

Juvenile Court

“In our court system, the common pleas court can have separate divisions. One of those divisions is the domestic relations and juvenile court, or in some counties it’s the juvenile and probate court.

I’m Yvette McGee Brown, and I served as a domestic relations and juvenile court judge in Franklin County.

Juvenile courts hear cases of abuse, neglect, and dependency for minor children, cases of juveniles charged with crimes, child support, any kind of truancy, or status offense cases.

Juvenile courts are probably “the” most important court, because juvenile courts are charged with protecting children.

The most memorable moment for me as a juvenile court judge was I had a mom who was addicted to drugs. I had her in court for probably over a year trying to get her to stay clean so that she could get custody of her children back who were in foster care. We finally got to the place where she was able to have custody of her children, and I’ll never forget that she sent me a card. It was the most beautiful card, and in there she wrote: ‘I never knew a person like you could care about a person like me.’ That’s what your juvenile judges do.”