

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2010

Contact: Don Ursetti (330-643-2554)
dursetti@cpcourt.summitoh.net

JUDGE LINDA TEODOSIO TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE WITH JEB BUSH, OTHERS

Recently, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University announced it will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the problem of substance use and dependence at America's high schools. It will seek recommendations for action based on the research. A national advisory committee will be convened to provide advice and consultation based on the results provided by the study.

Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio has accepted an invitation to serve on the advisory committee. Among others, she will be joined by: NBC News Health and Science Correspondent Robert Bazell, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Yale University Associate Professor Barbara Guthrie, Director of Epidemiology and Prevention Research Ralph Hingson of Bethesda, MD, Anthony Mullen, 2009 Teacher of the Year from Greenwich CT, U.S. Representative Lucille Royball-Allard (D-CA) and Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte,

The research is an off-shoot of a 2007 report by CASA which documented alarming levels of substance abuse among America's college and university students. The report revealed that 74.5 percent of college student drinkers, 75.4 percent of illicit drug users and 81.4 percent of smokers began their usage in high school, increasing the probability that the student would become dependent on those substances.

The assessment and subsequent recommendations by the committee will aim to better understand what it will take to prevent and reduce substance use among high school students by developing better tools for parents, schools and communities to understand the culture in which America's high school students live. The first meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010 at Columbia University.

"I am looking forward to serving on this committee and I am honored that I was asked to participate," said Judge Teodosio. "I believe I can contribute based on the progress we have made in creating programs at the Court that address the very subject matter the committee will be discussing."

END