



## Administrative Office of the Courts

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*For Immediate Release*

### Judges participate in symposium on addiction and child welfare **‘Substance abuse is among the most common factors identified in child welfare cases before the courts’**

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 13, 2017 – Family Court and District Court judges learned more about how drug addiction is affecting Kentucky families at the Judicial Symposium on Addiction & Child Welfare in Louisville Jan. 26-27. The intensive two-day conference was for the state’s Family Court judges and District Court judges in counties that don’t have Family Court.

“Substance abuse is among the most common factors identified in child welfare cases before the courts,” said Chief Justice of Kentucky John D. Minton. “Court dockets are full of cases involving parents and guardians who are putting themselves and their children at risk. How judges handle these cases impacts families and children throughout Kentucky. This symposium gave judges the opportunity to explore solutions they can take back to their communities.”

The Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts hosted the program in conjunction with [Casey Family Programs](#) and the [U.S. Court Improvement Program](#). Family and District Court judges developed the agenda with input from child welfare and treatment professionals.

Most of the judges who attended the symposium also participated in the Kentucky Opioid Summit on Jan. 25 in Louisville. Chief Justice Minton hosted the summit, which was the court system’s first statewide program dedicated to the escalating opioid epidemic.

For the judicial symposium, judges were asked to invite child-welfare partners from their jurisdictions to create a local team. The teams included representatives from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department for Community Based Services. The teams collaborated on plans to improve outcomes for children and families affected by drug addiction.

Classroom sessions covered the impact of substance use on parenting, treatment planning and child safety; case planning for children of parents with substance use disorders; interpreting assistance for children and families who use sign language and those who are non-English speakers; and culturally appropriate methods for helping minority children who have substance use disorders in their families and are exhibiting poor behavior. There were also sessions on the role of the court system with child welfare and addiction, family participation in treatment and recovery, treatment through Medicaid and successful strategies piloted in some Kentucky courts.

As part of the team exercises, judges and child welfare partners worked through a case scenario to help them learn to address issues related to addiction and child welfare. The scenario featured Lisa, a fictional mother of two young children who is facing a variety of challenges, including drug addiction and domestic violence.

Symposium speakers included Assistant Professor Robert Walker with the University of Kentucky Department of Behavioral Science and the UK Center on Drug and Alcohol Research; Steven I. Durkee, clinical director of Substance Use Disorders Services for the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky; Robert Daniels, manager of Clinical Outcomes for Centerstone; Michelle Kilgore, administrator of adolescent substance abuse programs in the state Division of Behavioral Health; the Rev. Edward L. Palmer Sr., member of the state Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and the board's Subcommittee for Equity and Justice for all Youth; and Armon R. Perry of the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work.

### **Family Court**

Family Court is a division of Circuit Court. Family court has primary jurisdiction in cases involving family issues, including divorces, adoption, child support, domestic violence and juvenile status offenses.

### **District Court**

District Court judges handle juvenile matters, city and county ordinances, misdemeanors, violations, traffic offenses, probate of wills, arraignments, felony probable cause hearings, small claims involving \$2,500 or less, civil cases involving \$5,000 or less, voluntary and involuntary mental commitments and cases relating to domestic violence and abuse.

### **Administrative Office of the Courts**

The [AOC](#) is the operations arm for the state court system and supports the activities of nearly 3,400 court system employees and 404 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. As the fiscal agent for the state court system, the AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

In addition to Family Court and District Court judges, a Court of Appeals judge and some Circuit Court judges also attended the symposium. By county/counties in their Judicial Circuit/District, judges who attended the symposium include:

**Court of Appeals Judge Debra Hembree Lambert**

3rd Appellate District serves: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill, Garrard, Green, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Lincoln, Marion, McCreary, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne and Whitley counties

**Allen and Simpson counties**

Family Court Judge Sid Broderson

**Barren and Metcalfe counties**

Family Court Judge W. Mitchell Nance

**Bath, Menifee, Montgomery and Rowan counties**

Circuit Court Judge Beth Lewis Maze

District Court Judge William W. Roberts

**Boyle and Mercer counties**

Family Court Judge Bruce Petrie

**Breckinridge, Grayson and Meade counties**

District Court Judge Shan F. Embry

**Bullitt County**

Bullitt County Family Court Judge Elisè Givhan Spainhour

**Caldwell, Livingston, Lyon and Trigg counties**

District Court Judge Jill Clark

District Court Judge James R. Redd III

**Calloway and Marshall counties**

Family Court Judge Rob Mattingly

**Campbell County**

Campbell County Family Court Judge Richard A. Woeste

**Clark and Madison counties**

Family Court Judge Nora J. Shepherd

Family Court Judge Kimberly Blair Walson

**Clay, Jackson and Leslie counties**  
Family Court Judge Clint Jeffrey Harris

**Crittenden, Union and Webster counties**  
Family Court Judge Brandi H. Rogers

**Daviess County**  
Daviess County Family Court Judge Julia H. Gordon

**Estill, Lee and Owsley counties**  
District Court Judge William “Bo” Leach

**Fayette County**  
Fayette County Family Court Judge Lucinda Masterton  
Fayette County Family Court Judge Kathy W. Stein

**Franklin County**  
Franklin County Family Court Judge Squire N. Williams III  
Franklin County District Court Judge Kathy R. Mangeot

**Garrard and Jessamine counties**  
Family Court Judge Jeff Moss

**Graves County**  
Graves County District Court Judge Deborah Hawkins Crooks

**Green, Marion, Taylor and Washington counties**  
District Court Judge Amy S. Anderson

**Hardin County**  
Hardin County Family Court Judge Pamela K. Addington  
Hardin County Family Court Judge Brent Hall

**Hart, LaRue and Nelson counties**  
Circuit Court Judge John David “Jack” Seay  
Circuit Court Judge Charles C. Simms III

District Court Judge C. Derek Reed (He serves Hart and LaRue but not Nelson. Nelson is in the same Judicial Circuit as Hart and LaRue but is in a different Judicial District.)

**Harrison, Nicholas, Pendleton and Robertson counties**  
Family Court Judge Heather Fryman

**Henry, Oldham and Trimble counties**  
Family Court Judge Doreen S. Goodwin

**Hopkins County**  
Hopkins County Family Court Judge Susan Wesley McClure

**Jefferson County**  
Jefferson Family Court Judge Dolly W. Berry  
Jefferson Family Court Judge Denise DeBerry Brown  
Jefferson Family Court Judge Tara Hagerty  
Jefferson Family Court Judge Deana “Dee” McDonald  
Jefferson Family Court Judge Paula Sherlock

**Johnson, Lawrence and Martin counties**  
Family Court Judge Janie McKenzie-Wells

**Kenton County**  
Kenton County Family Court Judge Dawn M. Gentry  
Kenton County Family Court Judge Christopher J. Mehling

**Knox and Laurel counties**  
Family Court Judge Stephen M. Jones

**Letcher County**  
Letcher County Circuit Court Judge James W. Craft II

**McCracken County**  
McCracken County Family Court Judge Deanna Wise Henschel

**Pike County**  
Pike County Circuit Court Judge Eddy Coleman  
Pike County Family Court Judge Larry E. Thompson

**Warren County**  
Warren County Family Court Judge Catherine Rice Holderfield

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