

On June 7, 2007, the latest FJD Problem Solving Court was opened when the DUI Treatment Court (DUITC) began operations in the Philadelphia Municipal Court. DUITC now joins other problem-solving courts already in existence: Gun Court, the Juvenile and Adult Drug Treatment Courts, and the Community Court. These courts work to attack the underlying problems and not just the criminal charges at hand. The idea is to stop the patterns of negative behavior before they continue, helping the individuals involved, their families, and their communities.

Municipal Court President Judge Louis J. Presenza, who has been on the forefront of the Treatment Court movement locally and nation-wide, was very pleased that the successes enjoyed in the other problem-solving courts might now be applied to the DUI offender population. The DUITC clients will concentrate on DUI offenders who are facing incarceration as a result of their second or third DUI conviction. Rather than incarceration for terms ranging from 90 days to one year, DUI Treatment Court clients will be subjected to intensive supervision, judicial intervention, and substance abuse treatment. The goal is to help offenders to become sober, responsible members of the community, and they are held accountable for their behavior.

The concepts behind the DUITC and other problem-solving courts are supported by other stakeholders of the criminal justice system including the District Attorney's Office and the Defenders Association of Philadelphia.



From left to right: *Louis J. Presenza, President Judge Municipal Court; Ellen Greenlee, Defenders Association of Philadelphia; Lynne Abraham, District Attorney of Philadelphia; Hon. William Meehan, Presiding Judge, DUI Treatment Court; Roland Lamb, Director of Addiction Services, Department of Behavioral Health; Deborah Schlater, Assistant Vice President of Forensic Programs, Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, Brice Templeton, MD, Chairman PA SO MADD.*