CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT



2001 ANNUAL REPORT

A. Deane Buchanan JUDGE

INTRODUCTION

The Honorable A. Deane Buchanan

"Justice administered firmly and fairly for all persons coming before the Court" is the motto of A. Deane Buchanan.

Judge Buchanan assumed the position as Judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court in November 2001. A native of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, Judge Buchanan



received his bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University in 1968 and his juris doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in 1973. After receiving his law degree, Judge Buchanan engaged in the private practice of law and eventually became a partner in the law firm of Hardiman, Buchanan and Trivers in Cleveland, Ohio. He also served as Executive Assistant for Legal Affairs to Governor Richard F. Celeste and Vice Chairman of the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals for a period in Columbus, Ohio. Judge Buchanan's involvement in community affairs has been consistent throughout his 28-year legal career including service as a member and Chairman of the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board. Judge Buchanan is an active member of many divic and professional organizations, including Leadership Cleveland, the NAACP, the National Bar Association and the Norman S. Minor Bar Association. Judge Buchanan has been a resident of Cleveland Heights for over 14 years and is married to Louise Bryant Buchanan, and they have one daughter, Ashley Elizabeth.

Clerk of Court, María F. Hallabrin



Ms. Hallabrin was appointed on January 2, 1994, as Clerk of Court. She graduated Magna cum laude from Terra Community College in 1979 with an Associate Degree in Applied Business/Legal Procedures. She was listed in Who's Who in American Junior Colleges, 1979-80 edition. Ms. Hallabrin brought 8 years of experience as a Clerk of Court to this current position. The Clerk's duties are mostly administrative, including supervising an elevenmember deputy clerk staff, annual budget and purchasing

requirements for the court, distribution of all monies received by the Court, and implementing procedures required by any changes in laws affecting municipal courts. Ms. Hallabrin is the 2002 President of the NE Ohio Clerk's Association, Trustee and Board member of the Ohio Association of Municipal Court Clerks, and has been appointed to the Education Committee for court personnel of the Supreme Court Judicial College. Ms. Hallabrin was awarded the OUTSTANDING CLERK OF THE YEAR AWARD for 2001.

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To: Council of the City of Cleveland Heights
Board of Commissioners Cuyahoga County

Re: Cleveland Heights Municipal Court's Annual Report for 2001

In this, the Court's 2001 annual report, I would like to bring to your attention the following matters:

In 2001, the number of traffic tickets handled by this court dropped significantly. In 1999, the Court processed approximately 31,000 tickets. In 2000, that number dropped to 21,000. In 2001, that number dropped even further to 15,753. There was, of course, a corresponding drop in revenue coming into the court. This year the court remitted over \$1,465,000 to the City of Cleveland Heights while maintaining its adopted operating budget at \$966,245.

The year 2001 was one in which a great deal of change occurred within the court. The sitting judge, Lynn C. Toler, resigned in September to assume a position as judge on a nationally syndicated television program. Judge Lynn Arko Kelley was appointed by Governor Robert Taft to serve as Judge in September, and subsequently, Judge A. Deane Buchanan was elected and assumed the position as Judge in November. Throughout this period of change the Court and the Clerk's office continued to process cases and provide service at a high level of efficiency and courtesy.

Since December, The Court has upgraded recording equipment and begun the process of improving security measures at the Court. New state-of-the-art digital recording systems have been installed in both courtrooms. The digital recording equipment will provide better quality court recordings and easy retrieval of heard cases. In the area of courtroom security, the court is looking at implementing a comprehensive courtroom security effort that will not only improve security in the courtroom and adjacent areas but will update the emergency and disaster recovery plans.

While this court takes its fiscal responsibility to the City of Cleveland Heights quite seriously, the fair and efficient administration of justice, is, of course, this court's primary concern and ultimate goal. The court has continued to review and revise its housing court procedures in an effort to accomplish prompt and complete compliance with the housing code by housing defendants.

In the year 2002, the court will continue in its efforts to improve.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Deane Buchanan, Judge

Case Filings 2001

MIONTH	FELONIES	MISDEMEANORS	O.M.V.I.	TRAFFIC	PER INJURY	CONTRACTS	F.E.D	OTHER CIVIL	SMALL CLAIMS
January	16	139	4	1155	6	28	37	2	27
February	9	236	7	1264	7	28	27	6	13
March	9	191	6	1253	6	40	27	2	16
April	13	181	7	994	6	36	24	9	11
M ay	13	218	4	897	7	31	38	3	28
June	10	185	2	1200	8	164	37	10	22
July	14	299	3	978	5	92	46	3	31
August	24	273	8	1036	5	174	47	6	28
September	9	242	2	496	6	135	37	4	28
October	19	217	1	958	2	89	44	3	28
November	16	152	3	816	8	36	26	9	16
December	11	159	6	1205	4	29	32	4	11
TOTAL	163	2492	53	12,252	70	882	422	61	259
Re-Activated									
Total	16	333	2	2535					

These statistics are compiled from monthly reports submitted to the Supreme Court of Ohio under Superintendence Rule 12. Multiple charges filed against an individual as the result of the same act or series of acts are only counted as ONE CASE. Individual criminal and traffic CHARGES appear elsewhere in this report.

Reactivated cases are those brought back onto the current docket when the Court regains jurisdiction over a defendant such as an arrest on a warrant or license forfeiture.

There are no reactivated cases in the Civil Division of the Court.

TRAFFIC OFFENSES BY CHARGE 2001

Assured Clear Distance	319 26	•
Child Restraint	21	
Compliance with Police Order	4	
Driving Under Suspension Driving Under the Influence	418	
of Alcohol/B.A.C	86	
Failure to Control	162	
Failure to Yield	187	
Fleeing	10	
Hit Skip/Leave Scene	44	
Improper Left Turn	156	
Improper U-Turn	21	
Improper Passing	45	
Improper Lane Change	69	
Improper Turn	177	
Left of Center	39	
No Operator's License	276	
Fail to Display License	619	
Expired license <6 months	48	
Other license violations	56	PREVIOUS YEAR TOTALS:
One Way Street	13	
Pedestrian Violations		1994: 19,152
Reckless Operation	31	1995: 16,655
Speed 8	3,632	1996: 34,346
Stop Sign	273	1997: 24,996
Traffic Control Lights	475	1998: 26,187
Traffic Control Device	201	1999: 31,684
Other Moving Violations	226	2000: 21,029
Parking, complaints filed	699	
Registration/Title/Plates	1,234	
Unsafe Vehicle/Equipment	84	
Light Violations	. 209	
Seat Belt/Operator	822	
Seat Belt/Passenger	. 14	
TOTAL CHARGES 2001:	5,753	

The figures above and those on the following page represent the number of criminal charges and the number of traffic charges plus parking complaints actually filed with the court during the year 2000. The number of cases filed are on the Supreme Court Report Chart starting this section. The Rules of Superintendence for Municipal and County Courts provide that multiple offenses arising from the same incident by the same defendant be given only one case number and counted only as one case for the purpose of the monthly reports to the Supreme Court of Ohio. This is the basis for the difference between the number of CASES and CHARGES. There are always more charges than cases under this method.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES BY CHARGE FOR 2001

Abduction	1
Alcohol/Underage/Sale	34
Arson	. 1
Assault	. 50
Felonious Assault	20
Assault on Police Off	0
Bad Checks	5
Breaking & Entering	2
Burglary	9
Agg. Burglary	
Building1	135
Carrying Concealed Weapon	
Child Endangering	
Contempt of Court	
Criminal Damaging	
Criminal Mischief	
Criminal Tools	
Disorderly/Disturb Peace	
Dog/Cat Run at Large	
Dogs/Vicious	
Domestic Violence	
Drug Abuse/Possession	
Drug Instruments	
Drug Trafficking	
Falsification	
Felony D.U.I	
Firearms	
Fleeing	
Forgery	
Garbage Time	
Housing	
Intoxication	
Kidnapping Marihuana <100 gr	
Menacing	
Agg. Menacing	
Misidentification	
Miscellaneous	
Murder/Attempted	
Obstructing Official Business	
Occupancy Permit	
Open Container	

Park Regulations	4
Public Indecency	4
Rape	2
Receive Stolen Property	53
Resist Arrest	33
Riot	12
Robbery	9
Agg. Robbery	10
Sexual Imposition	2
Telephone Harassment	4
Theft/Petty	
Trespass	64
Unauthorized use of a Motor	
Vehicle	6
Unreasonable Noise	204
Vandalism	7
Violation/Protection Order	
Zoning	54

TOTAL CHARGES FILED: 2,890

Previous Years:

1994: 2,531 1995: 2,657 1996: 2,543 1997: 2,628 1998: 2,601 1999: 2,655 2000: 2,296

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC BRANCH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2001

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2001 5					
Balance on Hand January 1, 200)1		\$ 44,647.00		
Receipts 2001			\$1,874,300.97		
		TOTAL	\$1,918,947.97		
DISBURSEMENTS:					
City of Cleveland Heights	1999	2000	2001		
Fines	\$1,310,547.20	\$ 991,770.26	\$ 761,579.86		
Costs	\$ 649,224.27	\$ 513,047.45	\$ 403,407.70		
Housing	\$ 2,099.00	\$ 2,593.00	\$ 3,842.00		
Computer Fund	\$ 280,629.50	\$ 203,966.00	\$ 152,374.50		
Drug Fines	\$ 2.25	\$ 28.25			
Witness/Jury Reimb	\$ 2,400.50	\$ 1,278.00	\$ -0- \$ 3,136.00		
Bailiff Fees	\$ 91.80	\$ 245.80	\$ 141.80		
Community Service Fees	\$ 5,208.00	\$ 245.80 \$ 6,117.50	\$ 141.80 \$ 5,307.50		
Unclaimed Funds	\$ 3,942.50	\$ 856.50	\$ 1,242.00		
	\$2,254,145.02	\$1,719,902.76	\$1,331,031.36		
Sub-Total	\$2,254,145.02	φ1,713,302.70	φ1,001,001.00		
Curahaga Caupty					
Cuyahoga County	\$ 16,459.00	\$ 18,203.90	\$ 20,252.55		
Regular Fines			\$ 35,922.75		
Uniform Traffic Fines			\$ 1,002.50		
1/2 Liquor Fines	\$ 602.50				
Witness/Jury Reimbrs	\$ 1,964.20 \$ 57,887.20	\$ 3,009.90 \$ 62,415.55			
Sub-Total	\$ 57,887.20	\$ 62,415.55	\$ 59,673.80		
State of Ohio					
RRF/Victims Fund	\$ 242,117.52	\$ 173,513.00	\$ 127,891.00		
		\$ 173,313.00	\$ 156,155.00		
GRF/General Fund	• •		\$ 20,470.00		
Seat Belt	\$ 26,708.00		\$ 20,470.00		
Expungements	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,260.00 \$ 864.50	\$ 1,002.50		
1/2 Liquor Fines	\$ 602.50	ф 004.30 Ф 01.000.00			
BMV Fees	\$ 25,043.00	\$ 31,920.00			
Pharmacy Board (Drug)	\$ 162.25	\$ 268.25 \$ 441.466.75			
Sub-Total	\$ 591,641.77	\$ 441,466.75	\$ 332,868.00		
Other Dishurasments					
Other Disbursements	\$ 763.74	\$ 781.97	\$ 1,044.35		
County Law Library	•	•	•		
Misc. Agencies/Trans	\$ 1,446.00 \$ 2,040.00 \$ 2,509.00 \$ 2,391.00 \$ 144,604.73	•	·		
* DUI Housing Fund	\$ 2,040.00	\$ 659.00	\$ 3,048.00		
* DUI Arrest Agency	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 1,391.00	\$ 1,364.00		
DUI Indigent Fund	\$ 2,391.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,195.00		
Refunds		\$ 150,767.81			
Sub-Total	\$ 153,754.47	\$ 154,981.78	\$ 150,281.81		
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 3,057,428.46	\$2,378,766.84	\$ 1,873,854.97		
Balance on Hand December 31,		- ^ 1	\$ 45,093.00 \$ 1,018,047,07		
	ТОТ	AL	\$ 1,918,947.97		

^{*} Money from these two funds goes directly into accounts for the Cleveland Heights Police Department for future D.U.I. education and enforcement.

CIVIL / SMALL CLAIMS BRANCH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2001

Balance on hand January Receipts 2001 DISBURSEMENTS:	1, 2001	TOTAL	\$ 20,824.93 \$ 557,727.43 \$ 578,552.36
City of Cleveland Heights Costs Computer Fund 1% Legal Aid Bailiff Fees Unclaimed Funds Sub-Total	1999	2000	2001
	\$ 83,214.18	\$ 90,850.74	\$ 105,807.00
	\$ 23,551.00	\$ 19,118.50	\$ 21,098.00
	\$ 199.22	\$ 187.54	\$ 229.29
	\$ 293.20	\$ 431.16	\$ 301.50
	\$ 208.59	\$ 258.26	\$ 211.51
	\$107,538.19	\$110,846.20	\$ 127,647.30
State of Ohio Legal Aid	\$ 19,722.78	\$ 18,566.46	\$ 22,699.71
Judgments & Refunds	\$ 214,812.69	\$ 359,124.57	\$ 422,682.28
Sub-Total	\$ 234,535.47	\$ 377,691.03	\$ 445,381.99
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 342,073.66	\$ 488,537.23	\$ 573,029.29
Balance on Hand Decemb	per 31, 2001	TOTAL	\$ 5,523.07 \$ 578,552.36

CIVIL/TRUSTEESHIP BRANCH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2001

Balance on Hand January 1, 200 Receipts 2001	TOTAL	\$ 10.00 \$ -0- \$ 10.00		
		TOTAL	Ψ 10.00	
DISBURSEMENTS:	1999	2000	2001	
City of Cleveland Hgts To Creditors Return to Depositor TOTALS	\$ -0- \$ -0- <u>\$ -0-</u> \$ -0-	\$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0-	\$ -0- \$ -0- <u>\$ -0-</u> \$ -0-	
Balance on Hand December 31, 2001				

CIVIL/LANDLORD-TENANT BRANCH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2000

Balance on Hand January 1, 200 Receipts 2001	01	TOTAL	\$ -0- \$ 11,540.00 \$ 11,540.00
DISBURSEMENTS:	1999	2000	2001
City of Cleveland Hgts To Landlords To Tenants Repair/Maintenance/Othe	\$ 158.56 \$14,972.24 \$ 725.70	\$ 187.44 \$13,814.56 \$ 1,000.00	\$ 116.75 \$11,123.25 \$ 300.00
Paid by Court Order TOTALS	\$ 6.00 \$15,862.50	<u>\$ -0-</u> \$15,002.00	\$ -0- \$ 11,540.00
Balance on Hand December 31,	2001		\$ -0-
		TOTAL	\$ 11,540.00

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR 2001

There were 225 garnishments filed on civil and small claims actions. This number is lower than previous years due to the new continuing garnishment law.

The Landlord Tenant Division received 13 new cases and all were completed.

No Trusteeship cases were filed in 2001

Judge's performed 32 weddings during the year.

There were 13 jury trials during 2001.

The criminal division again issued over 2,350 license forfeitures and registration blocks on persons who did not appear for court or did not pay their fine and costs. Approximately 575 persons took care of their forfeitures or registration blocks before the suspension dates became effective and 1,766 reinstatements were sent to the B.M.V. for those who took care of their forfeitures after the suspension date.

The Court and police department automated ticket project resulted in 1,842 traffic tickets processed in this manner. At this time there are six police cars that have the equipment installed.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles returned \$ 687.50 to the City which was collected from D.U.I. reinstatement fees collected by the B.M.V.. This money was deposited in the D.U.I. Indigent Fund as per State Statute. A miscellaneous refund of \$170.00 was also paid to the City.

Recap of money paid to the City from all divisions for the last three years:

	1999	2000	2001
Criminal/Traffic	\$2,254,145.02	\$1,597,073.04	\$1,337,495.06
Civil/Small Claims	\$ 107,538.19	\$ 102,656.59	\$ 127,647.30
Trusteeship	\$ - 0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Landlord/Tenant	<u>\$ 158.56</u>	\$ <u>187.44</u>	<u>\$ 116.75</u>
TOTALS	\$2,361,841.77	\$1,699,917.07	\$1,465,259.11

This report includes the December 2001 disbursement even though that money was not paid out until January 2002.

TO:

Judge A. Deane Buchanan

FROM:

James Miller

Chief Probation Officer

RE:

PROBATION OFFICE, 2001

I. PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION/PROBATION VIOLATIONS, 2001

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Presentence Investigation Reports	410	454	422	461
Probation Violation Reports	31	34	27	38
Expungement Reports	44	35	46	27

II. SUPERVISION CASELOAD, ON December 31, 2001

	12-31-98 caseload	12-31-99 caseload	12-31-00 caseload	12-31-01 caseload
Active (Supervised):	233	272	266	234
<pre>Inactive (Non-Supervised):</pre>	350	405	394	347

Supervision caseload, per Probation officer

On 12-31-98	On 12-31-99	<u>On 12-31-00</u>	<u>On 12-31-01</u>	<pre>% Increase</pre>
116	136	133	117	-12

Total active probation cases, supervised, JanDec. 2001, inclusive:	623	(66	3)
Total inactive probation cases, JanDec. 2001, inclusive:	804	(83	2)
New active probation cases added in 2001:	354	(39	4)
New inactive probation cases added in 2001:	384	(43	2)
* * *			
Number of probation cases (active/inactive), on 12-31-01, whose sentences also			
included jail time, with % of caseload:	157	-	38%
	(221	-	33%)

IV. MAJOR OFFENSES OF PROBATIONERS on supervision, Dec. 31 2001 (2000 number in parenthesis, for comparison)

	No. of cases	% of cases	Cumul. %
Domestic Violence	60(73)	26(27)	26
Theft	53 (58)	23 (22)	49
OMVI	32(40)	17(15)	66
Assault	14(19)	6(07)	72
Disorderly Conduct	10(12)	5(05)	76
Driving Under Suspension	11(14)	3 (04)	79
Intoxication	7(10)	3 (04)	82
Trespassing	6 (NA)	3 (NA)	85
Dogs	6 (NA)	3 (NA)	88
Menacing/Stalking	5(08)	2(03)	90
Criminal Mischief	5(05)	2(02)	92
Other	22(18)	8 (07)	100

V. PROBATION REFERRALS, in December 31, 2001 caseload (As required by Court under Conditions of Probation; 1999 figures in parenthesis, for comparison)

ALCOHOL/DRUG

Alcohol/Drug Treatment, including Driver Intervention Programs; AA, NA, CA	86 (105)
Home Monitoring	2(2)
Vehicle Interlock	2 (-)
VIOLENCE	
Batterers intervention programs	41 (62)
Anger Management programs	1 (-)
Parenting/Family counseling	5 (6)
Restitution	30 (21)
Carrying Concealed Weapons Program	1(1)
Geographic restrictions	20(17)
COUNSELING	
Psychiatric Therapy	17(15)
Sexual Disorders therapy	0(3)
Personal counseling	3 (8)
Grief Counseling	1(-)

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

Maintain full time schooling/G.E.D.	9(29)
Maintain Employment	30(30)
Maintain Job or Schooling	3 (NA)
Project LEARN (Literacy)	2 (-)
Community Reentry program	2 (-)
C.H.I.P.	6(15)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service referrals, as of 12-31-01 23(31)

VI. RESTITUTION/COMMUNITY SERVICE, 2001 inclusive (2000 numbers in parenthesis, for comparison)

Restitution transferred to victims, 2001: \$6,258.71 (\$2,524.54)

Community Service referrals to Court
Community Service, 2001 inclusive: 101 (119)

Community Service, total hours ordered
in 2001: 3,079.75 (3,519.5)

Total Community Service hours scheduled
in Cleveland Heights non-profit
agencies, through CCS, 2001: 2,341.00 (2,584.75)

Total additional Community Service hours
worked in Cleveland Heights, work
work crew litter collection, 2001 775.0 (-)

Lynn C. Toler, Judge A. Deane Buchanan, Judge

Maria F. Hallabrin, Clerk of Court William E. Uzl, Bailiff (until 8/2001) Juanita Bryant, Bailiff

Russell Baron, Acting Judge Mark L. Hoffman, Acting Judge Joy Savren, Acting Judge

Georgeann Schmidt, Full Time Magistrate

Lynn Kelley, Appointed Judge (Oct/Nov) Zachary Zak, Bailiff (2 months-Oct/Nov)

Ranelle Gamble, Acting Judge Alan Kraus, Acting Judge A. Deane Buchanan, Acting Judge

Dale Lefferts, Part Time Magistrate

Lincoln Scott, Housing & Special Projects Coordinator

Christine Libbey, Deputy Bailiff Lawrence Jasper, Deputy Bailiff Leo Krejci, Deputy Bailiff

JoAnn Gallitto, Chief Deputy Clerk/Civil Division Ann Ludwig, Chief Deputy Clerk/Criminal Division

Jennifer Johnson, Criminal Deputy Clerk (until 4/2001)
Virginia Journee, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Elaine Kessler, Civil Deputy Clerk (Part-time)
Katherine King, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Lisa Little, Criminal Deputy Clerk (until 5/2001)
Jane Mack, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Carole Motyka, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Jeanette Politi, Civil Deputy Clerk
Clovice Ramsey, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Darlene Roberts, Criminal Deputy Clerk (until 3/2001)
Tawanda Smith, Criminal Deputy Clerk
Karen Szekely, Criminal Deputy Clerk

Sonja Lechowick, Law Clerk

James Miller, Chief Probation Officer Valinda Garner, Probation Officer JoDell Howard, Probation Secretary

This report covers all operations, employees, income and disbursements of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court as verily prepared.

Maria F. Hallabrin, Clerk of Court