

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Presiding Judge Terry Nestor and the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas are pleased to announce the formation of a new court program – The Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Re-Entry Docket. The Re-Entry Specialty Docket is a program that manages the return to the community of individuals being released from prison, using the authority of the court to apply graduated sanctions and positive reinforcement and to marshal resources to support the offender’s re-integration. The focus on reentry issues in the courts will help reduce recidivism rates, provide cost effective measures to the State and taxpayers, and will encourage a broad-based coalition to support the successful re-integration of offenders into the community. This new initiative will be led by Judge Wende C. Cross, who will be the Re-Entry Court Judge presiding over the docket.

“Our court has traditionally been very responsive to the needs of the community. This new initiative is simply an extension of that responsiveness and a new form of jurisprudence in which judges are actively involved in overseeing the transition of the offender from a dysfunctional member of society to a productive member of society,” said Cross. The Court will partner with the Hamilton County Office of Re-Entry, under the direction of its Director Trina Jackson, which works closely with the probation department to establish a re-entry plan, coordinate services and provide data tracking.

For more information, please contact Judge Wende Cross at 513-946-5860 or Sue Dostal, Assistant Court Administrator at 513-946-5901