



Sign in | Register for free

Sign in with Facebook

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and mor

Go

- Home
- News
- Business
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Interact
- Jobs
- Autos
- Real Estate
- Rentals
- Classified Ads
- Shopping

Top Stories



Northeast Ohio Community Theater Guide



Jane Scott, legendary Plain Dealer rock writer, dies...



Top Workplaces 2011 in Northeast Ohio

Home > Metro - cleveland.com > News

# Veterans get their day in Cleveland Municipal Court's treatment program

Published: Monday, July 04, 2011, 8:07 PM



By Brian Albrecht  
Follow

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Comment 2

Share

Email

Print

submit

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- In the service, veterans had their buddies to watch their backs, both in and out of combat

In the civilian world, things can get more complicated, confusing and lonely for vets.

That's why Cleveland Municipal Court is creating a Veterans Treatment Court, starting in September, that will solely handle the cases of vets who run afoul of the law in Cleveland.

Judge Lynn McLaughlin-Murray will preside over the court, with Judge Angela Stokes serving as alternate.

McLaughlin-Murray said the court will handle mostly misdemeanor offenses involving substance abuse, domestic relations, mental health, housing and other issues, plus minor felony drug cases.

She said Cleveland's Veterans Treatment Court will be the 78th in the nation since the first was established in Buffalo, N.Y., in 2008. In Ohio, there also are veterans courts in Mansfield, Youngstown and Hamilton and Stark counties.

The courts offer treatment and rehabilitation instead of jail time for veterans who can be struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, chemical dependency, homelessness and other problems.

According to the judge, some 85 to 100 defendants currently on probation with the court, mostly for repeat offenses involving driving under the influence, could qualify for the voluntary program.

The court would utilize resources of the county Veterans Services Commission and Department of Veterans Affairs to provide what McLaughlin-Murray described as a "wrap-around service" to ensure that a defendant is receiving all medical, counseling, housing and other support assistance available to veterans.

Additionally, fellow veterans would be assigned to each defendant as a volunteer mentor/coach to



PD file

Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Lynn McLaughlin-Murray on Veterans Treatment Court: "These specialized dockets really make a difference in defendants' lives, and give them the tools they need to succeed."

## More Metro - cleveland.com

Most Comments Most Recent

Metro - cleveland.com stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

- 180 Almost 1.3 million Ohioans sign petitions for Senate Bill 5 referendum; vote on the law likely in November
- 150 Parade of SB5 opponents delivers referendum petitions to secretary of state
- 144 State of Ohio corrections officer sues Cleveland over 2009 showdown with police
- 127 Cleveland Heights' teen curfew brings questions in regard to legality, and whether it targets minorities
- 127 Ohio House approves abortion restrictions

## Most Active Users

What's this?

Users with the most Metro - cleveland.com comments in the last 7 days

- 74 Hegel
- 30 Thundarr
- 19 rpuck1
- 18 bystander75
- 17 bopdoowop

## Users We Love



"Beany Boy" recognized as a featured cleveland.com user  
cleveland.com's latest featured user.  
Learn more about "Beany Boy"

More Users We Love

Connect with cleveland.com

keep them on track with rehabilitative programs.

From talking to judges in other veterans courts, McLaughlin Murray said, she learned that "veterans really respond well to a structured environment and when interacting with other veterans."

"If they're in a place surrounded by people who understand them, who speak the same language, they're able to break down barriers and successfully complete programs," she added.

The court is seeking volunteer mentors. Interested veterans can contact **Derek Moore** in the probation office at 216-664-4930.

McLaughlin-Murray said other veterans courts have seen reduced recidivism and lower costs when comparing treatment to incarceration.

"There is a cost savings, absolutely," she said. "These individuals don't come back."

There is also a personal pay-off for the judge who is not a veteran, but saw enough of them as a Cleveland Municipal Court magistrate, and earlier during college as a homeless shelter volunteer, to grasp the scope of their problems.

Plus, "the thing I really love about my job is the opportunity to help individuals," she added. "These specialized dockets really make a difference in defendants' lives, and give them the tools they need to succeed."

What's this?

All Facebook & Twitter accounts >>

### Recommendations



**Jane Scott, legendary Plain Dealer rock writer, dies at age 92**  
4,085 people recommend this.



**An anti-abortion Ohio legislator's embarrassing night out: Connie Schultz**  
1,274 people recommend this.

[http://www.cleveland.com/popmusic/index.ssf/2011/04/jane\\_scott\\_legacy\\_plain\\_dea.html](http://www.cleveland.com/popmusic/index.ssf/2011/04/jane_scott_legacy_plain_dea.html)  
158 people recommend this.

**A soldier's life makes you rethink what 'home' means: Zoltan Krompecher**  
174 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

**Related topics:** [cleveland municipal court](#), [judge lynn mclaughlin-murray](#), [veterans](#), [veterans treatment court](#)

### Sponsored Links

Share this story

Story tools

Email

Print

### More stories in Metro - cleveland.com

Previous story

**Ohio News Roundup: Bed racing returns; drunken-driving cases fall; Canton spray park delayed**

**On-duty Cleveland police officer shoots and kills man in Parma**

Next story

**On-duty Cleveland police officer shoots and kills man in Parma**

## 2 Comments

Feed

Post a comment

View: [Oldest first](#) | [Newest first](#)

**Debbie Sprague 336**

July 04, 2011 at 8:54PM

[Follow](#)

our veterans need care. the cost doesn't matter. we need to pay them back. we pay for substance abuse and sex 'addiction' for politicians of both parties, none of whom have ever done a single thing for society, so let's do the right thing.

[Reply](#)

[Post new](#)

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

**rgrundsgrunds**

July 04, 2011 at 9:17PM

[Follow](#)

Finally.....we're acknowledging these people. About time. We treat veterans like dirt.

Time to change that.

[Reply](#)

[Post new](#)

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

### Popular Tags

What's this?

[anthony sowell](#) [armed robberies](#)  
[cleveland](#) [cleveland police](#)  
[cleveland schools](#) [crime](#)  
[cuyahoga county](#) [cuyahoga county common pleas court](#)  
[cuyahoga county council](#) [cuyahoga county executive](#) [cuyahoga county government](#) [ed fitzgerald](#) [education](#)  
[fire](#) [frank russo](#) [fugitives](#) [homicide](#)  
[homicides](#) [jimmy dimora](#) [john kasich](#) [metro news](#) [politifact](#)  
[ohio shooting](#) [shootings](#) [ted strickland](#)



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) |

[Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Interact](#) | [Living](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

### Post a comment

Sign in to cleveland.com

Username

w8iz

Password

•••••

Remember me?

**Sign In**

[I forgot my username or password »](#)

Don't have an account?

[Register now for free](#), or sign in with any of these services:

**Connect with Facebook**

[AIM](#)

[Google](#)

[OpenID](#)

Site Search    Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

**Go**

[Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact us](#)

[▶ Make us your home page](#)

- [Your Photos](#)
- [Your Videos](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Music](#)

- [Post a Job](#)
- [Post a free classified ad](#)
- [Sell your car](#)
- [Sell/Rent your Home](#)
- [Apartments & Rentals](#)
- [Claim your Business Listing for Free](#)

- [Friday! Magazine](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Taste](#)
- [Going Out Guides](#)
- [Style](#)

- [Subscribe to our content \(RSS\)](#)
- [Subscribe to Email Newsletters](#)
- [cleveland.com Tweeter feed](#)
- [cleveland.com on Facebook](#)
- [cleveland.com mobile site](#)



**Special home delivery offers!**

**The Plain Dealer  
Sun News**

© 2010 Cleveland Live, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). [Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. [Contact interactivity management](#).