

# The Rocky River Municipal Court

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ROCKY RIVER 16, OHIO

TELEPHONE:  
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JUDGE  
LEONARD S. FROST

January 27th, 1959.

RE: Annual Report

As required by law, I am submitting herein a report of the work performed by the Rocky River Municipal Court during the year 1958, a statement of receipts and expenditures for such period together with the number of cases heard, decided and settled.

Inasmuch as the jurisdiction of the Court includes municipalities other than Rocky River, namely Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Westlake, Bay Village, Parkview Village, Riveredge Township, Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board and the State of Ohio, this report sets forth the combined operation as well as the operation for each political subdivision.

I wish to point out that the Rocky River Municipal Court is the only Municipal Court having several municipalities within its jurisdiction that has acted for all its municipalities during the first year of operation. Rocky River, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Parkview Village, Riveredge Township, Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board and the State of Ohio used the facilities of the Court immediately upon its establishment in January of 1958. Westlake turned over all its cases in March of 1958 and Bay Village in May of 1958.

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This Court came into existence January 1st, 1958. It, therefore, became necessary to obtain suitable accommodations, engage the services of employees necessary for the operation of the Court, obtain the necessary forms, dockets, books of record, and all supplies including furniture and equipment. Further, it was necessary to establish policies and procedures including rules of Court. A Jury Commission was appointed and a conciliation court, or small claims court, was established.

In addition, a uniform traffic ticket was adopted for all municipalities. Traffic laws were revised or are in the process of being revised in all municipalities to make them uniform throughout the district. Further at the request of the Court, one person was appointed to act as Assistant Solicitor (Prosecutor) for all the municipalities within the district, which has greatly aided the Court in the prosecution of its criminal cases.

Simultaneously with the establishing of the Court, it was required to function within its jurisdictional powers and did so function, having its first criminal case filed January 3rd, 1958 and its first civil case filed January 6th, 1958.

During the year 1958 there were 5,303 criminal cases and 689 civil cases filed with the Court. As of January 1st, 1959, there were 125 criminal cases pending and 166 civil cases pending, the balance having been disposed of during the year 1958.

The following is the disposition by the Court of all criminal cases during the year 1958. It also indicates the origin of each case.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>Fines</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rocky River	1411	\$21,845.00	\$ 8,522.15	\$ 30,367.15
Fairview Park	1158	18,415.00	6,813.85	25,228.85
North Olmsted	926	21,603.00	5,273.65	26,876.65
Parkview Village	375	6,033.00	2,258.30	8,291.30
Cleveland Metropolitan Park	32	685.00	171.95	856.95
State of Ohio	105	2,904.00	490.40	3,394.40
Westlake	761	19,282.00	4,461.15	23,743.15
Bay Village	410	5,687.00	2,421.60	8,108.60
Riveredge Township	None			
Grand Totals	5178	\$96,454.00	\$30,413.05	\$126,867.05

It is to be noted that by law, the general fund of each municipality received the fines assessed by the Court. Also by law the general fund of the City of Rocky River receives all costs assessed by the Court regardless of place of origin. Accordingly the general fund of the City of Rocky River, received a total sum of \$52,258.05 in fines and costs from the Criminal Branch of the Court.

As a further function of the Court with reference to its Criminal Branch, the sum of \$39,184.40 was received as cash bail bonds, of which \$34,973.70 was refunded upon appearance of the Defendant. There remains on hand the sum of \$4,210.70 in cash bail bonds for further disposition by the Court.

With reference to the Civil Branch of the Court, there were 689 cases filed, 523 of these cases were disposed of as of January 1st, 1959. There was \$4,313.59 court costs taxed and collected in the cases disposed of which amount has likewise been paid into the general fund of the City of Rocky River.

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apparent that with the establishment of this Court, we have relieved the Common Pleas Court of this number of cases and as it will be recalled, this was one of the reasons the State Legislature established the Court.

It can readily be seen that in this instance alone, the Court is performing a great public service for this type of case comes on for hearing under ordinary circumstances within a period of six months from the date of filing while in the Court of Common Pleas a much greater period of time is required because of their crowded docket.

I am setting forth below the receipts and expenditure of the Civil Branch of the Court:

<u>Civil Branch</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Civil Docket Costs and Deposits	\$ 6,430.05	
Conciliation Docket Costs	103.00	
Other Costs	43.18	
Payments on Judgements	5,459.07	
Payments on Conciliation Claims	263.96	
Payments on Trusteeships	598.00	
Court Costs Paid Rocky River, Ohio		\$ 4,313.59
Deposit Refunds		1,240.36
Other Costs Paid Out		43.18
Judgements Paid - Civil Docket		5,431.66
Claims Paid - Conciliation Docket		263.96
Creditors Paid - Trusteeship		530.00
Cash on hand		<u>1,074.51</u>
	\$12,897.26	\$12,897.26

In conclusion, it is my belief that this Court has fulfilled