

The Supreme Court of Ohio

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, Nov. 01, 2005

Allen County Resident Appointed to Supreme Court Committee

COLUMBUS –Russell J. Decker of Allen County Office of Homeland Security & EMA was recently appointed by Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer to serve on a new statewide committee that is addressing court safety and security in Ohio.

The committee is chaired by Justice Maureen O'Connor and composed of 22 legal and criminal justice professionals from across the state. They met for the first time in October.

The new Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Court Security & Emergency Preparedness is focusing on identifying best practices for courthouse security, sharing that information and implementing the practices. Nationally, it is the first state Supreme Court committee to focus on emergency preparedness.

“Citizens, whether they are parties to court proceedings or employees of the judicial system, have a right to expect a safe environment when they enter the courthouse,” Justice O'Connor said. “Those who do not respect the rule of law or resent the judicial institution pose a threat to security within the court.”

Moyer said that while Ohio has been a national leader in securing its courtrooms, he decided to appoint the new advisory committee because there is still much work to be done in assessing the security practices of Ohio's courthouses, standardizing best practices across the 88 counties and securing the resources necessary to keep Ohio courthouses safe and secure.

Decker holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Tiffin University with undergraduate studies at The Ohio State University and the University of Northwestern Ohio. He has served as Director of the local Homeland Security & Emergency Management agency since 1998. He served as president of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio in 2002-2003 and has been recognized for professional excellence at the state and national levels.

Supreme Court Advisory Committee On Court Security & Emergency Preparedness

Honorable Maureen O'Connor, Chair
Justice
Supreme Court of Ohio

Honorable Jan Antonoplos
Judge
Ohio Clerk of Courts Association

Frederick D. Benton, Jr.
Attorney
Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Scott Brittain
Captain
Ohio Association Of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Walter Brown
Assistant Chief
Office of Criminal Justice Services

John R. Butz.
Attorney
Ohio Bar Association

Tom Chidester
Chief Court Constable
Ohio Bailiffs and Court Officers Association

Donald W. Colby
Deputy Court Administrator
Ohio Association for Court Administration

Russ Decker
Director
Emergency Management Association of Ohio

Peter J. Elliott
U.S. Marshal
U.S. Marshals Service

Honorable Michael T. Hall
Judge
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association

Sheriff David Martin
Sheriff
Buckeye Sheriffs Association

Nancy McClatchy
Clerk of Court
Ohio Association of Municipal/County Court Clerks

Honorable Matthew W. McFarland
Judge
Ohio Court of Appeals Judges Association

Honorable Deborah J. Nicastro
Judge
Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio

Honorable Mike Powell
Judge
Ohio Association of Probate Judges

Honorable Dana S. Preisse
Judge
Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges

Honorable Stephen J. Pronai
Judge
Ohio Prosecuting Attorney Association

Ken Roll
Magistrate
Ohio Association of Magistrates

George A. Romanoski
Deputy Mayor-Public Safety
The Ohio Municipal League

Steve Schierholt
Executive Director
Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy (OPOTA)

Honorable Joe Secrest
Judge
County Commissioners Association of Ohio

James M. Wahrab
U.S. Marshal
U.S. Marshal, Southern District of Ohio

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