

- 6 Court of Appeals turns 35
- 7 Access to Justice update
- 9 Kremers, Froehlich honored
- 10 E-Learning in child welfare cases
- 11 Team participates in Child Well-being Institute
- 13 Inter-branch symposium on Fourth Amendment

a publication of the Wisconsin Judiciary

The Third Branch



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson greets a crowd of local leaders in Sheboygan County at an opening ceremony marking the Supreme Court's historic first sitting in Sheboygan. See full story and more photos on page 13.

Midwest justices gather in Madison



Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser, foreground, takes notes during a presentation about recent U.S. Supreme Court cases at the Conference of Midwest Supreme Court Justices and Administrators Oct. 17 in Madison. Presenters included Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California-Irvine School of Law, and John C. Eastman, Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law, Chapman University School of Law. The videoconference session was held at UW-Extension's Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus.

Sixty state Supreme Court justices and court administrators from a dozen midwestern states, including Wisconsin, gathered in Madison Oct. 17-18 for the first ever Midwest Conference of Supreme Court Justices and State Court Administrators.

Justices and others who attended the conference discussed the potential legal and ethical ramifications of new media and rapidly changing technology on the courts, as well as the significance of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

"This was a great opportunity to learn, network and explore ideas with our colleagues, who face similar issues and challenges," said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S.

see **Midwest conference** on page 3

Committee aims to improve outcomes in child welfare cases

By Michelle Jensen Goodwin,
Children's Court Improvement Program

Judges and court professionals with a shared commitment to children and family issues have come together to form the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare (WJCCW). The committee meets quarterly to discuss policy, practice and legal issues related to child protection issues and advise on the use of federal Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) grant funding.

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Shelley Gaylord sees the WJCCW as an opportunity to develop practical resources for judicial officers that improve outcomes for families involved with the foster care system in Wisconsin.

see **Child welfare** on page 11



Children's Court Improvement Program Director Michelle Jensen Goodwin, center, addresses members of the recently formed Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare during a meeting at the state Capitol Sept. 27. Also pictured, left to right, are committee members, Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Todd L. Ziegler, Taylor County Circuit Court Judge Ann N. Knox-Bauer, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Shelley Gaylord, Children's Court Improvement Program Policy Analyst Bridget Bauman; Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Marshall Bertram Murray, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, and Director of State Courts A. John Voelker.

Director's column: Conference to explore court security issues

By A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts

I was recently asked by Fox Valley Technical College to submit responses for a question and answer article about court security. The article will be published in an upcoming edition of *The Informant*, a newsletter item that runs inside a catalogue of course offerings of the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.



A. John Voelker

In recent years, Fox Valley Technical College has become a strong partner with the court system in helping provide court security education and training for students, court staff and the law enforcement community.

This article will be published in part to promote the fourth annual court security conference scheduled for March 4-6, 2014. Presenters will discuss various case studies in court security, including the George Zimmerman homicide trial in Florida. Other topics include high-profile trial planning, victim/witness protection, prisoner transport, and incidents related to custody and family trials.

In the article, I address the importance of collaboration, training and courthouse security practices. Here is a preview:

Why is it important for law enforcement and courts to collaborate on courthouse security practices?

Collaboration is critical for maintaining a safe courthouse environment. The importance of the collaboration is highlighted in Supreme Court Rule Chapter 68, and emphasized by the mandate that each county create a Security and Facilities Committee. The purpose is to ensure the court system is proactive, geared toward prevention, not merely reactive, responding to violent, perhaps tragic, incidents. Regular Security and Facilities Committee meetings allow individuals to share security challenges, assess policies and procedures, and identify solutions to security deficiencies.

How would you recommend courthouse security be improved?

I recommend having a security plan that is actively acted

upon by the local Security and Facilities Committee. The Court Safety and Security Conference workshop sessions and case studies provide tools and information to support effective Security and Facilities Committees.

Why is training essential to courthouse security?

Training is essential to courthouse security because one of the biggest challenges in courthouse security is complacency. Regular training keeps the issue "alive" and provides law enforcement and courthouse personnel with an opportunity to collaborate, review security plans, discuss concerns, and develop solutions to potential security problems. In addition, training offers a venue to learn from others and practice critical incident situations in a safe environment. The impact of the training will likely result in the prevention of an incident or a quick and effective response to an incident.

How is the Court Safety and Security Conference planned each year?

The conference is planned by an advisory committee representing county, state, and federal service providers including law enforcement and courts. The goal of the advisory committee is to plan an annual conference that provides practical concepts and ideas and addresses current court security concerns.

Who should attend this conference?

The annual training is intended for judges, court personnel, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, county board members, and emergency management personnel. Counties are encouraged to send a team to the conference, including those represented on local Court Security and Facilities Committees.

How is the training delivered at this conference unique?

The training provided at the annual Court Safety and Security Conference is unique because topics are based on current trends and issues in the field. This includes "debriefings" on recent security incidents, case studies that examine successful court security practices, and practical recommendations from security practitioners. ■

To view a draft conference agenda and learn more about this year's conference, visit www.fvtc.edu/CSS.

NEW FACES

Gov. Scott Walker announced the appointment of Maureen D. Boyle to Barron County Circuit Court's Branch 3 after the retirement of Barron County Circuit Court Judge James D. Babbitt (*see Retirements on page 3*). Boyle previously served as an assistant district attorney for Barron County, Walworth County, and Rock County. She also worked as the assistant director for the Resource Center on Impaired Driving.

"I am confident that you will serve the citizens of Barron County well," Walker said in his appointment letter to Boyle. "In addition, your professional experience should allow for

an easy transition into the office."

After receiving her B.A. at UW-Madison, Boyle worked as a research assistant for NBC Sports in South Korea during the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul. Prior to receiving her law degree from UW Law School, she worked in marketing and public relations. She has also been an owner of a coffee and bookstore in Milton, Wis.

In taking the bench, Boyle follows in the footsteps of her brother, Racine County Circuit Court Judge Timothy D. Boyle, who was elected in 2012. ■



Judge Maureen D. Boyle

RETIREMENT

Judge James D. Babbitt Barron County Circuit Court

Barron County Circuit Court Judge James D. Babbitt retired from the Branch 3 bench in October. Babbitt was first elected in 2008, after the legislature passed a bill that added the third branch to the county circuit court in 2007. Prior to his election to the circuit court, Babbitt served as Barron County assistant district attorney for almost 20 years. He had previously served as corporation counsel for Ozaukee County, and as assistant district attorney for Eau Claire, Ozaukee and Richland Counties.



Judge James D. Babbitt

Babbitt has served as the director of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, and is a frequent participant in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

In November, Gov. Scott Walker appointed Barron County Assistant District Atty. Maureen Boyle to fill the vacancy (*see story on page 2*).

Judge Charles F. Kahn Jr. Milwaukee County Circuit Court

“Every day has been thrilling and unique,” Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Charles F. Kahn Jr. said of his 21 years on the bench. “It never became boring.”

Kahn, who was first elected to the Branch 24 bench in 1992, retired on Nov. 22. He said he found the civil cases fascinating and the more complex they were, the more fun

see Retirements on page 16

Midwest conference *continued from front page*
Abrahamson, program chair. “We follow these issues regularly in publications online, but there’s no better way to improve understanding than by getting together in person.”

Courts represented at the conference included Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The event was co-sponsored by the Conference of Chief Justices and the National Center for State Courts. Theresa Owens, executive assistant to the Chief Justice, was program director.

Court Information Officer Amanda Todd served on a panel discussion entitled “Relationships With the Media and the Public” that discussed how courts are responding to the decline in media coverage of the judicial system and how technology is effecting rules on cameras in the courtroom and other issues.

Among other session topics:

- “Surfin’ USA: Judges and the Ethics of Internet Research,” in which a series of scenarios were presented by Professor Elizabeth Thornburg of the Southern Methodist University (SMU) School of Law, and the

justices discussed the ethical implications and appropriate conduct.

- “What’s a Little Ethics between Friends, Family and Facebook,” where SMU Law School Provost Linda S. Eads led a panel discussion with several justices about how to approach the use of Facebook.

- “New Surveillance Technologies and the Changing Face of Technology,” presented by Dr. Gary Marchant, Lincoln Professor of Emerging Technologies, Law and Ethics at Arizona State University, offered an overview of a wide array of current and emerging devices and applications that are challenging the delicate balance between privacy and accessibility, including wireless communication, GPS location, nanotechnology, biometrics, social media, and domestic drones.

- “Review of U.S. Supreme Court Decisions” led by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California Irvine School of Law, and Dr. John C. Eastman, professor and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law, Chapman University School of Law, provided insights on the cases decided and pending review. ■



Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson makes remarks during a roundtable discussion on appellate practice and procedure at the Conference of Midwest Supreme Court Justices. Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, Illinois Supreme Court, moderated. Panel members included: Chief Justice Mark S. Cady, Iowa Supreme Court; Justice Rita B. Garman, Illinois Supreme Court; Justice Judith A. Lanzinger, Ohio Supreme Court; and Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Michigan Supreme Court.



Southern Methodist University Associate Provost Linda S. Eads presents a session on social media during the Conference of Midwest Supreme Court Justices. Panel members for the session included Chief Justice Brent E. Dickson, Indiana Supreme Court; Justice Dale V. Sandstrom, North Dakota Supreme Court; Justice Glen A. Severson, South Dakota Supreme Court; and Justice David S. Wiggins, Iowa Supreme Court.

More than 300 attend Judicial Conference

More than 300 judges and court staff gathered in the Wisconsin Dells for the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference Nov. 6-8.

The event offered judges professional development and networking opportunities, as well as a chance to provide input on the policy direction of court system through participation on a variety of committees.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson delivered the State of the Judiciary Address entitled "Back to the Future." Following the 1985 movie theme, the lesson, according to Abrahamson, is that times change, but human nature is constant. "And so the most important tools we can bring into the future are the ones that do not come from scientists or laboratories. The important tools are the ones our staff and judges already have: commitment, creativity and courage."

During her remarks, Abrahamson touched on the court system budget and issues related to judicial selection, campaign financing and recusal. She also discussed court system initiatives related to criminal justice and family and children's court.

Director of State Courts A. John Voelker delivered the annual State of the Director's Office Address, in which he discussed the importance taking time to reflect on professional and personal goals and assessing whether our work fits with these goals.

Voelker started his remarks by acknowledging the contributions to the court system of the late Director of Judicial Education David Hass, who died unexpectedly Aug. 28. Voelker said Hass's passing led to him reflect more on his own life and work.

This year's conference featured a tribute to Hass, which provided judges and staff an opportunity to share stories



Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson delivers the 2013 State of the Judiciary Address at the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

during the Thursday evening dinner.

Educational sessions addressed the role of judges as leaders, recent case law development, treatment court best practices, brain development and disorders, and how technology affects the Fourth and Fifth Amendments, among other issues. ■

See related story on page 12.



Rick Kyte, director of the Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo College, La Crosse, displays a slide of the character Atticus Finch from "To Kill a Mockingbird" during a presentation entitled "Role of Judges as Leaders" at the Judicial Conference. More than a dozen educational sessions were held at this year's conference.



Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson listens as Director of State Courts A. John Voelker delivers his State of the Director's Office Address during the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference held Nov. 6-8 at the Kalahari Resort in Lake Delton.

AWARDS

Froehlich, Kremers honored

The State Bar of Wisconsin has awarded retired Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Harold V. Froehlich its Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award.

Froehlich was first appointed to the bench in 1981, and served until his retirement in 2011. He continues to serve as a reserve judge. While on the circuit court bench, he served as chief judge for the Eight Judicial District, president of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, and as a delegate for the National Conference of State Trial Judges.



Retired Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Harold V. Froehlich accepts the State Bar's Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award at the awards ceremony at the Judicial Conference on Nov. 7.

Before his appointment to the bench, he served in the state Assembly for 10 years, four as Assembly Speaker. He served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was one of only a few Republicans to vote for the impeachment of then President Richard M. Nixon. He is also a former family court commissioner for Outagamie County, and the former director of the Outagamie County Child Support Agency.

"Harold Froehlich has had an enormous impact on Wisconsin government," Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser, who served as Froehlich's administrative assistant in Washington, told the State Bar. "As a legislator, he strengthened the legislative branch by firming up legislative service agencies. When he became a circuit judge, he worked to strengthen and modernize the Wisconsin judiciary. His truly historic work for the judiciary will be remembered long after many other significant accomplishments with the judiciary have been forgotten."

The Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award recognizes the outstanding judicial service of judges who have served more than one full term as a circuit court judge.

Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was named Judge of the Year by the State Bar. The award is given out to a circuit court judge who has exceeded the call of judicial duty.

Kremers' most recent example of going above and beyond came after the fire that damaged and temporarily shut down the Milwaukee County Courthouse this summer. Kremers was among the first at the courthouse to assess the damage.

"Although Jeff would be an outstanding candidate in any year, he is especially deserving of this distinction in 2013, with near heroic levels of services to our court and community," Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Richard J. Sankovitz wrote in his nominating letter. "As a result of Jeff's work, many of our courtrooms were fully functioning by the end of the same week and the rest of the courthouse was fully back in service in two weeks. With

Jeff's leadership and tenacity, the backlog caused by the fire was put behind us long ago."

In his letter of nomination from the Milwaukee Trial Judges Association (MTJA), President Paul Van Grunsven, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, included the following comment from the Hon. Charles Kahn, MTJA Board member: "His hands-on direction of the restoration of court services after the July 2013 fire was nothing less than awesome."

Kremers was appointed Chief Judge in September 2008, following 16 years as a Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge. Among accomplishments as chief judge, Kremers has overseen development and implementation of the Praxis evidence-based bail setting system, redeveloped and enhanced the Day Reporting Center to reduce recidivism and provide education and rehabilitative services to non-violent offenders, worked with county officials to improve the effectiveness of the House of Correction and provided support for the continuation of the Milwaukee Justice Center.



Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers speaks at the State Bar's award ceremony, where he was honored as Judge of the Year.

Two court reporters receive honors

The Wisconsin Court Reporters Association (WCRA) has named Ann Albert its 2013 Distinguished Service Award recipient. Albert has served on the board of the WCRA as a director and treasurer. The WCRA praised her for her professionalism in her own court branch, and in assisting in other branches as needed. Albert's award was presented to her by her husband, Dane County Circuit Court Judge John C. Albert; their son, Austin; and retired Dane County Circuit Court Judge Daniel R. Moeser.



Dane County Court Reporter Ann Albert accepts the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association's Distinguished Service Award from retired Dane County Circuit Court Judge Daniel R. Moeser.

Doris Pfeiffer of Eau Claire was named the recipient of the WCRA's 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award. Pfeiffer worked as a court reporter from 1976 until August of 2013.

"Throughout the years, this reporter has quietly and very efficiently volunteered her time to further court reporting and the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association," an article in the WCRA newsletter read. ■

Court of Appeals looks at going paperless

By Chief Judge Richard S. Brown, Wisconsin Court of Appeals

In a unique twist to the usual judicial education programs, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals judges and staff attorneys were joined by appeals litigators from the offices of the state Attorney General, State Public Defender, appellate section of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the UW Law School's Frank J. Remington Center at a Madison seminar this fall.

The topic of mutual interest was a look at the future of appellate law—paperless courts, with Lisa Solomon, a New York lawyer, presenting.

The seminar was not an adventure in science fiction. The technology, for the most part, is here. Recall, for example, the 1968 epic “2001: A Space Odyssey.” There was a scene of a keyboard with an attached screen where the astronauts were able to see and converse with family members on earth. Another scene showed astronauts reading from a tablet-like device while eating. Hal, the malevolent computer, had a screen from which astronauts could look at a number of various icons and select a specific program. Here we are in 2013 with Skype, iPads and desktop computers.

The way we read is changing. The words are the same, but the spacing is different. Most of our reading is on screens. And the pattern shows less and less paper and more and more screen reading. The data suggest that courts will be following this pattern sooner or later and some Wisconsin courts now have e-filing and e-record keeping. E-reading cannot be far behind. The participants learned the benefits of having a paperless



Wisconsin Court of Appeals judges gathered in Madison for a symposium Sept. 20. Created as part of court reorganization in 1978, the Court of Appeals celebrated its 35th anniversary on Aug. 1. Pictured from left to right: Front row: Judge Michael W. Hoover, District III; Chief Judge Richard S. Brown, District II; Judge Patricia S. Curley, District I. Second row: Judge Paul B. Higginbotham, District IV; Judge Joan F. Kessler, District I; Judge Lisa S. Neubauer, District II; Judge Paul Lundsten, District IV. Third row: Judge Brian W. Blanchard, District IV; Judge Gary Sherman, District IV; Judge Paul F. Reilly, District II; Judge Kitty K. Brennan, District I. Top row: Judge Lisa K. Stark, District III; Judge Mark A. Mangerson, District III; Judge Mark D. Gundrum, District II; JoAnne F. Kloppenburg, District IV. Not pictured: Judge Ralph Adam Fine, District I.

court, as well as some of the pitfalls.

For example, studies show that those new to e-reading tend to use it for rapid information gathering, but are more comfortable using print for deep reading, which is what judges and litigators do. On the other hand, we already have Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis and even Google, which allow us to expect a quicker answer than reading a key digest. We are already using these sources as an adjunct to our own memory. The key to the future will be how to design legal writing so that it is palatable to the deep reader. There are several exciting possibilities for the near future—bookmarks so that the judges can turn to specific arguments in the brief, the use of illustrative graphs to fully enhance understanding complex litigation, the ability to process information in chunks, and hyperlinks, where judges will be able to click on a cited case or statute and have that case or statute appear on the screen in real time.

The participants agreed that for the lawyers and judges in this state to fully buy-in, there will have to be a plan that considers cost, technology issues, education and outreach, cooperation and progressive implementation. The participants agreed that a committee should be formed to begin this task. Stay tuned. ■

Court reorganization celebrates 35th year

By Heidi Yelk, Wisconsin State Law Library

Aug. 1 marked the 35th anniversary of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, which was created in 1978 as part of a larger court reorganization that also introduced single-level trial courts throughout the state.

In the early 1970s, 24 of the 50 states had an intermediate appeals court. Wisconsin did not. At that point, Wisconsin had both county courts and circuit courts. Most appeals went directly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which was then a mandatory court, not a discretionary court as it is today. By 1977, that structure had resulted in a reported 778 cases pending in the Supreme Court, with 600 scheduled for carryover to the next term.

Court reorganization required amending the Wisconsin Constitution – a relatively lengthy process. It began in 1975 with joint resolutions passed in the 1975 and 1977 legislatures. Then, the measure went before the state's voters.

Although it passed with strong support, the idea was not without detractors.

The late Hon. John C. Shabaz (then a state representative) led an energetic charge against it, citing cost factors, along with his opposition to administrative provisions giving the Supreme Court authority over the entire court system and power to suspend or remove judges and justices.

There was also competition to determine where the new court would sit. While Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison and Wausau were ultimately chosen as the four locations of the Court of Appeals, other cities that were considered included Stevens Point, Racine, Oshkosh, Green Bay, Superior, Eau Claire and La Crosse.

The state Law Library has several volumes of original documents and historical perspectives from this monumental period in Wisconsin court history. ■

Access to Justice Commission update

By Judge Margaret J. Vergeront & Atty. Jeff Brown

As part of its mission to develop and encourage means of expanding access to the civil justice system for unrepresented low-income Wisconsin residents, the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission recently filed a petition to amend the Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct to address self-represented litigants and published its report, *The State of Equal Justice in Wisconsin*.



Judge Margaret J. Vergeront

Petition to Amend SCR 60.04(1)

On Sept. 13, the commission filed Petition 13-14, which seeks to amend SCR 60.04(1) to make clear that “reasonable efforts to facilitate the ability of all litigants, including self-represented litigants, to be fairly heard” are consistent with the obligation of judges to perform all judicial duties fairly and impartially. The proposed amendment would also create a new comment to provide additional guidance to judges.

The current judicial code does not expressly address self-represented litigants. Yet, judges are faced on a regular and increasing basis with difficult decisions in how to fulfill their duty to provide a fair process for all litigants, including self-represented litigants, while fulfilling their duty of impartiality. The proposed rule is intended to make clear that, as long as a judge acts reasonably in attempting to facilitate a litigant’s ability to be fairly heard, the judge is not violating those duties.

If the pending petition is adopted, Wisconsin will join the 24 other states and the District of Columbia that, following the 2007 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct, have adopted similar provisions. The proposed amendment also largely tracks the language suggested by the 2012 Conferences of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators in a joint resolution urging states to consider amending their judicial codes to address self-represented litigants.

Several organizations of judicial officers have already expressed their support for the petition, including the Committee of Chief Judges, the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, the Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association, the Court of Appeals, the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association and the Wisconsin Association of Judicial Court Commissioners.

The committee drafting the proposed amendment was composed of 10 circuit court judges, three court commissioners, and two Commission members: Circuit Court Judges Carl Ashley, Milwaukee County; Andrew P. Bissonnette, now retired; Karen Christenson, Milwaukee County; Shelley Gaylord, Dane County Circuit Court, Scott W. Horne, La Crosse County; Mary M. Kuhnmuensch, Milwaukee County; Michael J. Rosborough, Vernon County; Maryann Sumi, Dane County; Mary Triggiano, Milwaukee County; and Thomas Walsh, Brown County; Court Commissioners Barry Boline, Dolores Bomrad, and Gloria Doyle; and Access to Justice Commission members Marsha

Mansfield, Clinical Associate Professor at the UW Law School, and Margaret J. Vergeront, retired Court of Appeals judge.

The State of Equal Justice Report

Based on state-wide hearings held in late 2012, the Commission has released its report with key findings and recommendations on how to improve access to justice for unrepresented, low-income Wisconsin residents. The report draws on testimony from over 137 witnesses who provided testimony at a series of regional public hearings in Green Bay, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Madison, La Crosse and Wausau. *The State of Equal Justice In Wisconsin* is the Commission’s latest effort to highlight not only the challenges Wisconsin faces but also some of the bright spots that deserve more attention.

The Commission heard testimony from Wisconsin residents who came from varied backgrounds and experiences: judges; court commissioners; members of the public; county clerks; volunteer attorneys; law schools; and representatives of public service, nonprofit, and religious organizations.

In addition, leaders from the judiciary, state and county government, the State Bar of Wisconsin, business, religious groups, foundations, legal aid programs and social services organizations joined Commission members on the panel at each hearing.

Judges and court commissioners testified about the difficult position they find themselves in as impartial decision makers who are regularly faced with one or both parties in a case who don’t have lawyers, can’t afford a lawyer and are clearly unable to adequately represent themselves or even understand the legal proceedings.

At the Madison hearing, Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge William F. Hue summarized the challenge before us: “[W]hat do we as custodians in the greatest system of justice in the world want justice to look like to all participants? And once we figure out what justice should look like, assuming that look equates to fairness and equality and I think we can all agree to that. Shouldn’t we ensure that the system actually be what we want it to look like?”

Other witnesses described their experiences in trying to find legal help, volunteer efforts to help in their community and the devastating effect of civil legal services funding cutbacks in Wisconsin.

Five fundamental themes emerged from the testimony the Commission heard:

1. The need for civil legal assistance is increasing at a time when resources are decreasing;
2. A continuum of services is needed, from legal information to full representation;
3. The effects on our justice system of the growth in self-represented litigants who often don’t understand or can’t navigate the court system;
4. Legal aid services for low-income individuals are a cost-effective solution; and
5. Concerted action by a broad range of institutions and individuals inside and (especially) outside the legal system

see **ATJ** on page 8

Fall
2013

WISCONSIN CONNECTS



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley receives a medal from Morocco's chief justice.

Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley recently traveled to Morocco, where she was among U.S. delegates who made presentations to judges and lawyers from the Mid East-North Africa countries (MENA). Ten delegates from each of five countries attended to learn about our court system, the rule of law, and judicial independence. The countries represented were Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Jordan. The North African countries are all in the midst of trying to write new constitutions or, as in the case of Morocco, having just passed a new constitution and trying to figure out how to implement the words regarding judicial reform in the new constitution. ■

Online legal advice project launched in northern Wisconsin

A new online tool providing access to legal services is available to residents in northern Wisconsin. Wisconsin Judicare has launched a website designed to provide brief legal advice via the Internet to eligible clients. The new initiative, Northern Wisconsin Legal Advice Project (NWLAP), provides the opportunity for eligible clients to submit legal questions through its website to volunteer attorneys and receive legal advice at no cost. The information is designed to help give brief and limited legal advice to low-income persons residing in the designated counties.

Clients must be low-income residents of one of the 13 counties in Wisconsin involved with this online advice project or residents of one of the 11 federally recognized Indian tribes. The participating counties are Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, and Washburn.

After providing information to determine eligibility, clients can post questions on the website. Attorneys serving on the Wisconsin Judicare panel, as well as private attorneys, volunteer to participate pro bono in this program. These attorneys will review and answer the questions. Clients can then check the system for those responses.

The new project demonstrates Wisconsin Judicare and the Tenth Judicial District's partnership and commitment to providing equal access to justice. Since May 2000, Wisconsin's Tenth Judicial District has made concerted efforts to provide more meaningful and informed access to the courts for self-represented citizens.

ATJ *continued from page 7*

is necessary for any meaningful change to happen.

Based on the public hearings, the Commission makes a series of nine recommendations in its report, including some – such as more funding for civil legal services, increased support for pro bono efforts and an expanded role for non-lawyers – that echo recommendations in the State Bar of Wisconsin's 2007 *Bridging the Justice Gap* report. The Commission is also recommending an expansion of the legal resource center model to more counties, more appointments of counsel in appropriate civil cases, coordinated public education efforts, a greater role for interpreters outside the courtroom, replicating successful mediation efforts, and additional research on the economic and personal benefits that result from increased access to legal help for low income residents. ■

Margaret Vergeront is a retired Court of Appeals judge who serves on the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission; Jeff Brown is the State Bar of Wisconsin's staff support person for the Access to Justice Commission.

Chief Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court, said he hopes the program can be replicated statewide.

"In recognizing our limited resources and increasing number of self represented litigants, we wanted to look to new ideas and initiatives. The Tenth Judicial District Self-Representation Litigants Committee approached Judicare to partner on the initiative and serve as a pilot test site. This program will help us to expand pro bono opportunities for attorneys while improving access to legal assistance," Needham said.

Wisconsin Judicare is the civil legal service provider for 33 counties located in northern Wisconsin and 11 federally recognized Indian tribes. The new website was funded by The Legal Services Corporation and the State Bar of Wisconsin. ■

A screenshot of the Northern Wisconsin Legal Advice Project website. The page has a red and white color scheme. At the top, it says "Welcome to Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.'s Northern Wisconsin Legal Advice Project". Below that, it says "Let's Begin..." and "Have a legal question? To get started, click on 'Check Eligibility.'" There are two buttons: "Check Eligibility" and "Get Answer". A second button "Get Answer" is also visible below the text "If you have already checked your eligibility and received a password, click on 'Get Answer.'" On the left side, there are navigation links: "NWLP Home", "About the Program", "Eligibility", and "Help". On the right side, there is a logo for "The Legal Services Corporation" and "The State Bar of Wisconsin".

Clerk takes on Mt. Kilimanjaro at 50

By Carlo Esqueda, Dane County Clerk of Circuit Court/Register in Probate

Most people, upon turning 50, start looking at convertibles or considering Botox. I decided to climb a mountain. On Saturday, Sept. 14, I joined eight fellow climbers (all of whom I had only just met) at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa to begin an assault on the summit at Uhuru Peak.

Uhuru (Swahili for “freedom”) is 19,341 feet above sea level and would be reached after a five-day non-technical trek up the north side of the mountain, along what is known as the Rongai Route. Success was by no means certain, given that about 30 percent of climbers fail in the attempt, usually due to the onset of Acute Mountain Sickness, which plagues 80 percent of all “Kili” climbers to varying degrees and which, in its most severe forms, can be fatal. Thankfully, over the course of those days, I discovered that I was firmly in the 20-percent category. Still, given that the level of oxygen in the atmosphere near the summit is only 50 percent that of sea level, this was no cakewalk.

After four days spent slowly gaining altitude on the mountain to achieve acclimatization, the final push to Uhuru started at 11 p.m. on the night of Wednesday, Sept. 18, staged from the Kibo Hut base camp (elev. 15,480 feet), under a brilliant full moon. Already, two of our party had decided they could go no further (and one more would ultimately get no further than Gilman’s Point, elev. 18,638 feet). What followed was nine hours of painfully slow trudging up a switchback trail of rocks and scree, in the dark and freezing cold, struggling for every breath. I found myself, at times, crawling on hands and knees, thinking how easy it would be to just turn

around and head back to where there was warmth and oxygen. It was a brutal experience, but the eventual sunrise over the mountain provided inspiration, along with stunning views of the legendary glaciers looming on either side of the trail as well as the sea of clouds beneath me. Every few

minutes I simply told myself I could do this for just a few minutes more. Plus, I had a mission. I carried with me a small container of some of my late father’s ashes that I was determined to scatter at the summit to honor his memory and his desire in life to be an adventurer himself, even if he never actually had the opportunity and resources to fully realize that dream. So, at 7:50 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, I reached Uhuru with two members of my climbing party (the remaining three were a bit further behind and would summit within the hour). The effort had taken a toll, as is evident in the accompanying photo; just standing upright at that point was a physical challenge. And I remember being filled with dread then, realizing that another four hour



Dane County Clerk of Circuit Court Carlo Esqueda describes himself in this photo, taken in September, as “the barely conscious one on the left.” He is pictured with guides who took him to the summit of Uhuru Peak on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

hike back down to base camp was imminent. I confess I remember very little of that return hike, except that I’m certain I did it under my own power, unlike many other hikers I saw who had to be stretched down from the summit by their mountain guides.

It was a transcendent experience, yet one I would never intend to repeat. Nor am I sure I would actually recommend it to anyone. Future milestone birthdays will likely feature not much more than sandy beaches and umbrella drinks. And maybe that convertible... ■

Summer law internship recruitment underway

Recruitment is now beginning for the 2014 Volunteer Summer Law Student Internship program, which brings together circuit court judges and law students.

The Office of Court Operations administers the program, which places first- and second-year law students with Wisconsin judges. The goals of the program are to assist judges with their workload and to train future lawyers. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson initiated the program in 1997, and it continues today.

In the summer of 2013, 22 law students from 15 law schools across the country were matched with 30 judges in 18 counties. There has been increasing interest from second-year law students, who comprised 40 percent of 2013 participants.

Feedback from both judges and students is overwhelmingly positive every year.

“It was wonderful to experience this type of legal work and to be a part of the justice system,” said Gavin Gubrofski, a student at Drake University Law School who was an intern for Portage County Circuit Court Judge Thomas T. Flugaur. “I really doubt any other type of summer internship could produce so much useful knowledge about what the practice of law is actually like. I feel very lucky to have spent this summer working in the circuit court.”

Judges interested in participating in the program should contact Melissa Lamb in the Office of Court Operations at melissa.lamb@wicourts.gov or (608) 266-3121. ■

E-Learning site to help with child welfare cases

By Bridget Bauman, Children's Court Improvement Project

The Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) has developed the CCIP E-Learning Project, which is scheduled for release in December. The project is an online, self-directed educational resource to assist with the processing of child welfare cases. It can be used around the clock to obtain information on conducting key court proceedings, statutory requirements, applicable case law, and recommended best practices.

The content was created by members of a steering committee that includes St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Edward F. Vlack III, Waukesha County Assistant Corporation Counsel Molly Jasmer, St. Croix County Family and Children's Administrator Kathy Dunlap, and CCIP staff. The programming and technical support for the project are being provided by Fox Valley Technical College.

As the lead judge on the project, Vlack describes the online training as an innovative way to provide information to the judiciary.

"The CCIP E-Learning Project is a completely new format for judicial education in Wisconsin. It can best be described as an enhanced, online audio-visual benchbook."

The online training is divided into three training modules with a total of 15 learning activities, which are organized as follows:

Module 1:

Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) Case Processing

- Temporary Physical Custody Hearing
- Plea Hearing
- Fact-Finding Hearing
- Consent Decree
- Dispositional Hearing
- Extension Hearing
- Revision Hearing
- Change in Placement
- Permanency Hearing

Module 2:

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Case Processing

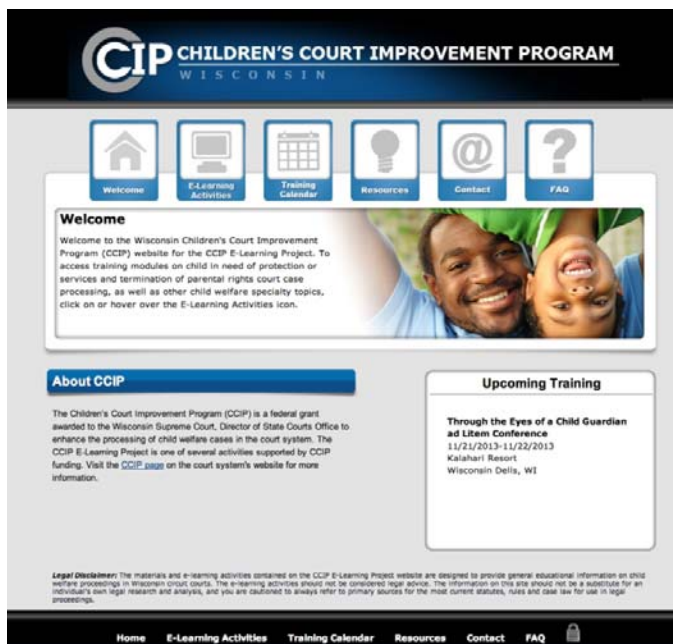
- Voluntary Hearing on the Petition
- Involuntary Hearing on the Petition
- Involuntary Fact-Finding Hearing
- Dispositional Hearing

Module 3:

Specialty Topics

- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- Adoption

Vlack said that this is a convenient resource that will be



helpful to judges hearing cases under the Children's Code.

"It is expected that the training will be used by judges new to the bench, judges going into a juvenile court rotation, or judges who want to review the procedures for a particular hearing in a CHIPS, TPR, or adoption case. As each learning activity ranges in length from 10 to 30 minutes, a judge can quickly and easily watch an activity in chambers to be adequately prepared to handle an upcoming hearing."

Additional input from the following judicial officers was obtained via focus groups held throughout the development process: Dane County Circuit Court Judge Shelley Gaylord, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley, Taylor County Circuit Court Judge Ann N. Knox-Bauer, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Marshall Bertram Murray, and Dane County Circuit Court Commissioner Anton Jamieson.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson said the E-Learning program is already drawing attention in judicial education circles. During a recent visit, Abrahamson said shared information about the CCIP E-Learning program with Alfredo Attié Jr, a law professor at the Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil) and judge on the São Paulo Supreme Court. Attié said he was enthused about the potential for E-Learning in his jurisdiction and will look to Wisconsin as a model program.

The CCIP E-Learning Project can be accessed at: www.wicciptraining.com/

For more information, contact Bridget Bauman, CCIP Policy Analyst, at bridget.bauman@wicourts.gov.

Team attends Institute on Child Well-being

By Michelle Jensen Goodwin, Children's Court Improvement Program

Wisconsin was selected as one of seven states through a competitive application process to take part in the National Governors Association's (NGA) *Three Branch Institute on Child Well-Being*, a year-long process that aims to engage all branches of government, as well as the broader community and tribes, to improve the social and emotional well-being of children in foster care.

Participating states were asked to assemble a team comprised of representatives from the executive, legislative and judicial branches and attend a cross-site meeting in Philadelphia July 24-26.

Wisconsin team members included Wisconsin First Lady Tonette Walker, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Deputy Secretary Kevin Moore, SET Ministry, Inc. CEO Laurie Laehn, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary Triggiano, Wisconsin Children's Court Improvement Program Director Michelle Jensen Goodwin, Sen. Alberta Darling, Rep. Joan Ballweg, and Sen. Nikiya Harris

Participants learned about a variety of strategies to assess and enhance well-being for children and youth in foster care. Bryan Samuels, former commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), discussed the agency's well-being framework for child welfare-involved children and families. His presentation focused on national data and outcomes in four primary domains: cognitive function, physical health and development, behavioral/emotional functioning and social functioning.

The meeting also featured presentations from experts, researchers and state officials on related topics, including moving towards a trauma-informed child welfare system, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, improving educational outcomes for foster youth, and effective monitoring of psychotropic medications.

Triggiano found the Institute to be a productive experience that established a strong foundation for cross-system

collaboration.

"The Institute presented a unique opportunity for the three branches to come together, share information and learn more about child well-being. Looking back, it was an intensive process which allowed us to build stronger relationships with each other. We can now better work towards a common vision and mission for the well-being of children in our systems of care."

State teams developed a comprehensive, statewide plan of action with long- and short-term strategies to address well-being; identified additional stakeholders to invite to participate on the team once they returned home; and discussed potential barriers and challenges to progress.

Wisconsin is using the structure of the Three Branch Institute to support the implementation of Fostering Futures, Walker's trauma-informed care initiative. Fostering Futures aims to develop a statewide, interdisciplinary approach, informed by three local communities and a Wisconsin policymakers group, to integrate evidence about adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed principles into state and local systems. Triggiano, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona Gonzalez, and Jensen Goodwin currently serve on the Fostering Futures Policy Advisory Committee.

Other states include Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, Virginia, and West Virginia. The project is sponsored by the NGA Center for Best Practices, in collaboration with Casey Family Programs, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Center for State Courts and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. ■

To learn more about the Wisconsin Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study or the Fostering Futures initiative, visit:

www.wichildrenstrustfund.org/files/WisconsinACEs.pdf
<https://sites.google.com/site/fosteringfuturesplc/home/approach>

Child welfare *continued from front page*

"This committee is taking both a broad perspective and detailed look at what current judicial practices can be most useful in the child welfare system," Gaylord said. "We hope to provide recommendations to help judges, perhaps legislators and all court system participants. We have shared goals of safe, permanent homes for as many children as possible, while understanding the limits, both legal and practical, we face daily."

The WJCCW recently embarked on an extensive strategic planning process to align CCIP grant activities with the identified goals listed below:

- Children remain in their home safely and families are strengthened with collaborative systems of support.
- Children in out-of-home care and their families are provided appropriate opportunities to become successful, socially competent citizens.
- Children in out-of-home care achieve timely permanence with enduring connections maintained and promoted whenever possible.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Marshall Bertram Murray said it's vitally important for Wisconsin to have established this committee.

"Until now, Wisconsin didn't have a forum to provide judges who hear child and family cases with an opportunity to share information and best practices with each other. The WJCCW hopes to fill this gap and establish a network of Wisconsin judges who are trained and can share with their fellow judges and other court partners the national best practices in child welfare and family law cases."

Members of the committee currently include: Gaylord, Murray, District Seven Court Administrator Patrick Brummond, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, Taylor County Circuit Court Judge Ann N. Knox-Bauer, St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Scott R. Needham, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary Triggiano, Director of State Courts A. John Voelker, and Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Todd L. Ziegler. ■

For more information, contact Michelle Jensen Goodwin, Children's Court Improvement Program director, at michelle.jensen-goodwin@wicourts.gov.

Driving the Dashboard 2013

By Atty. Marcia Vandercook, Office of Court Operations

“Driving the Dashboard 2013” was among popular educational offerings presented during the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

The dashboard consolidates the most important computing tools used by judges, providing quick access to case information, electronic

documents, legal research materials, and numerous applications. It also gives judges tools to manage their calendars, track cases, and gauge progress toward case processing goals.

During the presentation, judges worked “live” from their personal dashboards, two slide presentations, four video clips, humorous photos, alongside a live band. The presentation addressed some of the trepidation that busy people feel when confronting new technologies.

The band “Presumed Paperless” sang of a happy future when all courts have discovered the ease and efficiency that comes from the widespread use of electronic files. Reserve judges Robert G. Mawdsley and Michael J. Skwierawski performed original lyrics set to the tune of “Let’s Do It” by Cole Porter.



Circuit court judges James C. Babler, Barron County; Richard J. Sankovitz, Milwaukee County; and John R. Storck, Dodge County, demonstrated some of the powerful tools in the Consolidated Court Automation Program’s (CCAP) judicial dashboard, which is designed to help judges work more efficiently.

Babler outlined steps that counties can take to make a smooth transition to a paper-on-demand courthouse, including scanning, in-court processing, and electronic minutes. The judges then demonstrated 11 easy-to-use items for beginning dashboard users, including, among others: calendar and filters, court record searches, electronic documents, electronic signatures, delegation, unscheduled cases, and remote access.

Brochures that walk through each of the functions are available to judges in the Help section of the judicial dashboard. Judges are also welcome to call the CCAP Call Center for assistance.

More advanced dashboard skills include taking electronic notes, accessing legal research tools, and using statistics. Sankovitz demonstrated how he quickly drafts opinions using electronic briefs and research materials,

and Judge Storck explained the steps Dodge County is taking toward a more efficient paperless courthouse.

CCAP staff installed computers in the conference lobby to assist judges with setting up remote access to their desktop and synchronizing their GroupWise mail, contacts and calendars with smartphones. Large screen and dual monitor options were also demonstrated and will be installed in the next several months for judges who requested them at the conference. Since the conference, 5 new counties have expressed interest in offering eFiling, bringing the total to 26 counties.

The program concluded with an acknowledgment that there will always be some uses for paper:

<http://vimeo.com/62470169>. ■

Justice Crooks recalls meeting Kennedy

The 50th anniversary of the death of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22 stirred memories for many people, including Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice N. Patrick Crooks. Crooks met Kennedy when the then-U.S. senator visited the St. Norbert College campus during a campaign stop in 1960.

Crooks had the honor of introducing Kennedy to St. Norbert College students as part of a speakers series that Crooks helped organize at his alma mater. Crooks said he also sat next to Kennedy during lunch at the priests’ dining room on campus during the visit.

A few years later, Crooks said he was among the throngs gathered at Kennedy’s funeral procession in Washington D.C. Word rapidly spread through the crowd that Kennedy’s assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, had been shot, Crooks said. Crooks was in the Washington area at the time attending the Judge Advocate General’s Legal School at the University of Virginia. ■



Justice N. Patrick Crooks is pictured immediately to the right of then-U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy, who spoke during a campaign visit to the campus of St. Norbert College in De Pere in 1960.

Judges, legislators and staff discuss new technology at Inter-branch symposium

On Oct. 8, the Supreme Court Office of Judicial Education co-hosted a joint judicial-legislative symposium entitled, *The Fourth Amendment and Emerging Communications and Tracking Technology*. Organized by Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and the Wisconsin Legislative Council, it was the fifth joint-branch education session to be held since 2001. The symposium provided a unique opportunity for approximately 130 judges, legislators and staff members to create and reinforce communication between the two branches of government.

Programming focused on Fourth Amendment issues and the tensions between privacy protections and the state's interest in possessing sufficient tools for law enforcement.

Professor Stephen Henderson, University of Oklahoma College of Law, discussed the theory of information privacy and how the Fourth Amendment, including the so-called third-party doctrine. Henderson assisted in developing the newly enacted American Bar Association Criminal Justice Standards, which provide a framework for balancing these tensions and how it applies to location information.

Many states have diverged from this doctrine as a matter of state constitutional law - providing greater privacy protections - and all states have diverged as a matter of statutory law.

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Mark J. McGinnis

discussed Fourth Amendment issues specific to Wisconsin, including topics of searches, seizures, expectation of privacy, issuance and execution of search warrants, and the exceptions to the search warrant requirement. He provided an overview of relevant case law and statutory law and an analysis of the current conflicts between law enforcement investigations and intelligence and the privacy rights and liberties of individuals. He also described legislative proposals developed in other states.

A representative of the UW-Madison College of Engineering discussed the current and anticipated capabilities of cutting-edge communications technology. A panel featuring McGinnis, two law school professors, a private-practice attorney and a state assistant attorney general discussed the dual objectives of protecting personal privacy and ensuring necessary governmental access to certain information. They also discussed the applicability of current law to emerging communications technology and legislative approaches that may help achieve a balance between competing policy goals.

In addition to the Office of Judicial Education, the symposium was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council and the Council of State Governments - Midwest. The first such symposium was held Sept. 11, 2001. ■

Justice on Wheels rolls into Sheboygan

The Wisconsin Supreme Court celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Justice on Wheels program in October by hearing oral argument in the historic Sheboygan County Courthouse. The Court travels once each term as an outreach effort to bring oral argument to communities across Wisconsin.

The Court conducted hearings in two cases that questioned the constitutionality of police use of cell phone

signals to track crime suspects. An estimated 300 people turned out to watch the oral arguments, including 75 students from the Lakeshore Technical College Police Academy.

The Court's first Justice on Wheels visit was to Green Bay in 1993. Since then, the justices have embraced the opportunity to bring their work to people across the state. The Court has also sat (in chronological order) in: Eau Claire, Marathon, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Douglas, Rock, Kenosha, Sauk, Dodge, Oneida, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Fond du Lac, Walworth, Waushara, St. Croix, Winnebago, Iowa, Washington, Columbia, and Green counties. ■



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson presents plaques to fifth graders Allison Kerr and T.J. Edson, both from Wilson Elementary School, who tied for third place in the Supreme Court Essay Contest. Elliot Opel of Pigeon River School won first place, and Austin J. Lammers of Oostburg Christian School won second place in the contest. Justices Annette Kingsland Ziegler (center) and Ann Walsh Bradley (right) joined the rest of the Court in celebrating the students' hard work. The Court runs the contest as part of its Justice on Wheels outreach program, and this year Justice David T. Prosser served as judge.



Sheboygan Atty. Casey Hoff introduces *State v. Bobby Tate*, a case involving the use of cell phone signals to track a suspect. When the Supreme Court travels, local attorneys are tapped to study the briefs in each case and make presentations to the hundreds of spectators who assemble to watch oral arguments.

Mobile clinic extends reach of legal assistance

The Milwaukee Justice Center launched its new Mobile Legal Clinic on Sept. 21. The free clinic on wheels is a partnership between the Milwaukee Bar Association and Marquette University Law School.

"The Mobile Legal Clinic reflects the service-oriented mission of Marquette University Law School and the larger legal profession," Marquette University Law School Dean Joseph D. Kearney said in a press release. "By helping those who may not otherwise be able to obtain professional legal counsel, and by doing so in their communities, the Mobile Legal Clinic will fill a gap in this region. It will also enable our students, working with attorneys and members of the community, to gain experience and develop an ethic of service."

The mobile clinic, which operates out of a small bus staffed by attorneys and Marquette University law students, was made possible by a donation from Atty. Frank Daily and Atty. Julianna Ebert, in honor of the pro bono work of their colleague, Atty. Michael Gonring.

"In the access to justice field, we have to dream big dreams because the problems are so large," Gonring is quoted in the press release.

"Ninety-nine times out of 100 the dream will not come true because of lack of resources, but sometimes it will. The model of a mobile legal clinic is one of those things that folks involved in access to justice issues dream about for years," Gonring said.

According to their annual report, volunteers at the



The Milwaukee Justice Center's Mobile Legal Clinic bus took its maiden voyage on Sept. 21.

Milwaukee Justice Center, located in the Milwaukee County Courthouse, served 10,659 low-income residents in 2012, a 32-percent increase from the previous year. The mobile clinic, the only of its kind in the state and one of just a handful in the country, will provide the same brief legal advice on civil matters to those who are unable to make the trip to the courthouse.

The clinic was parked at the John C. Cudahy YMCA for its first outing on Sept. 21. On Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 it was parking at the Woodlands Housing Development Resource Center parking lot. It will be parked at the Woodlands again on Dec. 14. A schedule for the spring will be available in early December. ■

Childhood discovery leads to life-long hobby

Fifty-three years ago, while attending the Boy Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs, a young James Beer, now Judge James R. Beer, Green County Circuit Court, kicked up a flint arrowhead while walking along a path.

That find would develop into a lifelong interest and



Green County Circuit Court Judge James R. Beer poses with part of his collection, a copper artifact dating back to 5000 BC.

hobby of collecting rare artifacts from early civilizations in what is now the United States. His collection was recently featured in *Wisconsin Archeologist*, published by the Wisconsin Archeological Society.

Beer said he has collected over 3,000 flint arrowheads, as well as 1,000 pieces of copper. Beer considers one of those copper finds – a nine-and-a-half-inch copper spear, which he estimates dates back to 5000 B.C. – to be his most valuable.

Ten pieces of another of Beer's collections, Native American birdstone carvings, were featured on the cover of the magazine, and Beer submitted a summary of the collection history included in the magazine. The thoroughness of the detail was commended in magazine's editorial.

"This is the kind of documentation we encourage for avocational archaeologists, but do not often see," Editor Joseph A. Tiffany wrote.

"Birdstones are one of the rarest of items, and artistically the finest product of prehistoric Wisconsin," Beer said.

Beer, who serves on the board of directors and is a past president of the Genuine Indian Relic Society, said he enjoys the

opportunity to be out in nature that the hunt for artifacts provides. He appreciates the chance to walk along various rivers, lakes and streams, which, he admits, is sometimes a muddy job. But Beer said he enjoys the thrill of the find, and the fact that he may be holding something in his hand that no one else has held for thousands of years. He also enjoys the companionship of his fellow artifact hunters. He has travelled to Kentucky, Texas, Michigan and Illinois in the search for new discoveries.

Freshly plowed fields where buried artifacts had been brought to the surface had also proven to be an archeological goldmine in the past, but according to Beer, the shift to no-till agriculture has made finding artifacts more difficult. ■



Several birdstones from Beer's collection.

OBITUARIES

Judge William E. Crane Winnebago County Circuit Court

Former Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge William E. Crane passed away on Nov. 21 at the age of 89.

Crane was first appointed to the circuit court in 1968 by then-Gov. Warren Knowles, and served until his retirement in 2000. While on the bench, he was a member of the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), Court Reorganization Committee, Civil Jury Instruction Committee, and the Sentencing Guidelines Committee. He was a former chair of the Board of Criminal Court Judges, and served as chief judge of the Eleventh District from 1977-78, and chief judge of the Fourth Judicial



Judge William E. Crane

District from 1984-90. After his retirement, he served as a reserve judge until 2012.

Crane served in the U.S. Navy as a Naval Aviator from 1943-47, and was part of the Military Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in 2012. He received his bachelor's degree from Carleton College in 1948, and his law degree from UW Law School in 1951. He worked as an attorney in private practice until his appointment to the bench.

In 1997, Crane spoke with Court Information Officer Amanda Todd as part of the Oral History project.

"I guess I've been about 28 years or a little more maybe and it's been great" Crane told Todd. "For the most part as I look back it's like when I was in the Navy, you forget all the bad stuff and just remember the good times you had. So I forget the bad cases and the ones I lost and just go on from here. It's been a great experience."

According to an obituary, Crane is survived by his wife, Jeanne; four children, Steven, Larry, Brian, and Christine; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a brother and a sister. ■

Juror appreciation celebrated statewide

Counties throughout Wisconsin celebrated Juror Appreciation Month during September with a variety of activities intended to thank jurors and to acknowledge the importance of their role in our system of justice.

During 2012, 82,895 people reported for jury duty at Wisconsin courthouses. Of those, 21,080 served as jurors. The theme of Juror Appreciation Month is "Jurors Serve Justice; Justice Serves Us All." This year, the theme was formally recognized in a proclamation issued by Gov. Scott Walker and in citations from the state Senate and Assembly.

In **Dane County**, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Court of Appeals Judges Brian W. Blanchard and JoAnne F. Kloppenburg visited with Dane County jurors and thanked them for their service. Dane County Clerk of Circuit Court Carlo Esqueda distributed tote bags and had a banner hung in the courthouse lobby.

In **Sauk County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Vicki Meister wrote a letter to the editor, thanking the thousands of Sauk County residents who are asked to serve on jury duty.

"Because of your willingness, commitment and support, you protect everyone's constitutional right to a fair,

representative trial. Everyone in the court system recognizes jury service is often an inconvenience to those asked to serve. Sauk County residents take this responsibility of citizenship seriously and are to be commended for their participation..." Meister wrote in the letter published in the *Wisconsin Dells Events* newspaper.

In **Shawano County**, officials combined juror appreciation activities with the quarterly evening jury orientation session, said Clerk of Circuit Court Sue Krueger. The courtroom was decorated with fall colors and banners thanking jurors for coming and for future jury service. As usual, the courtroom was filled with interested "potential" jurors who participated in a question and answer period after initial orientation.

The clerk's staff provided home-baked desserts, soda and water, Krueger said.

In **La Crosse County**, the courthouse was decorated with posters honoring jurors and court staff wore juror appreciation pins.

"We want every juror to feel appreciated and to know how much we value their time and commitment to our system of justice," La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez was quoted as saying in coverage provided by the *La Crosse Tribune* newspaper.

There were 2,832 people summoned to serve on 36 jury trials in La Crosse County during 2012, including an 18-day double homicide trial, the longest criminal trial in the county's history.

In **Manitowoc County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Lynn Zigmunt wrote a letter to the editor, thanking jurors for their service and for the support of employers.

"I often hear from friends, family and acquaintances when they receive the 'dreaded jury summons' in the mail. It always seems to bring a lot of apprehension from people at first. But once someone has gone through the actual process of being summoned, selected and serving as a juror, I think their feelings and views change," Zigmunt



Forest County Deputy Clerk of Court Deb Webb, former Deputy Clerk of Court Alyson Bocek, Clerk of Circuit Court Penny Carter, District Attorney Charles Simono and Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court Chris Geske participated in the "Brush Run Parade" in Crandon as part of Juror Appreciation Month activities.

RETIREMENTS *continues from page 3*

they were. He also found the criminal cases that came before his bench to be tragic in their exemplification of lost opportunity. But Kahn said he is proud to have been an equal participant, along with the attorneys, court staff, and parties, in the efforts to resolve disputes.

Kahn is a graduate of George Washington University and UW Law School. He has served as a member of the CCAP Steering Committee and as faculty of the National Judicial College. Prior to

his election to the circuit court, he worked in private practice, as well as with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Indian Legal Services.

Kahn plans to use his experience on the bench to help other judges with his new company, A Neutral View. The company will also do mediation work.

Kahn leaves the bench with high praise for Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and District One Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

"They have continually advanced the effectiveness and professionalism of the operation of the courts," he said. "It's impressive to see that's what they are committed to, making the system more successful."

He also leaves behind some advice for the incoming Branch 24 judge.

"Slow down, don't rush through cases," Kahn said. "Treat everyone in the courtroom as an equal to yourself."

Judge John R. Race Walworth County Circuit Court

After 29 years on the bench, Walworth County Circuit Court Judge John R. Race will retire on Dec. 31. Race, who has served on the civil, criminal and family courts, said of all the cases he has heard in his career, he found the medical malpractice cases to be the most interesting.

First appointed in 1984, Race was elected to the Branch 3 bench in 1985, winning reelection in 1991, 1997, 2003, and 2009. He had previously worked as an attorney in private practice.

Race, a graduate of the National Judicial College, said the biggest changes he has witnessed while on the bench were the marital property reforms and changes to the uniform commercial code.

"I'm 78. I don't want to be carried out feet first," Race told the *Elkhorn Independent*. "It has just been a great 29 years. I want to leave on a high note in good health."

While he said he will miss the people he has worked with over the years, including the lawyers, clerks and fellow judges, Race said he plans on spending his time traveling once he leaves the bench.



Judge Charles F.
Kahn Jr.

Judge William C. Stewart, Jr. Dunn County Circuit Court

When looking back over his 15-year judicial career, Dunn County Circuit Court Judge William C. Stewart Jr. said the establishment of two treatment court programs in the county and his work on the Dunn County Criminal Justice Collaboration Council are among his biggest achievements. He said the council and the programs have had a positive impact not just on the individuals involved in the cases, but on the entire community.

"We still have a million miles to go," Stewart said of the county's effective justice programs, "but we are further than most."

Stewart said that he has appreciated that people in the county have been willing to look outside the box in terms of the criminal justice system, and he sees this as the biggest change he has witnessed during his time on the bench. He said they have all been receptive to listening to new ideas.

"We're only as good as those we choose to work with," he said of the people involved in the collaboration. "Some peeked outside the box, but some jumped outside."

"The doors have opened to evaluate the way things have been done and to explore other options, especially in the criminal justice area," he said. "Quite a few judges have been willing to change." He said he has noticed a change in the tone and attitudes of others during the Judicial Conferences over the years. While some of the changes have meant more time and work for the judges involved, he believes that those who undertook the task have appreciated the challenge.

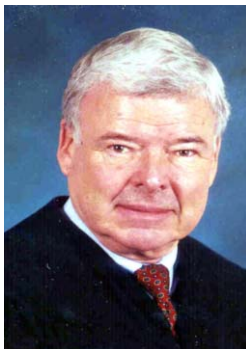
Stewart was first elected to Branch 1 in 1998. He holds a bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Stout and a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law. He has previously served as deputy corporation counsel, director of child support, and assistant district attorney. Prior to receiving his law degree, he worked as a guidance director, AODA counselor, a school administrator, and a mental health counselor for the U.S. Army.

Stewart considers his experiences as part of the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee and the Effective Justice Strategies Committee to be "career changing." He appreciated being able to see what other states were doing, and be able to work with other judges to see what worked for them.

After his last day, Stewart said he planned to sleep for two weeks. After that, he would like to travel, including spending two or three months in Alaska next summer. He also plans on spending time at his property in Northern Wisconsin, tending to his "critters," which include turkeys, bobcats, and bears, as well as his many trees. But he does plan on continuing his work with the treatment court programs and the county criminal justice coordinating council in some capacity. ■



Judge William C.
Stewart Jr.



Judge John R. Race

2014-16 PPAC Critical Issues survey results

By Bonnie MacRitchie, Office of Court Operations

Every other year, the Planning Subcommittee of Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) solicits input from court-affiliated stakeholders to establish current priorities and develop a Critical Issues report.

Responses to the survey for the 2014-16 Critical Issues report have been collected. A total of 536 individuals responded to the survey, an increase of more than 200 from the last survey cycle. As in years past, the Planning Subcommittee extended invitations to complete the survey to internal and external stakeholder groups such as the Department of Corrections, Department of Justice and members of the legislature.

The Critical Issues survey results identified four issues for the court to prioritize: judicial independence, selection and ethics; court security; use of technology and evidence-based practices.

The survey also revealed 83.1 percent of judges and other court-affiliated respondents believe there are enough opportunities to provide input about Wisconsin court system Initiatives. The Planning Subcommittee is currently

developing action steps to help address these issues, which will be included in a report for consideration by the Supreme Court and Director of State Courts.

PPAC gave judges an additional opportunity to submit feedback on court system priorities via live polling technology and paper surveys during the committee's session at the Judicial Conference. Some of the results of the polls include:

- 62 percent of judges feel that eFiling would improve court system efficiency in their county.
- 74 percent of judges would like both more training and information about how mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders may be affecting individuals and the criminal justice system.
- 86 percent of judges believe a summary of current research findings about evidence-based practices would assist them in their sentencing decision making.

The final 2014-16 Critical Issues report will be presented to PPAC in January 2014. ■

Jury *continued from page 15*

wrote.

In **Marathon County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Diane Sennholz joined circuit court Judges Jill N. Falstad, Gregory B. Huber, Gregory E. Grau, Michael K. Moran, and Lamont K. Jacobson in writing a letter to the editor that was published in local newspapers.

"Jurors learn that it is not only judges, lawyers and members of government that make the important decisions in the system. In fact, arguably the most important determinations are made by citizens who carry out the great burden of reaching just, fair and conscientious decisions in the cases they are cosent to sit on..." the letter stated in part.

In **Oneida County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Brenda Behrle recorded public service announcements with local radio stations and sent a letter cosigned by three judges to the editor of local newspapers papers.

"In honoring the excellent service and commitment of citizens who perform jury duty, we hope to reinforce public confidence in the jury system, improve communication with jurors and employers and publicize an important and positive message about jury service," the letter read.

"We want every juror to feel appreciated and to know how much we value their time and commitment to our system of justice - thank you for doing your duty!" The letter was signed by Behrle and Oneida County Circuit Court Judges Patrick F. O'Melia and Michael H. Bloom.

In **Racine County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Roseanne Lee used the occasion to announce an upgrade of the county's jury duty system to include juror updates online or by text.

"We want to make serving as easy and convenient for people as possible. I think making these options available will add a dimension to help people meet their obligation and to keep the courts running efficiently," Lee was quoted as saying in *The (Racine) Journal Times*.

The upgrade made Racine County the 20th county in the state to provide the service.

In **Forest County**, officials, including District Atty.

Charles Simono and Clerk of Circuit Court Penny Carter and their staffs, walked in the popular "Brush Run Parade" in Crandon.

Along the parade route, they handed out pens and notepads that said "Forest County Appreciates Their Jurors."

They also hung a banner in the courtroom stating, "We Appreciate Our Jurors" and provided gym bags with the lady justice symbol on them to all jurors that served in September.

Forest County Circuit Court Judge Leon D. Stenz said, "Many people have sacrificed so that Americans can enjoy the right to a jury trial."

"Most of the citizens of Forest County recognize that by appearing and agreeing to serve as jurors, they honor that sacrifice. Without the service of our jurors, the system of justice we enjoy simply would not work," Stenz said.

As an added bonus, jurors were treated to Carter's homemade cookies. The treats proved so popular that she received several follow-up requests, along with glowing praise, from jurors for the recipe.

If you would like to make jurors in your county happy, here's the recipe:

PEANUT BUTTER/CHOCOLATE CHIP/WALNUT COOKIES

1 cup shortening	2 ¼ cups flour
1 cup peanut butter	2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup sugar	2 tsp. soda
1 cup brown sugar	1 ½ cups chocolate chips
2 eggs	¾ cup chopped walnuts

Mix all ingredients, except chocolate chips and walnuts, together in large mixing bowl. Stir in chocolate chips and walnuts. Form into 1 inch balls, bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes. Makes approximately 4-5 dozen cookies. ■

Fall
2013

PEOPLE

Director of State Court **A. John Voelker** spoke with attendees at the first-ever annual Wisconsin Court Reporters Association (WCRA) convention in Madison. Voelker spoke about plans for the court system and answered questions from the association's members. Convention attendees were also surprised by another speaker, Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson**, who was invited to attend the association's Town Hall Meeting when WCRA board members ran into her at lunch. Abrahamson also invited members who were touring the State Capitol to visit her office.

Kenosha County recently celebrated its ninth drug court graduation since the program began in 2009 with a couple of unique circumstances.

"I checked with everyone I could to verify this statement, but he has never had a single violation in drug court," the *Kenosha News* quoted Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge



Judge Anthony Milisauskas

Anthony Milisauskas as saying about graduate **Andrew Singer** during the ceremony. "I didn't think it could happen, but it did. Andrew, I am very proud of you."

As part of the program, non-violent offenders must attend counseling and probation meetings, make weekly court appearances, and submit to drug tests, and failure to abide by these rules may result in sanctions.

After Singer accepted his drug court graduation certificate, the *Kenosha News* reported another first for Milisauskas: Singer picked up his

guitar and began to play and sing.

"This is the first time I have ever had anyone play guitar in my court," the judge is quoted as saying.

Director of State Courts **A. John Voelker** was featured in a Q&A piece posted on The Wheeler Report online news service on Oct. 28. In the report, Voelker explained the work of the court system, including the role of technology, particularly the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP); continuing legal education for judges; court interpreter programs; and alternatives to incarceration programs.

Voelker pointed out that CCAP has proven a valuable asset to lawyers and the public, by allowing them to access tools, applications, juror services, *pro se* resources, and electronic case filing. Court interpreters, according to Voelker, are also helping to provide better access to justice in the state. "We have done a variety of training over the years from judges to clerks of court to other justice system partners to make sure people understand the issues associated with interpreters," Voelker is



Court Reporters Nancy Sczeklinski, Karla Sommer, Gail Villwock, Rose Roderick (a court reporting student), Sue Veres, and Lori Baldauf pose with Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson (center) and Director of State Courts A. John Voelker at their first annual Wisconsin Court Reporters Association convention in Madison.

Photo credit: WCRA

quoted as saying. "We recently learned that 10 other states are using the training videos we developed in this area."

Voelker said the court system continues to focus on justice strategies that work, using the examples of Eau Claire and Milwaukee counties, where the implementation of effective justice strategies has received national recognition for the National Institute of Corrections.

When asked about what he believes to be the biggest misconception about the state courts, Voelker's answer was that it is primarily funded by the state. "The state pays for all the costs of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, but the circuit courts, where these million cases are filed, is a partnership with the counties in which the counties now pay about 60 percent of the costs," he explained.

Voelker concluded the interview by saying he was concerned by the reduced support the judicial system receives from the state, but asserted that the court system would do everything they could to continue to provide an accessible, efficient, and effective court system. "The taxpayers are getting an excellent return on their investment of less than one percent of state taxes," he said.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on Oct. 23 that a July fire at the Milwaukee County Courthouse caused between \$10 million and \$11 million in damage.

Don Tyler, the county's director of administrative services director, told a Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors committee that the insurance company has paid the county about \$6 million so far. The fire temporarily shut down the courthouse and several court functions.

The total cost of repairs still is not known, Tyler told the board's Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee, nor is the definite cause of the fire, according to the newspaper.

The electrical fire began in the courthouse basement July 6. The courthouse was not fully reopened until July 24. The courthouse continues to run off temporary power because the electrical system cannot be replaced until the investigation is complete. Tyler estimated installation of the new system could begin by late December, reporter **Beth Kevit** wrote in the *Journal Sentinel*.

First District Court Administrator **Bruce Harvey** told the committee of chief judges and district court administrators that much was learned about critical



Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Eugene D. Harrington shows off three walleye he caught while fishing after work in the Shell Lake area. Harrington, an avid sportsman, said he finds fishing to be a nice way to relax after a long day in court.

PEOPLE *continued from page 18*

incident management as a result of the fire. One of the most important things learned was to have available phone numbers and contact information for key people, especially those outside the court system who may be coordinating emergency response and recovery activities, Harvey said. Judges and court staff often chipped in to help out wherever needed, Harvey said.

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge **John R. Storck** joined Director of State Courts **A. John Voelker** at the 2013 Wisconsin Counties Association conference to present a workshop on courthouse security. The annual conference was held Sept. 22-24 in Madison. Other speakers at the conference included National Association of Counties President **Linda Langston**, Gov. **Scott Walker**, and Green Bay Packers Radio Network's **Wayne Larrivee**.



Judge John R. Storck



Judge Juan B. Colás

"Race bias in Dane County legal system to be fought in special courts," headlined a *Wisconsin State Journal* article, which highlighted initiatives the county will be implementing to combat the racial disparity in the criminal justice system. According to the article, the county's drug court program will allow access to more racial minorities, higher risk individuals, and repeat offenders after a reorganization scheduled to take place next year.

"One effect of doing it this way is to broaden access, which may have an effect on the racial makeup of the participants," Dane County Circuit Court Judge **Juan B. Colás**, who is overseeing the program, told the *State Journal*.

A new community court would establish a process that would divert some younger offenders to restorative justice programs, allowing them to avoid criminal records for minor offenses, the article states. The program, which will be modeled after teen court programs, is awaiting budget approval from the county board.

Jackson County Circuit Court has been awarded a \$649,875 grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program, according to **JoDee Brooke** at the *Banner Journal* newspaper. The plan is to use grant money to create two new treatment courts in the county targeted at families and children in need of protective services.

The new court programs will address domestic issues, including neglect, delinquency, mental health issues, and

adolescent substance abuse, and will operate in collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation, with the goal of reducing the number of out-of-home child placements through early intervention.

"It's never been done before," Jackson County Circuit Court Judge **Thomas Lister** told the *Banner Journal*. "We're confident we can do this and I think that's why we got the grant. We are only one of two courts to get the funding. The other is in Ohio."

Both Jackson County and the Ho-Chunk Nation already operate drug court programs, but the new courts will take a "holistic" approach in examining the issues that cause the "family structure to break down," according to the article.



Judge Thomas Lister

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** received a Distinguished Alumni Service Award from Indiana University in November. Award winners are recognized for being leaders in their chosen fields and for making significant contributions benefiting their community, nation, state or university. Abrahamson earned a law degree from the university in 1956 and was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws degree in 1986.

During her remarks accepting the award, Abrahamson recounted the value of her education at the University of Indiana and her early career.

"As one of just a handful of female students in the law school in the early 1950s, I was told not to expect to be hired as a lawyer upon graduation. This was true even though I was first in my class, and traditionally the #1 graduate was a sought-after commodity."

Video of the ceremony, including Abrahamson's remarks, is available online at:

http://broadcast.iu.edu/ceremon/DASA_13/index.html

Abrahamson visited The University of Iowa College of Law Sept. 26-27 as a jurist-in-residence. She was invited to the law school by Professor Lea VanderVelde, a former intern for Justice William G. Callow. During her time at the law school, Abrahamson met with faculty, participated in several classes, and discussed judicial clerkships with students.

As part of the Chief Justice's Mental Health Initiative, Abrahamson participated in the Judicial-Psychiatric Leadership Forum held in Philadelphia on Oct. 13. Fifty leading judges and psychiatrists from across the country met to develop strategies to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health needs in the criminal justice system. The members shared best practices and recent research, discussed maximizing community treatment resources, and identified action plans to coordinate local and national efforts to reduce the overrepresentation of this population in the criminal justice system.



Green County Circuit Court Judge **James R. Beer** speaks at the dedication ceremony for the Veterans Park in Brodhead, Wis.

On Nov. 10, Green County Circuit Court Judge **James R. Beer** officially

see **People** on page 20

Chief Justice

Shirley S. Abrahamson

Director of State Courts

A. John Voelker

Co-Editors

Tom Sheehan

Amanda K. Todd

Associate Editor

Sara Foster

Contributing Writers

Bridget Bauman

Hon. Richard S. Brown

Carlo Esqueda

Sara Foster

Michelle Jensen Goodwin

Bonnie MacRitchie

Amy Roehl

Tom Sheehan

Amanda Todd

Marcia Vandercook

Hon. Margaret J. Vergeront

John Voelker

Heidi Yelk

Editorial Advisor

Hon. Michael J. Rosborough

Vernon County Circuit Court

Graphic Design/Layout

Sara Foster

The Third Branch is a quarterly publication of the Director of State Courts Office, providing news of interest to the Wisconsin court system.

Send questions, comments, and article ideas to:

Tom Sheehan

Court Information Officer

P.O. Box 1688

Madison, WI 53701-1688

phone

(608) 261-6640

e-mail

tom.sheehan@wicourts.gov

fax

(608) 267-0980

District trainings use role-play

By Niki Leicht, Special Projects Manager Office of Court Operations

The 2013 District Trainings concluded in Milwaukee on Nov. 1, after a three month run across the state. The trainings began in Trego, in the Tenth Judicial Administrative District, in mid-August at the scenic Heartwood Conference Center.

A total of 364 participants attended the trainings, including 122 circuit court judges, along with a number of district attorneys, assistant district attorneys, public defenders, private defense counsel, social service providers, law enforcement officers, state Department of Corrections (DOC) supervisors and agents, and criminal justice coordinating council (CJCC) coordinators.

The knowledgeable and experienced training teams consisted of District III Court of Appeals Judge Lisa K. Stark, Deputy State Public Defender Mike Tobin, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott M. Levine, and La Crosse County CJCC Coordinator and Manager of Justice Support Services Jane Klekamp. These facilitators presented an overview of evidence-based practices, followed by how evidence-based practices in sentencing work with the principles of *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, 270 Wis.2d 535.

The second half of the training provided time for team implementation planning, a role-play sentencing utilizing evidence-based principles, and some real-life sentencing examples. The DOC also presented on how evidence-based



La Crosse County CJCC Coordinator and Manager of Justice Support Services Jane Klekamp, Office of Court Operations Special Projects Manager Niki Leicht, District III Court of Appeals Judge Lisa K. Stark, Mike Tobin, and La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott Levine

practices are being implemented in the department's Division of Community Corrections and the Division of Adult Institutions. Gena Jarr, Jean Young, Erin King, Tracy Hudrlik, and Molly Sullivan-Olson from the DOC all made presentations in multiple districts.

This training was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The curriculum was developed by a workgroup comprised of members from the Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee of the Supreme Court's Planning and Policy

Advisory Committee (PPAC), including, in addition to Stark, Levine, Klekamp, Tobin and Jarr: Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley; Tony Streveler, DOC, Kris Moelter, Jared Hoy, District 10 Court Administrator Scott K. Johnson, and Office of Court Operations Special Projects Manager Niki Leicht. Becki Ney, from the Center for Effective Public Policy consulted on structuring the training and assisted on reference identification.

Plans for future technical assistance to the county teams who participated in the training is planned for the next year to assist with resource identification, program planning, and implementation. ■

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Niki Leicht, Special Projects manager in the Office of Court Operations, at (608) 261-0684 or at niki.leicht@wicourts.gov.

PEOPLE *continued from page 19*

dedicated the Veterans Park in Brodhead. Dedicating the park was especially meaningful for Beer, whose 97-year-old father served in the Pacific theater during World War II. The elder Beer served in both the 32nd and 41st Divisions in Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, and Hiroshima. This past spring, the judge had the opportunity to escort his father on an honor flight to Washington D.C.

A recent editorial on Channel3000.com praised both the Wisconsin Supreme

Court and WisconsinEye for allowing the public access to the court's proceedings with cameras in the courtroom. Editorial director Neil Heinen noted that the Nov. 11 oral arguments regarding the "Act 10 case" ran for approximately four hours.

"We can never take this for granted, as there are states, and of course our own United States Supreme Court, that continue to refuse such openness," the editorial read. Heinen also commended the justices of the Supreme Court for their "honorable and respectful" behavior of the court during the proceedings. ■