants may complete community service and are given access to counseling, treatment opportunities for addiction, educational assistance and healthcare support.

Completing the program and graduating opens doors to the future for these defendants, with many seeing their charges dismissed, sentences reduced or criminal records expunged.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

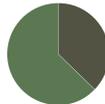


170 participants achieved an increase in education

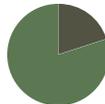


392 participants who were unemployed found jobs

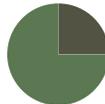
Successful graduation rates by court:



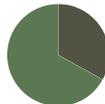
63% Drug Court



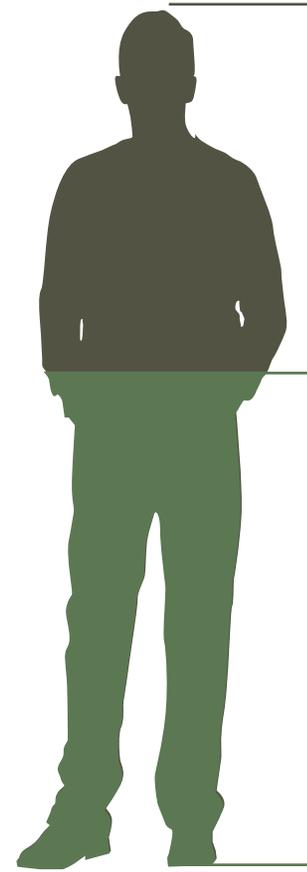
80% DUI Court



75% Veterans Court



67% Mental Health Court



1,922 participants were admitted.

1,200 participants graduated successfully.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Treatment Courts

2023 INITIATIVES:

Certification Project with the Center for Justice Innovation

AOPC contracted with the Center for Justice Innovation to enhance and expand the current certification (previously accreditation) program. Phase one included interviews with a stakeholder committee, as well as a review and revision of the current protocol and related documents. Phase two focused on developing state standards and expanding certification to include mental health and veterans treatment courts.

Regional Veterans Treatment Court

A Regional Veterans Treatment Court was implemented encompassing Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry counties.

Discretionary and Implementation Grants

In January 2023, the AOPC announced the availability of funds for discretionary and implementation grants. Discretionary grants are designed to enhance operational treatment courts while implementation grants are designed to offset some of the costs related to starting a treatment court.

- Approximately \$328,000 was awarded in discretionary and implementation funding to 39 programs. The breakdown per program type is as follows:
 - Drug Treatment Court: 16 awards
 - Drug/DUI Treatment Court: 4 awards
 - DUI Treatment Court: 5 awards (including one award for implementation)
 - Mental Health Treatment Court: 7 awards
 - Veterans Treatment Court: 5 awards
 - Family Treatment Court: 1 award
 - Co-Occurring Treatment Court: 1 award

2023 TRAININGS:

Lunch and Learn Series

AOPC offered free webinars over lunchtime that focused on topics relevant to treatment courts and align with best practices.

Annual Coordinators' Symposium

The symposium was held in May, with more than 50 coordinators in attendance. Topics included a panel discussion with senior coordinators, STOP grant and domestic violence resources, panel discussion on intercounty transfers and team development.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Court Access

[Language services](#) for individuals who are limited English proficient or deaf or hard of hearing are essential to ensure that all court users are able to fully participate in judicial proceedings, in which their rights or interests are at stake, and court services, programs and activities.

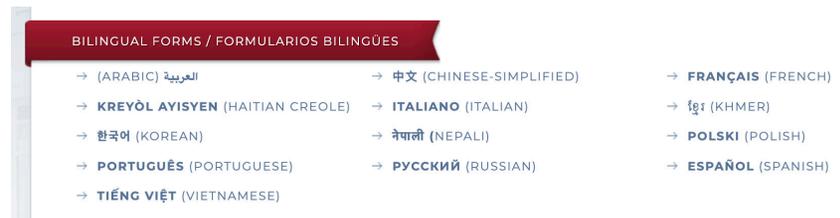
One of the top priorities of the AOPC is to ensure that the Pennsylvania courts are accessible to everyone and the AOPC Court Access Team works hard to make this possible.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2023, **\$7.5 million** was spent on **55,662 language services** interactions.

As of December 2023, there were **268 interpreters** representing **45 languages** on the Interpreter Certification Program's roster.

There are currently **over 70 translated statewide court forms** posted on the PA Court's website.



2023 TRAININGS:

Conducted an ADA Training for attorneys in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Conducted an ADA Training at the annual Clerks of Court and Prothonotaries Conference.

The Court Access Summit was held virtually in December with four sessions focusing on the use of assistive technology, ASL interpreter best practices, overview of the ADA and how to use LADC for scheduling rostered interpreters.

Recruiting and Certifying Court Interpreters

In 2023, the Interpreter Certification Program (ICP) continued with its main mission of augmenting the roster of qualified interpreters. The ICP allows the PA Courts to fulfill its goal of making the courts accessible to limited English speakers and those who are deaf or hard of hearing and promotes confidence in the courts by guaranteeing the rights of all citizens irrespective of the language they speak or sign. The ICP holds four orientation workshops, administers four written exams and four oral exams each year.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

224 candidates took written and oral certification exams.

387 new candidates registered with the ICP.

The **ICP continued collaborating with Widener University, Berks County Bar Association and the First Judicial District Shadowing Program** to recruit and train interpreters for certification.

The ICP collaborated with Safe Communities and other non-profits in Lancaster County reaching out to and training interpreters who are PA Dutch speakers. As a result of this effort, **12 PA Dutch interpreters joined the roster** for the first time in the program's history.



THE TOP 10 LANGUAGES REQUESTED IN 2023:

1. Spanish
2. Nepali
3. Russian
4. ASL
5. Arabic
6. Chinese
7. Portuguese
8. Haitian Creole
9. Vietnamese
10. Uzbek

KEEPING COURTS SAFE AND SECURE

Judicial District Security

AOPC/[Judicial District Security](#)

evaluates and assists in responding to emerging threats, in addition to implementing innovative protective measures and security protocols.

Staff review security policies and procedures, develop training and educational materials to enhance situational awareness and incident avoidance and provide online and in-person seminars.

Staff also evaluate security needs and requests for security enhancements in its administration of ongoing grant programs to provide courts with essential security equipment.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

Addressed 913 security incidents reported for common pleas and magisterial district courts. Of those, **789 resulted in involvement with law enforcement.**

The **Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PAJIRS)** permits reporting of security incidents to the AOPC Office of Judicial District Security.

The **Security Project Administration Program** provides for the equitable distribution of legislatively appropriated funding for court security enhancements.

- **Almost \$1.1 million was spent on court security enhancements in 2023.**

The **Security Education Program** provides for developing and delivering security-oriented training programs for judicial staff and sheriff's offices.

The **Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Program** provides for developing emergency action plans and exercises for all common pleas and magisterial district courts.

The **Vulnerability Assessment Program** offers security assessments for court facilities.



The **Judicial Threat Management Program** affords risk assessments, the provision of personal security-related guidance and the availability of Internet privacy-enhancing services.

The **Risk Vigilance Program** identifies threatening online content targeting Pennsylvania courthouses or judicial officials.

In 2023, **nearly 700 judges and judicial officials were trained** in multiple programs related to judicial safety and security.

PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Protecting Children

The judiciary's federally-funded [Office of Children and Families in the Courts \(OCFC\)](#), a program initiated by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, continues to have dramatic impacts on the lives of children while contributing savings to the state.

OCFC works with judicial leaders and child advocates to place neglected and abused children in permanent homes rather than in temporary foster care. This improves a child's opportunity to succeed and significantly reduces the cost of institutional care – a savings of hundreds of millions of dollars in the past decade.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 97% of children remained at home after a Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meeting
- More children in kinship care than foster homes or group homes
- More children reunified in FEI counties than non-FEI counties (36% vs 30%)
- Less children aged out in FEI counties than non-FEI counties (7% vs 10%)

Family Engagement Initiative Phase 5:

Training and preparation began in the selected counties (Erie, Juniata, Luzerne, Potter, Warren)

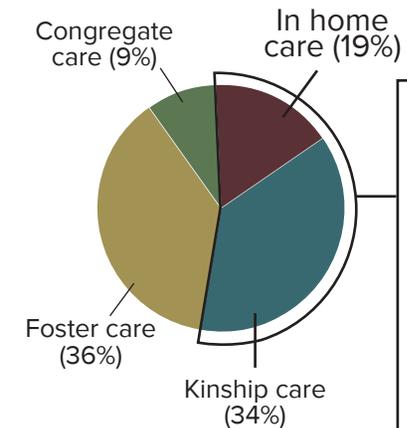
State Roundtable created the **Mental Health and Dependency Courts Workgroup**

Hosted **three Kinship Education sessions** – 204 attorneys attended

Hosted **two Reasonable Efforts education sessions** – 425 attorneys attended

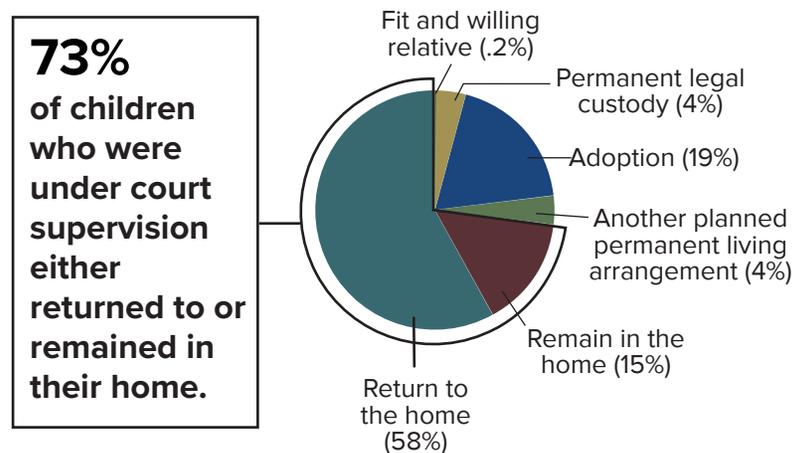
Co-hosted **Family Group Decision Making Virtual Conference** – 375 attendees

Kinship care placements over the past five years



53% of children remained safely in their home or were placed in kinship care in 2023.

Reasons court supervision ended in 2023



73% of children who were under court supervision either returned to or remained in their home.

PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE STOP Grant

Administered through the Office of Violence against Women (OVW), the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program awards federal grant money annually to states and territories to help enhance their communities' efforts to combat violence against women.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency distributes the grant – 5 percent of which goes to the judiciary.

The AOPC uses that funding to provide support and enhance court services available to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and offers local and national training opportunities tailored to Pennsylvania's jurists and court staff highlighting new research and best practices.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

I. Human Trafficking and The Court: The Survivor Perspective webinar

Three survivors of human trafficking in Pennsylvania discussed their experiences interacting with justice systems on a virtual panel.

II. Identification and Response to Human Trafficking

Coordinated with Child Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania to host two specially-designed, live webinars with subject matter experts for judges and court personnel about human trafficking in the commonwealth.

III. Documentary Screening and Discussion

Hosted a virtual screening of *This is Where I Learned Not to Sleep*, a powerful documentary in which LT. Mark Wynn shares his experience growing up in a violent home and his efforts to reform how law enforcement handles domestic violence.

IV. Court Scholarship Program

STOP Grant funds were used to send Berks County MDJ Steven Chieffo to the 2023 NDAA Summer Summit – Addressing Violent Crime: Courtroom and Community, Nashville TN.

V. Trauma-Informed Pennsylvania Dutch Interpreter Project (2023 - 2024)

A collaborative effort between Safe Communities Pennsylvania, the AOPC's Interpreter Certification Program and the STOP Grant Program led to the creation of the first court-certified Pennsylvania Dutch interpreter program.



Pennsylvania Dutch interpreters

PROVIDING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Supporting Pennsylvania's Older Adults

AOPC's [Office of Elder Justice in the Courts \(OEJC\)](#)

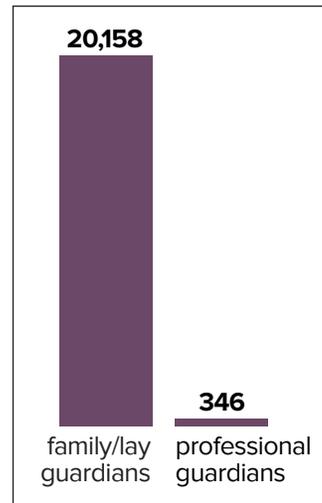
assists the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts in implementing the recommendations made by the Elder Law Task Force.

Committed to protecting Pennsylvania's rapidly growing population of older adults from all forms of abuse, the OEJC educates judges, court staff, attorneys, guardians and the public about the warning signs of elder abuse and how to respond.

In collaboration with other elder justice entities and branches of government, the OEJC works to enhance older adult Pennsylvanians' ability to fully participate in legal proceedings and promote best practices around elder abuse, neglect, guardianship and access to justice.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

As of December 2023, there were **18,822 active guardianship cases** in the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) and over **\$2 billion under court supervision**. There were 20,158 family/lay guardians and **346 professional guardians**.



In 2023, the OEJC received a three-year (approximately \$3 million) **Elder Justice Innovation Grant** from the Administration of Community Living.

The OEJC completed several important projects:

- The **first Pennsylvania Guardianship Summit** was held in September. An interdisciplinary group of more than **165 stakeholders** participated in the Summit.
- A **pilot project** providing legal services counsel to represent older adults in Dauphin County who are alleged incapacitated in guardianship proceedings.

- The **development of online video education modules for guardians** on a wide range of guardianship topics.



- **Developing educational programs** to encourage consideration of alternatives to guardianship.
- **Analyzing guardianship data** collected through GTS to identify areas that can be improved to assist courts in their guardianship monitoring responsibilities.
- The development of a **web-based resource for alternatives to guardianship**, in conjunction with a redesign of the OEJC's webpage.

Leading in Court Innovations

[AOPC/Information Technology](#)

develops, maintains and updates statewide case management systems for all levels of Pennsylvania's courts. The systems are linked, allowing case data and information to be shared as cases move through the court system saving time and money.

Court technology helps make court information significantly more accessible, improves collection of fines, fees, costs and restitution, and creates administrative efficiencies for courts and other government agencies.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:



2.36 million cases were docketed.



\$157.8 million in fines, fees, costs collected online through PAePay®.



108 million docket sheets were viewed on our website.



499,654 documents were e-filed statewide.



38,000 law enforcement and public safety officials used our case management systems to perform daily duties.

System Design and Development

Funded by fees and fines rather than taxpayer dollars, AOPC/IT provides general IT support for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and AOPC, and performs all aspects of the software development lifecycle in designing systems – from writing the code and testing its functions, to implementing the technology, and providing all necessary training and help desk support.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:



Google Translate – In June, a Google Translate feature was added to the UJS website to support Spanish translations.



UJS Web Portal Modernization – Upgraded the hardware, software and the technology platform used for the UJS web portal and its applications.

Civil e-filing Study – AOPC/IT is conducting an 18-month study to explore options, feasibility and costs for a statewide civil E-filing and document retrieval system. The study, initiated by a PBA task force, includes input from county courts and vendors, aiming to identify a commercial solution compatible with local case management systems.



Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) Initiatives – GTS enhancements included tracking professional guardians' background checks and certifications, alerting courts about related criminal cases and collecting data on legal representation for incapacitated persons.

ASSEMBLING AND ANALYZING COURT DATA

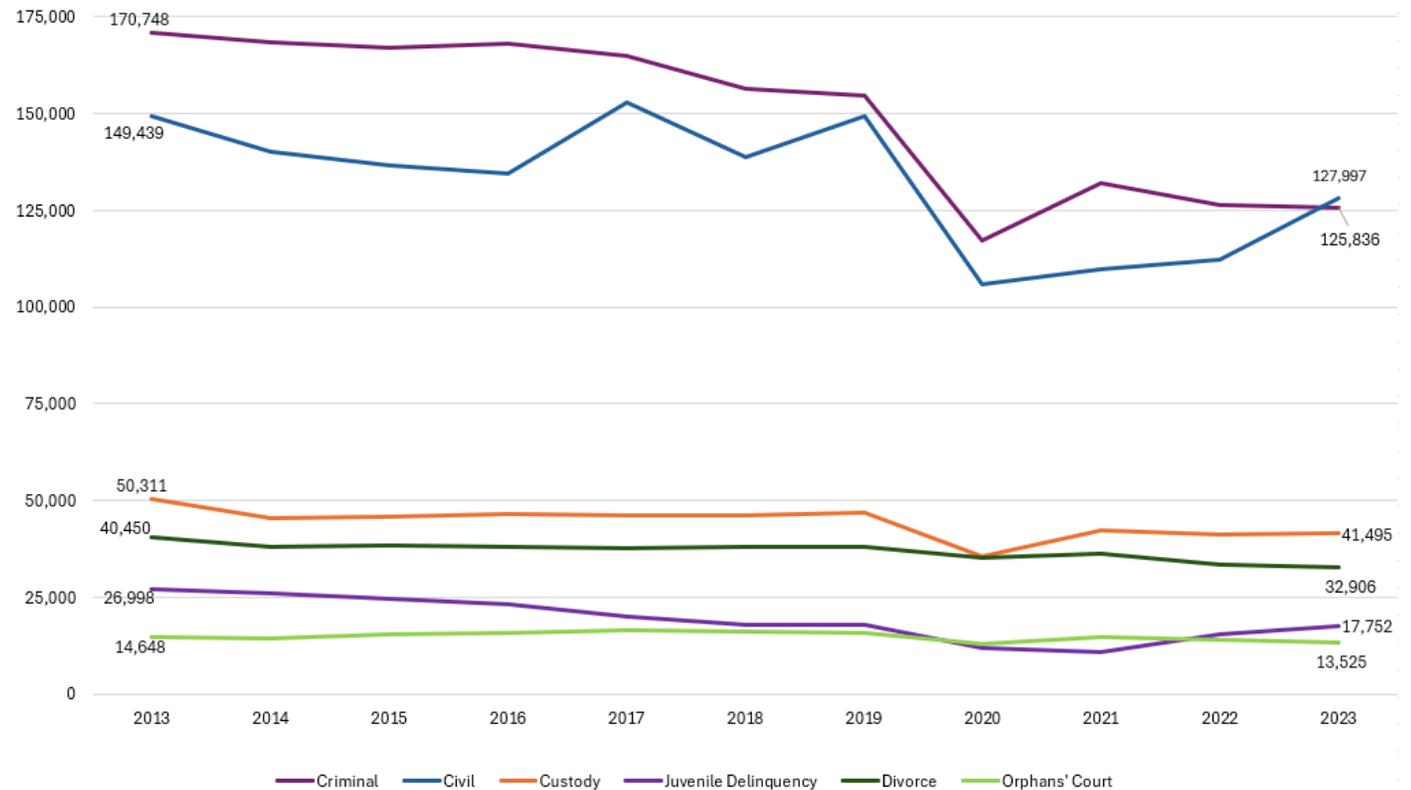
Research and Statistics

[AOPC/Research and Statistics](#)

collects and analyzes statewide court data, developing annual caseload statistics to help determine trends that inform policy and practice improvements.

In addition to providing data and analysis to the courts on topics related to case management, and court programs and operations, AOPC/Research and Statistics facilitates the public's access to this information by publishing data online via web-based reports and interactive data dashboards.

STATEWIDE FILINGS FROM 2013-2023:



View the full collection of [2023 court data](#) from all levels of the court system.

Drafting and Recommending Rules

More than 180 appointed volunteers — most of whom are lawyers and judges — make up the various boards, committees and advisory groups that aid the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on a wide range of court matters.

More specifically, the rules committees assist the Court in establishing statewide rules governing procedures in cases. These committees study and draft rules before making recommendations to the Court.

Rule change proposals are published for public comment before being submitted to or adopted by the Supreme Court.

RULES COMMITTEES 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

The **eight committees** met **24 times**.



29 proposed recommendations were published for public comment.

32 recommendations were submitted to the Court for consideration.



27 recommendations were adopted by the Court.

RULES COMMITTEES

- Appellate Court
- Criminal
- Civil
- Domestic Relations
- Orphans' Court
- Evidence
- Juvenile Court
- Minor Court

Read more about the [roles and functions of the different rules committees](#).

Regulating the Practice of Law

The following Supreme Court Boards are responsible for regulating lawyers and the practice of law throughout the Commonwealth. Most of the boards are funded by fee revenue* – for example, the **\$275 attorney registration fee** collected by the Disciplinary Board annually.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:



Board of Law Examiners

- **2,804 applicants** were processed in 2023.
- 2023 Pennsylvania Bar exam pass rates:
 - **February 43.95%**
 - **July 71.43%**



Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Board (IOLTA)

- **More than \$28 million** was awarded in total grants.
 - Nearly **\$1.5 million** was awarded to Law School Clinical and Internship Programs.
- **More than \$25 million** was awarded to legal services organizations.
- **Nearly \$875,000** was awarded under the Bank of America grant program.



Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security Board ensures clients will be reimbursed when lawyers misappropriate funds.

- During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Board of the Fund made disposition of **139 claims** where **48 claims** reviewed resulted in the approval of awards, which **totaled \$865,763**.

Disciplinary Board

- **Nearly 88% of attorneys completed registration** by the July 1 deadline.
- **328 attorneys** were placed on administrative suspension in 2023.
- **Website enhancement and lawyer well-being:**
 - The Board released **two new webpages:**
 - [“Lawyer Well-Being” webpage](#).
 - The Board **continued to partner with Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania** to share information and resources on overall well-being as well as mental health and substance use challenges. The Board also **published its own well-being articles** on its website and in its newsletter.
 - [“Conservatorships” webpage](#), which connects clients of attorneys absent due to death or disability with a court-appointed conservator.
- **Law school outreach:**
 - Board members and staff **visited area law schools**, speaking with students about Pennsylvania’s disciplinary system and ethical obligations new lawyers will face once admitted to practice.
 - The Board continued **monthly correspondence** with law schools, as well as developed **new visual marketing materials to promote interest in ethical law practice** amongst the next generation of legal professionals.

Read more about the [specific functions of each board](#), and learn about the Court’s different [advisory groups and independent entities](#).

* With the exception of the Minor Judiciary Education Board and Judicial Ethics Advisory Board.

ASSISTING THE SUPREME COURT

Continuing Education

Under rules adopted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, all judges and lawyers in the state are required to complete continuing education requirements each year. Volunteers are appointed by the Court to make up the various boards that are responsible for overseeing these efforts.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:



Minor Judiciary Education Board

- 539 magisterial district judges each attended 32 hours of the statutorily required judicial education, through a hybrid model combining in-person and remote learning.
-

Pennsylvania Continuing Judicial Education Board

- Trial and appellate judges completed a combined total of nearly **12,580 hours of continuing education**.
-



Continuing Legal Education Board

2023 Lawyer Compliance Rates:

176 lawyers were administratively suspended for failure to meet 2023 CLE requirements.

99.7% of lawyers met the requirements of the CLE Rules.

2023 CLE Credits Taken:

64,154 attorneys participated in continuing legal education.

814,296 CLE credits were taken in 2023, and **36,000 courses** were offered.

Read more about the [specific functions of each board](#), and learn about the Court's different [advisory groups and independent entities](#).

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Educating Jurists

AOPC/Judicial Education supplements its in-person presentations with a robust schedule of remote educational opportunities for judges serving on trial and appellate courts.

Since institutionalizing remote education, the number of online courses offered by the Department has steadily grown. Judges now record more than 3,500 hours of remote education annually.

For the Department, developing remote offerings allows staff to enlist presenters from across the country without incurring the cost of faculty travel and lodging.

For their purpose, remote education allows judges to hear cases for most of the day, and then continue their education while sitting in their chambers late in the afternoon. On average, more than 75 judges participate in each Departmental offering.

The Department realized significant savings through remote offerings by leveraging advanced communication technologies and minimizing disruption to court operations.

TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURT JUDGE EDUCATION:

In 2023, **601 judges** recorded **12,580 hours** of continuing education, an **average of 20.93 hours per judge** - nearly twice their annual obligation.

In 2023 The Judicial Education Department offered courses including:

- Making Sense of Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technologies
- Climate Change Litigation
- Innovations in Courtroom Management
- Neurolaw in the Courtroom
- Human Trafficking
- Ethical Limits of Judicial Speech
- Judicial Response to Use of Force: Citizen/Police Encounters
- Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT in the Courtroom
- Threat Management and Mitigation Strategies
- Financial Exploitation in the Digital Age
- Guardianship: Improving Due Process and Promoting Alternatives
- E-Sports and the Law: Navigating Legal Challenges in PA
- Medical Malpractice: Nuts, Bolts and Beyond
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

Working with State Government Partners

AOPC/[Legislative Affairs](#) represents the AOPC before the state's executive and legislative branches of government.

Legislative Affairs staff is responsible for coordinating all interaction with the legislature, subject to the guidance of the chief justice, court administrator, and the Legislative Committee of the Conference of State Trial Judges. Input and participation by members of the Legislative Committee is crucial to providing the perspective of jurists who have acquired knowledge and expertise on a myriad of issue areas in the course of their judicial duties, and several members of the committee are former legislators.

Staff provides legislative support to the judiciary including all courts, boards, advisory groups and the AOPC.

As an important result of the judiciary's commitment to working with their government partners, proposed legislation receives crucial input from AOPC's legislative staff regarding the effects it may have on courts, as well as on Pennsylvania's judicial system as a whole.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Secured a two-year reauthorization of the "Act 49" surcharges in the budget implementation Fiscal Code enactment – Act 34 of 2023. Revenue from the surcharges **provides a significant portion of the Judiciary's general operations budget.**
- Achieved a third one-year suspension of the annual diversion from the judicial computer fund in Act 22 of 2023, **allowing the Judicial Computer System (JCS) to continue uninterrupted operation** of the Common Pleas Case Management System.
- Worked with the Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts and legislative partners on **developing legislation to strengthen guardianship laws**, expanding the provisions of Pennsylvania's Slayer statute to include elder abuse.
- **Continued engagement with policymakers** on enactment of probation reform, clean slate and limited access amendments and establishment of an indigent defense advisory committee in concert with AOPC Legal and IT and members of the Legislative Committee of the Conference of State Trial Judges.
- Fielded questions and reviewed language regarding the enactment of Act 58 of 2023, **increasing the court of common pleas complement.**
- **Facilitated data and other legislative requests** that assisted the legislature in crafting legislation amending the Crimes, Judicial, and Transportation Codes, the Crime Victims Act and other statutes.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE Public Education and Outreach

AOPC/[Communications](#) manages media inquiries, social media accounts, website content, public information and educational opportunities to engage with the judicial branch.

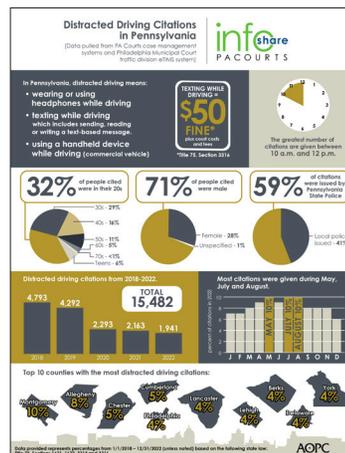
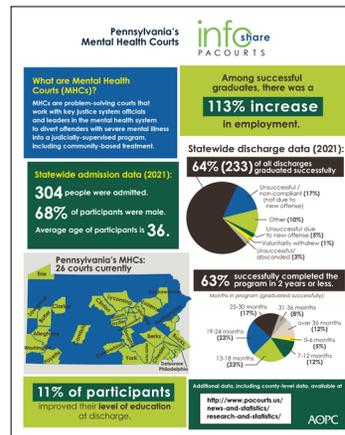
By focusing on communication and outreach, the Office of Communications ensures that the public has access to information about the key court programs, services and support available to them.

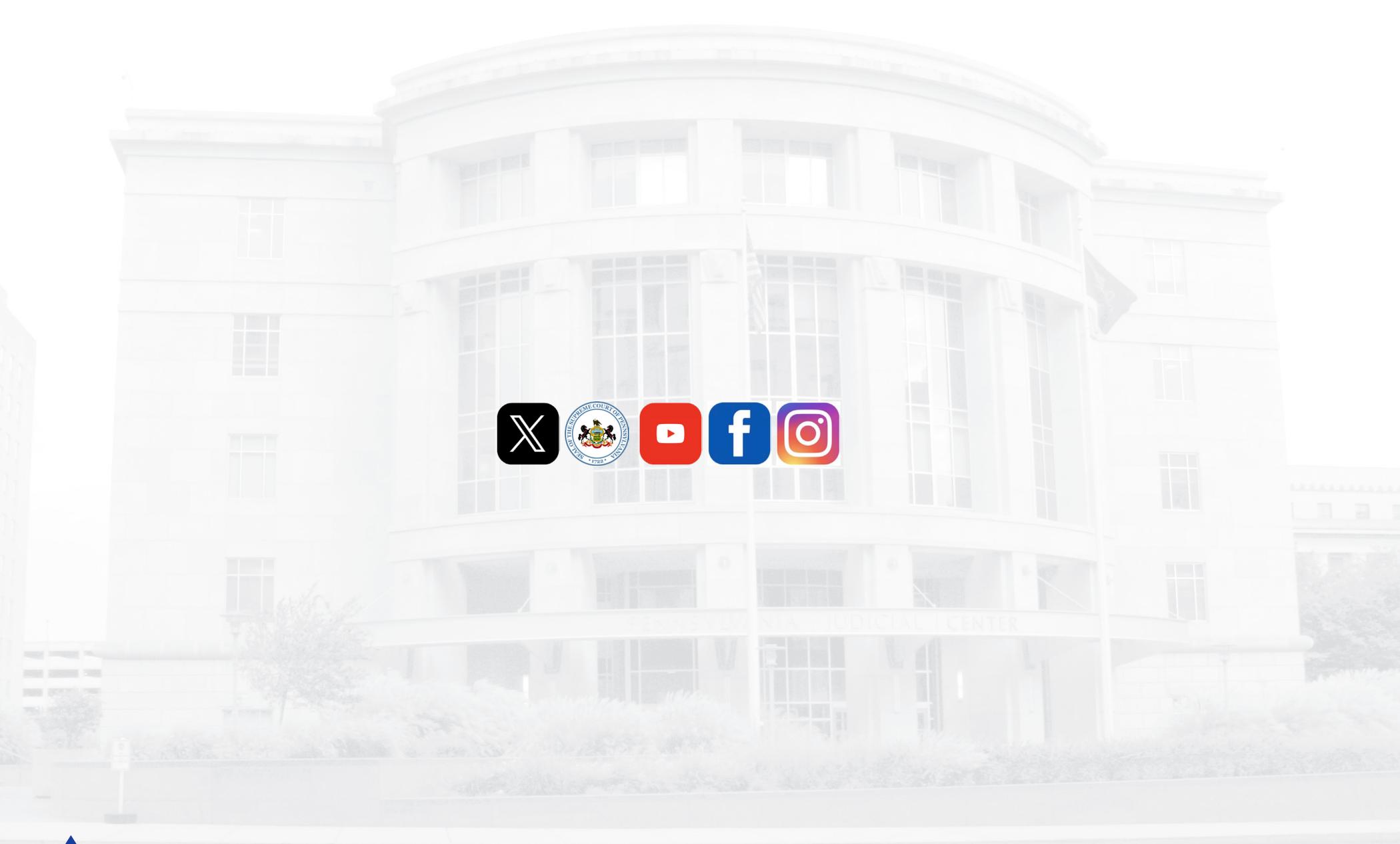
From educational videos to monthly infographics and an increased focus on the use of social media channels, case information, data and general information about the courts is more readily available and accessible to the public.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Twitter** - The [@PACourts](#) Twitter page had more than **11.1k followers**
- The [PA Courts Facebook page](#) had nearly **2,000 followers**.
- **Infoshare** - Developed monthly infographics on different court data topics.

Hosted the PA Courts' first annual **Take Your Child to Work Day** IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTS





AOPC ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS