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Truth-in-Sentencing takes effect

This month, Wisconsin took the final step in the transition from indeterminate to determinate sentencing. Judges prepared by participating in intensive truth-in-sentencing seminars offered by the Office of Judicial Education in Pewaukee and Wisconsin Rapids in January. Faculty included Reserve Judge Thomas H. Barland, Eau Claire; circuit court Judges Elsa C. Lamelas and Richard J. Sankovitz, Milwaukee County, and Patrick J. Fiedler, Dane County; and Professor Thomas Hammer, Marquette Law School.

Here is the latest Truth-in-Sentencing news:

Paperwork

For certain crimes committed on or after Feb. 1, 2003, judges must use sentencing guideline notes and worksheets. There are currently 11 different crimes for which sentencing guidelines have been developed. The forms need to be sent to the new Wisconsin Sentencing Commission at P.O. Box 7856, Madison, WI 53707-7856.

All of the necessary paperwork may be downloaded from the courts' Web site at www.wicourts.gov/circuit/Truth_In_Sentencing.htm.

The Sentencing Commission

The new, 21-person Wisconsin Sentencing Commission is not yet complete but is already experiencing

see **TIS** on page 17

Court staff analyzing budget

At press time, staff in the Director of State Courts Office was working to analyze the cuts contained in the governor's budget.

When it is determined what the cuts will mean to the court system, the Director of State Courts Office will advise the judges and staff. ■

Director of state courts announces retirement

Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran, the administrative head of the Wisconsin court system since Oct. 1, 1978, has announced that he will retire effective May 31. Moran, 60, was the first director of the reorganized court system.

As a lawyer, court administrator, and former law enforcement officer, Moran brought a broad range of skills and interests to the job. "It has been a privilege to serve the people and the courts of Wisconsin and to work with and get to know so many of you over the [past] 24 years,"

Moran wrote in a message to judges and court staff. "Our accomplishments have been both significant and lasting and have earned Wisconsin's court system a reputation as among the best in the country."

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson agreed. "Our judges and court staff are in demand on the faculty of national and international conferences because other jurisdictions recognize that Wisconsin is doing great things," she said. "Denis has been an important part of that."

The National Association for Court Management honored Moran in 2002

with its Award of Merit, given for "leadership and excellence in the advancement of the ideals and principles of modern judicial management and professional court management." Under Moran's leadership, the Wisconsin



J. Denis Moran

courts' commitment to excellence and innovation has led to numerous initiatives that jurisdictions around the nation and the world are replicating. One key project that has become a model for the nation is a state-of-the-art computer network in the circuit courts. The automation initiative,

now known as the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP), has made the courts more efficient and has facilitated information sharing with various state agencies in a timely and cost effective manner.

In addition to leading innovative projects, Moran has overseen management of the statewide system, leading efforts to improve courthouse security and customer service and to provide quality continuing education for the state's judges. With his staff and under the direction of the Supreme

see **Moran** on page 11

Voelker, Gervasi are appointed

The Supreme Court has appointed John Voelker as interim director of state courts and Sheryl Gervasi as interim deputy director for court operations. Both appointments are effective March 3.

Voelker has been with the court system for 11 years, the last five as the executive assistant to the chief justice. In this role, he has been responsible for a variety of system wide initiatives focused on issues such as courthouse safety and how to better serve self-represented litigants.

Gervasi has been with the court system since 1972. As legislative liaison in the Director of State Courts Office, she works with the Legislature and with numerous court committees on issues that affect the judicial system.

Gervasi and Voelker will adopt their new duties in addition to covering their previous positions. ■



John Voelker



Sheryl Gervasi

DOC changes offender supervision

by Richard F. Raemisch, administrator
Division of Community Corrections

Effective January 6, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Division of Community Corrections (DCC) began workload modification for probation agents that changes the way certain non-assaultive offenders are supervised.

The DCC currently supervises nearly 66,000 persons in the community who are on probation, parole or extended supervision.

A number of factors have led to the changes. First, the budget adjustment bill passed by the Legislature last year reduced the DCC by 90 positions, 76 of which were probation and parole agents. Second, the offender population continues to grow; in October and November 2002, this population increased by more than 2,500 new offenders. Third, the DOC completed a new time study of agents' workloads. Since 1989, when the last study was conducted, many new initiatives have affected agent workload. These include, but are not limited to: electronic monitoring, intensive supervision of sex offenders, and changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In November and December 2002, the DCC briefed the Committee of Chief Judges and the district court administrators, in addition to the public defenders and district attorneys, on the supervision changes.

There are six levels of supervision for offenders on probation, parole, or extended supervision (*see sidebar*). The DCC has made the following modifications:

- 1) Non-assaultive misdemeanor cases with no assaultive history are to be supervised no higher than medium. Misdemeanors with enhanced penalties will be treated the same as felonies.
- 2) Offenders serving more than 60 days of jail time will be supervised no higher than medium until the last 30 days of the confinement.
- 3) All cases on an extension for financial reasons only will not exceed medium.
- 4) All non-assaultive probations with no assaultive history, serving a probation of one year or less, will be supervised at minimum.

Some of the types of cases that might be affected are listed below. During 2001, the department opened misdemeanor probation cases for these offenses, which accounted for more than 10,000 new probation cases that year:

- ♦ 3,750 thefts and shoplifting
- ♦ 2,600 simple possession of controlled substances
- ♦ 1,300 misdemeanor bail jumping
- ♦ 1,700 damage to property
- ♦ 660 worthless checks
- ♦ 400 trespass to building

Here is the process: During the initial 30 days of supervision, a person placed on probation for a non-assaultive misdemeanor will meet with a Probation and Parole agent, receive and sign rules of supervision, and complete a brief social history questionnaire. The agent will review the judgment of conviction and criminal complaint, verify the offender's prior criminal history, and visit the offender's residence.

The agent then will complete an initial classification document, assessing risk and need factors and developing a case plan to address court-ordered conditions,

see **DOC** on page 14

The levels of supervision

There are six levels of supervision for offenders on probation, parole, or extended supervision. They are:

Intensive (used for sex offenders only)

One face-to-face contact every seven days; one home visit every 30 days (no waivers; offender or collateral contact required); two collateral contacts every 30 days. Monthly contact with employer.

High risk

One face-to-face contact every seven days; one home visit every 30 days (agent must enter the home); monthly verification of employment and other collaterals as appropriate.

Maximum

One face-to-face contact by an agent every 14 days; home visits once every 30 days; collateral contacts as appropriate.

Medium

One face-to-face contact every 30 days; home visits every 60 days.

Minimum

One face-to-face contact every 90 days, with report form mailed by offender during non-report months. Home visits as appropriate.

Administrative

One face-to-face contact every six months, with reports by mail or phone during non-report months. Home visits as appropriate.

2003 ELECTION

Judicial campaigns heat up

Thirteen judicial races are underway across the state, including seven in which an incumbent is facing a challenge. Voters went to the polls on February 18 to narrow the fields in circuit court races in Adams, Burnett, Dane, Milwaukee, and Polk counties and to select the two candidates who will face off on April 1 for the Supreme Court.

Here is a rundown of the races (the varying amount of information reflects what the candidates provided):

Supreme Court of Wisconsin Brunner v. Roggensack



Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner

In a race that one editorial writer called Wisconsin's "most important political contest of 2003," Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner of Barron County is matched against Court of Appeals Judge Patience D. Roggensack of Madison in the race to replace Justice William A. Bablitch, who will retire this summer after 20 years on the Supreme Court.

Roggensack came out on top in the primary, with 107,500 votes to Brunner's 89,000. Finishing in third place was Dane County Circuit Court Judge Paul B. Higginbotham with 77,500 votes. Higginbotham was the first-place finisher in two counties – Dane and Douglas – and he placed second to Roggensack in Milwaukee County.

In his campaign, Brunner is emphasizing two things: a commitment to taking what he calls "the high road to the

high court" by refusing to accept campaign contributions from political action committees (PACs), and an approach to judging that emphasizes innovation.

Roggensack, 62, also is focusing on two things: her emphasis on clear and concise communication in the opinions she authors, and her seven years of experience on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. She points out that no Court of Appeals judge ever has sat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and suggests that the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court need to work more closely together as an "appellate team" to increase the number of cases handled by the Supreme Court and improve the processing of appeals. Roggensack has said that the state's highest court could double its output and issue opinions that are shorter and clearer.



Judge Patience D. Roggensack

In response to Brunner's no-PAC vow, Roggensack declared her support for increased public funding of judicial campaigns but said that PACs are not inherently bad.

Brunner, who celebrated his 55th birthday on Election Day, is emphasizing his leadership as both a chief judge and an innovative jurist who has developed restorative justice programs in his community. He believes judges have a responsibility to continually innovate, think creatively, and find ways to improve the administration of justice. In his 15 years as a judge, Brunner has led efforts to better serve self-represented litigants in his 13-county northwest Wisconsin district and has improved the treatment of children in need of protection and/or services by starting child advocacy teams. He also has developed a system for solving jurisdictional disputes with the tribal courts.

Roggensack, too, has been involved in judicial

see **Elections** on page 21

The rest of the story...

The following judges are unopposed for election or reelection:

Court of Appeals Judges Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr., Michael W. Hoover, and David G. Deininger; Brown County Circuit Court Judges William M. Atkinson, J.D. McKay, and Donald R. Zuidmulder; Columbia County Circuit Court Judges Daniel S. George and Richard L. Rehm; Dane County Circuit Court Judges Angela B. Bartell, Moria Krueger, Daniel R. Moeser, and Michael N. Nowakowski; Douglas County Circuit Court Judges George T. Glonek and Michael T. Lucci; Dunn County Circuit Court Judge Rod W. Smeltzer; Fond du Lac County Circuit Court Judge Richard J. Nuss; Grant County Circuit Court Judge George S. Curry; Jefferson County Circuit Court Judges Jacqueline R. Erwin and John M. Ullsvik; Kenosha County Circuit Court Judges David M. Bastianelli, Mary K. Wagner, and Wilbur W. Warren III; La Crosse County Circuit Court Judges Dennis G. Montabon and John J. Perlich; Lafayette County Circuit Court Judge William D. Johnston; Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Jeffrey A. Conen, M. Joseph Donald, Jean W. DiMotto, Michael J. Dwyer, Clare L. Fiorenza, David A. Hansher, Richard J. Sankovitz, and Timothy Witkowiak; Outagamie County Circuit Court Judges Michael W. Gage and Dennis C. Luebke; Ozaukee County Circuit Court Judges Paul V. Malloy and Joseph D. McCormack; Racine County Circuit Court Judge Faye M. Flancher, Wayne J. Marik, and Alan B. "Pat" Torhorst; Richland County Circuit Court Judge Edward E. Leineweber; Rock County Circuit Court Judges John W. Roethe and Richard T. Werner; Sawyer County Circuit Court Judge Norman L. Yackel; Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge L. Edward Stengel; Walworth County Circuit Court Judge John R. Race; Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Eugene D. Harrington; Waukesha County Circuit Court Judges J. Mac Davis and James R. Kieffer; and Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Bruce K. Schmidt.

Winter
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AWARDS

Haase honored for mediation efforts

Judge Robert A. Haase, Winnebago County Circuit Court, was the recipient of the Wisconsin Association of Mediators' 2002 Distinguished Service Award.

Initiated 12 years ago and spearheaded by Haase, the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. currently has 57 volunteer mediators and a waiting list for its annual mediator training.

Past award winners include Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Governor Jim Doyle.

Nichol is named 'Judge of the Year'



Judge Gerald C. Nichol

Judge Gerald C. Nichol, on the bench in Dane County Circuit Court for 15 years, has been named 'Judge of the Year' by the State Bar of Wisconsin's Bench/Bar Committee. Nichol is the first Dane County judge ever to win the award.

According to the State Bar, the award honors a judge who "displays high ideals, personal character, [and] judicial excellence and who is a leader in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education or innovative programs."

Nichol has presided over many high-profile trials, including the first murder trial in Dane County that relied upon DNA evidence. He also has been active in judicial administration, serving on the Judicial Education Committee and the board of directors of the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

Past recipients of this award include circuit court Judges Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County; Thomas H. Barland, Eau Claire County; Dennis J. Barry, Racine County; Harold V. Froehlich, Outagamie County; Michael P. Sullivan, Milwaukee County; and Gary L. Carlson, Taylor County.

Snyder honored for lifetime achievement



Judge Patrick L. Snyder

Judge Patrick L. Snyder, Waukesha County Circuit Court, has been chosen for the State Bar of Wisconsin's 'Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award' to be presented during the Member Recognition Luncheon at the Bar's May convention in Milwaukee.

The award recognizes a jurist with at least 12 years' experience as a trial judge who has demonstrated outstanding service during their years as a sitting judge.

Snyder will retire in June after more than 25 years on the bench in Waukesha County (*see separate story*).

Past recipients include Judges Edwin Dahlberg, Myron L. Gordon, John A. Decker, Patrick T. Sheedy, Peter G. Pappas, Mark J. Farnum, and P. Charles Jones.

Trial lawyers honor Sullivan for 25 years of service

In December, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers (WATL) recognized Milwaukee County Judge Michael P. Sullivan for his 25 years of service on the bench and presiding over 500 jury trials.

Sullivan was elected to the Milwaukee County bench in 1977. He is currently deputy chief judge and will become

District One's chief judge on August 1 upon the retirement of Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski (*see separate story*).

WATL President Lynn R. Laufenberg, Milwaukee, praised Sullivan, saying, "I have had the privilege of trying cases in Judge Sullivan's courtroom. He epitomizes the best in a trial court judge. He is firm, fair, and informed. He treats parties and counsel alike with respect. But, more importantly, he treats jurors with respect. In this age when jury duty, particularly in Milwaukee County, is viewed as a burden, Judge Sullivan conveys to the jury the very important role they play in our civil justice system."

White wins Sacagawea Award

Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, will be honored with the Sacagawea Award (from Professional Dimensions, Inc.) at a March 6 program at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee.

The award is named for the Native American woman who led Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition to find the Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. UW Milwaukee Chancellor Nancy Zimpher is the other 2003 honoree.

A national three-year celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's expedition began in fall 2002. The awards dinner will include a presentation by Amy Mossett, co-chair of the Bicentennial Council's Sacagawea tribute, and a member of the Mandan and Hidatsa tribes of North Dakota.

In announcing White's selection for the honor, the group wrote: "White encourages success in the next generation not only by being a role model, but also by providing guidance and advice to other women who have chosen the law as a career, and younger women who are still considering their path." ■



Judge Maxine A. White



Deputy Chief Judge Michael P. Sullivan, District One, receives an award for 25 years of service from Atty. Dan Stevens of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers. Stevens presented Sullivan with a three-foot gavel from the organization.

Confidentiality Project releases recommendations on information sharing

by Cheryl Calder, director
Court Improvement Program

Judges, law enforcement, medical professionals, social workers, school staff, attorneys, and others will soon have an opportunity to review recommended changes in how information about children is shared. The recommendations will be distributed through regional summits in 2003, although a definite timetable has not been set.

The recommendations come from the Confidentiality Advisory Board, which is comprised of 50 people who represent the many diverse groups – doctors, teachers, social workers, judges, juvenile clerks, tribal leaders, and more – that work with children. The board works under the Confidentiality Project, a partnership between the Director of State Courts Office and the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

The proposed changes are meant to improve information sharing to protect the safety and well being of children involved with the law or social services. They are as follows:

Considerations for changes in the law

Develop a uniform statutory definition for the term “record” that addresses the issue of electronic records.

Education

Compile in one volume state and federal laws dealing with confidentiality that affect family members involved in children’s court proceedings.

CCAP unveils new, improved WCCA

On April 5, 1999, the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA) system opened its doors in cyberspace, allowing anyone with access to the Internet to search circuit court records by typing in an individual’s name.

WCCA had been up for less than two years when it began to receive national attention as a model system for providing the public with access to government records. Now, an estimated 511,000 individual queries are processed by WCCA every day.

In February 2003, CCAP unveiled a new and improved WCCA following recommendations from two committees: an oversight committee focusing on policy questions such as what information should be provided on the site and a redesign committee focusing on data clarity, functionality, and appearance.

WCCA’s new look makes the presentation of court information more understandable to the public. A separate version of WCCA that contains confidential court case information will be available to justice agency partners.

Finally, an improved management system for monitoring the various servers that feed into WCCA will assist in identifying bottlenecks in transferring data and resolving problems more quickly. ■

Develop a guide for parents explaining the process for releasing information and their options when deciding whether to sign consents for release of their child’s records.

Develop a guide for new system participants. The guide would include a philosophical statement; answers to questions about release of specific records to specific system participants; the relevant laws; sample releases of information; and best practices guides.

Support training in confidentiality issues specific to domestic violence.

Education Coordination

Discuss the creation of an information clearinghouse, panel or ombudsman as a resource to ensure information-sharing guidelines are understood. This entity might develop multidisciplinary training in confidentiality issues; a process for updating confidentiality information; and model forms, practice guidelines, and agency agreements or memoranda of understanding for use with service teams representing various agencies. ■

For more information, contact Calder at (608) 266-1557 or cheryl.calder@courts.state.wi.us.

New Web address and e-mail accounts on tap

The Wisconsin court system has a new address in cyberspace: www.wicourts.gov. The shorter, more easily pronounceable url replaced the www.courts.state.wi.us address in December. By the end of 2003, the lengthy e-mail addresses for court personnel will also change, swapping the current variety of suffixes for

“@wicourts.gov.”

This is one of many e-mail changes on tap. Simultaneously, Court personnel will be transferred onto the Novell GroupWise e-mail package with conversions starting in 2003. Among other features, this system will allow Consolidated Court Automation Program

(CCAP) users to check their e-mail from remote locations.

The upgraded system will be tested, configured, and installed throughout 2003; the accounts in the circuit courts are expected to be easiest to transition and those personnel, therefore, will be converted first. Employees in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Director of State Courts Office will be implemented after that. Training will be provided to all court system users by CCAP on the new e-mail system. ■

The screenshot shows the 'Wisconsin Circuit Court Access' website. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Simple Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Judgment Search', 'Reports', 'FAQs', 'Links', 'Help', and 'Home'. Below this is the 'Simple Case Search' section. It features a search bar with a 'Search' button and a 'Records/Screen' dropdown menu set to '25'. There are also 'Reset' buttons. The search criteria include:

- Party Name:** Fields for Last, First, and Middle names. A checkbox option is available: 'When searching using the Middle Name field, also show parties without a middle name'. Below this is a note: 'Enter at least 3 characters of the last name and either a first or middle name. If you do not know the full name, enter part of the name and the wildcard symbol: *'.
- Birth Date:** A date field with an example: '11/10/1977'.
- Business Name:** A text field with a note: 'Enter at least 3 characters of the business name. If you do not know the full name, enter part of the name and the wildcard symbol: *'. Example: 'Acme'.
- County:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'Statewide'.
- Case Number:** A text field with an example: 'Type 02cfl for case 2002CF000001'.

 At the bottom of the search section, there are 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons.

Winter
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Office of Lawyer Regulation consolidates in Madison

The Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR), which currently has offices in Madison and Milwaukee, will close its Milwaukee branch, located at 342 North Water St., in January 2004. Consolidating the offices will save money, increase efficiency, and improve the management of investigations. The consolidation is part of an ongoing transition to a new lawyer regulation system.

The Supreme Court established the OLR two years ago after careful review and public hearings. OLR replaced the Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility in 2000 and is now fully established and performing well.

One feature of the OLR is central intake, established in January 2001. Through central intake, the public may call a toll-free number – (877) 315-6941 – to file a grievance. The result has been a 60 percent increase in the number of grievances submitted. The majority of grievances stem from criminal and family law cases. All new matters are now received and evaluated at the Capitol Square office in downtown Madison.

“A significant change in the structure of our office makes

sense at this point,” said OLR Director Keith Sellen. “The office in Milwaukee has performed an important role for many years, but the future need for staff in Milwaukee is substantially outweighed by the advantages of a consolidated office.”

Consolidating the staff in Madison will provide two important advantages, Sellen said. Redundant office functions and expenses will be saved and a program assistant position can be converted to an investigator position. The deputy directors, who currently manage multiple and redundant functions in their respective locations, will focus their energies on managing one function, either central intake or formal investigations, to further improve the quality and timeliness of the process.

“The important goals of ensuring access to, and confidence in, the system will be accomplished well by a consolidated office,” Sellen said. “Taking advantage of our new system’s strengths will further improve the system’s ability to carry out the Supreme Court’s responsibility to supervise the profession and protect the public.” ■

Court reporters tackle shortage

by Roberta Bitler, *president-elect*

Wisconsin Court Reporters Association

In the past two or three years, student recruitment has become the number one priority for the state and national court reporter associations. Numbers from the National Court Reporters Association show that these efforts are paying off. Reflecting a national trend, Wisconsin court reporting programs show enrollments that are double and triple what they were in 2001. At Madison Area Technical College, 22 students began the program in 2001; in fall 2002, that jumped to 75-80 beginning students. Lakeshore Technical Institute doubled its 2001 enrollment of 25 beginners; fall 2002 brought in 50 new students.

This news is cause for celebration in the courts where, for many years, administrators have been coping with a shortage of official court reporters. In some areas of the state, vacancies remain open for extended periods and court reporters must travel from courthouses in neighboring counties to provide coverage. In 1998, the Supreme Court’s Planning and Policy Advisory Committee appointed a multidisciplinary group to study this issue and make recommendations. The group’s report, released in August 2000, recommended that back-up technology be made available in each

courthouse to ensure preservation of the court record and reduce the number of court cancellations due to the lack of a court reporter. It also recommended that the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association (WCRA) increase its recruitment efforts.

Since then, WCRA members have given dozens of demonstrations at schools throughout the state. The association raises money at its conventions for student scholarships and recruitment and awards a \$500 scholarship each year to a student from each Wisconsin court reporting program. They anticipate giving two scholarships to each school: one for a judicial reporting student and one for a broadcast captioning student.

Recently, several association members have attended the annual Wisconsin School Counselors Convention in Stevens Point. At their booth they demonstrate reporting skills, talk about the opportunities available as a court reporter, and the exciting future in television captioning. As a result of making contact with counselors who invite the court reporters to their schools, this year alone they had requests from 18 schools for more information and/or demonstrations.

The state and national members have also been busy writing letters, e-mailing, and calling members of Congress to secure funding for court reporting schools to help recruit and train reporters. H.R. 2527 and S. 2512, the Training for Closed Captioners Act of 2001, are bills that will authorize the spending of up to \$15 million per year for the recruitment and training of court reporters and captioners. Thanks to these efforts, Madison Area Technical College and Lakeshore Technical Institute in Cleveland, Wisconsin received \$500,000 this year to update their programs and recruit new students.

The WCRA is very excited about this growth in students and what it means to the reporting profession. They believe a live reporter using real-time and computer-aided transcription is the best way to preserve the record, the fastest, most efficient way to produce transcripts, and the best way to keep our court system moving. Court reporters are the only currently viable voice-to-print technology out there, and they intend to stay that way. ■

Bitler is an official court reporter in Burnett County. She can be reached at edbert@sirentel.net.

Milwaukee unveils new PSA campaign to recruit foster families

Four years ago, Mary Patterson was a divorced mother of two who worked at a law firm and supplemented her income by mentoring and tutoring children. Then, a 12-year-old boy named Benny – a runaway from foster care who was living in a group home – asked a question that would change the direction of Patterson's life: he wondered if he could come live with her.

Before giving Benny an answer, Patterson talked with her own two children – Jerrell, who was 13, and Victoria, six. They agreed that they would open their home, and when they gave Benny the news, he responded with another question: would they consider taking his friend, 16-year-old Darnell, as well? Another yes, and another question: what about Darnell's 12-year-old sister? And so the family grew and Patterson's life took a new direction. She quit her job and became licensed as a treatment foster parent with Children's Service Society. She may have up to four children at a time.

"Right away they started calling me Mom, and I realized that these kids needed a home," Patterson said. Darnell is now grown and living on his own, managing a Taco Bell, while his sister remains with Patterson and maintains a 4.0 average in school. Benny struggles in school, but Patterson has seen to it that he receives all the services to which he is entitled. "I fight for my kids," Patterson said. Benny excels at work, maintaining a part-time job during the school year. Last summer, his employer honored him with its "Employee of the Summer" award.

Patterson has two additional foster children, Andre and Siedah. Andre, 14, had been in several foster homes and – like all the others – has various learning disabilities and an attachment disorder. He witnessed violence at a young age and began his stay with Patterson by "putting me through a lot of tests," she said. "He'd hit the walls, scream. He was being kicked out of school every day." Still, she lived up to the promise she made him and all of her foster children: they are in her home to stay unless they choose to leave. "I will not throw them out. I tell them, 'when you're with me, it's for keeps.'" Andre trusts her now, she said, and he is improving in school.

Siedah had been in foster care with an elderly woman who did not provide structure, so life with Patterson took some getting used to. "I'm very structured," Patterson said. Once Siedah adjusted to having chores, doing her schoolwork, and generally being accountable, her attitude changed and her grades improved dramatically. She came to Patterson with a .5 grade point average and has raised that to a 2.5.

Patterson and her foster children (while she considers them her sons and daughters, she does not intend to adopt them; she says this would cut off many of the services they

currently receive) – and several other families – are featured in a new series of public service announcements (PSAs) designed to heighten awareness of the need for foster and adoptive families for children who have been abused and/or neglected. All Milwaukee television stations donated airtime for the campaign, called "A Place in Your Heart/A Place in Your Home," during 10 days in January. Channels 4 and 58 and Time Warner Cable made a commitment to continue showing them through the end of January, and channel 58 is exploring translating them into Spanish.

Judge Christopher R. Foley, presiding judge in the Milwaukee County Children's Division, led the effort to develop the media campaign. He also spearheaded a project to recruit foster and adoptive families through faith communities, meeting with religious leaders to encourage them to share the message and speaking from the pulpit of his own church. Foley has seen too many kids slip through the cracks in his 18 years on the bench; as a community leader and a father of seven, he has committed himself to making a difference.

"[The media campaign] is a remarkable example of the community responding to the needs of children and families and making the needs of the children a moral imperative," he said. It is no less a tribute to Foley's ability to bring the right people together for a worthy cause. The PSAs were produced by Heather Wall, the wife of Milwaukee Children's Court Judge Joseph Wall, and directed by Bob



Judge Christopher R. Foley

Purman, an Emmy-award-winning director. Both Wall and Purman donated their time and nearly all of the other production work was also donated. Liz Finn-Gorski, Milwaukee's Juvenile Court coordinator, "also brought remarkable energy and drive to the project," Foley said.

While it's too early to gauge the success of the PSA campaign, Foley reported that just the pre-publicity – generated from a kick-off celebration at Children's Court that brought

together foster and adoptive parents with dignitaries including Justice Ann Walsh Bradley (herself an adoptive parent), District Attorney E. Michael McCann, County Executive Scott Walker, Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, Milwaukee Brewers President Ulice Payne, and many others – led to 50 calls at the foster care licensing agency before the PSAs hit the airwaves. Since the PSAs aired, Foley said, he has heard reports of phones "ringing off the hook."

The campaign comes at a time when the fortunes of
see PSAs on page 11



Mary Patterson, her children, and foster children appear in one of the public service announcements.

LEADERSHIP

Milwaukee judges build partnership with inner-city schools

When the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) make the headlines, the news is often bleak: high dropout rates, low test scores, school violence, and a budget shortfall that may force cuts in art, music, and field trips.

The kids who are absent from school often turn up in the criminal justice system; the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that nearly half of all state prison inmates are high school dropouts. Many judges who have daily contact with these kids have searched for a way to give them some direction in life, but the frustrating truth is that a 10-minute courtroom lecture cannot rewire a life.

Increasingly, judges are becoming involved in efforts to keep kids out of the courts. They are working with schools to set up teen tribunals, organizing restorative justice programs that force young offenders to meet with their victims, and working more directly with families in crisis. Judges Carl Ashley and Jeffrey A. Wagner count themselves among the judges searching for ways to keep kids out of the court system, and they're not shy about recruiting their Milwaukee County Circuit Court colleagues for the cause.

Their latest effort is a partnership between MPS and the Milwaukee Circuit Court that pairs judges with schools to build positive, lasting relationships. Classes at seven Milwaukee middle schools have been

matched with 13 judges for meetings at court and at school, on-line question-and-answer sessions, and videoconferences. "It allows a class or classes to have a direct relationship with a judge," Ashley said, "so that over a semester, there is at minimum one visit by the judge to the school, a



Judge Carl Ashley



Judge Jeffrey A. Wagner

visit by the kids to the court, a videoconference, a dialogue over the Internet, and the teacher talking to the kids about what's going on in the courts."

Ashley and Wagner worked for more than a year to start the program. The idea came out of a visit to Ashley's court by Sue Simkowski, a technology coordinator for MPS. Simkowski told Ashley that the schools were looking for ways to work with the courts and were especially interested in incorporating technology into any new program. Ashley spoke to Wagner and the two had breakfast with then-Superintendent Spence Korte, who encouraged them to meet with teachers and school personnel. They organized a brainstorming session at

one of the schools and followed up with numerous planning meetings.

The program was rolled out last month with the judges and teachers at each school meeting to structure a semester's worth of activities. At Bell Middle School, Ashley has personally met, and conducted a videoconference

with, the students of teacher Angela McLaughlin. The next step is bringing the students to the courtroom. At John Muir Middle School, Judges William W. Brash III and Marshall B. Murray set up their initial meetings with 7th grade social studies classes for two days in February. The judges will give the students an overview of the court system, focusing on the

various players and proceedings and defining some common legal terms to prepare them for a visit to court. In between, the students and judges will hold discussions in the MPS Internet chat room named for Prometheus, the mythological hero who stole fire and gave it humankind as a gift.

Monique Bell, director of curriculum at John Muir, hopes that the program will give the students a positive rapport with judges and a new perspective and better understanding of the work of the courts. "The judges and court staff can give the students an awareness of occupations and what it takes to work in that environment," she said. "They can be positive role models in the children's lives." ■

The judge-school pairings

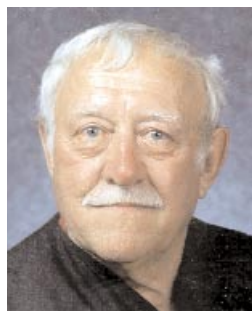
Audubon Technology and Communication Center	Mary M. Kuhnmuensch and Jeffrey A. Kremers
Bell Middle School	Carl Ashley
Hartford Middle School	Richard J. Sankovitz and Louis B. Butler Jr.
Milwaukee Education Center	Maxine A. White and Jeffrey A. Wagner
Muir Middle School	Marshall B. Murray and William W. Brash III
Steuben Middle School	M. Joseph Donald and Kevin E. Martens
Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning	Michael G. Malmstadt and Elsa C. Lamelas

RETIREMENTS

Courts lose nearly 150 years of experience with seven retirements

Five longtime circuit court judges will retire from the bench as of July 31, taking with them years of knowledge and experience – but leaving in place a legacy of service to the public and the legal profession that will continue to pay dividends for the people of the state. In addition, two longtime court staffers – a judicial clerk and a court reporter – are bidding the courts farewell after 29-year careers.

Judge Richard J. Callaway Dane County Circuit Court



Judge Richard J. Callaway

After 13 years in Dane County Circuit Court, Judge Richard J. Callaway is retiring from the bench. Callaway said he felt proud to have been given the opportunity to serve the public. “I have seen many excellent lawyers, and I’ll miss the camaraderie and banter with them,” he said. “I will also miss working with juries.”

Although Callaway has presided in each division, he said his favorite was civil. “This is probably because I was a civil litigator for 30 years,” he said, adding, “One of the cases that I found most interesting was a civil trial resulting from a fire in a warehouse used for document storage.” He said he

has been lucky not to have experienced any frightening moments on the bench, but he has seen so many humorous ones that “I could write a book!”

In retirement, Callaway plans to travel, a goal easily accomplished since he is an instrument rated pilot with 4,000 hours in the air. Callaway said he once flew his wife to Alaska in their Cessna 182, and they spent a month exploring the state. Another favorite destination is a spot north of Thunder Bay, Canada, where Callaway has owned a cabin since 1961. As the cabin has no electricity or telephone, “it provides a perfect way to get away from it all,” according to Callaway. He also plans to serve as a reserve judge.

Judicial Clerk Kathy J. Freid Eau Claire County Circuit Court



Kathy J. Freid

In her 29-year career as criminal judicial clerk in the Eau Claire Clerk of Circuit Courts Office, Kathy J. Freid grew accustomed to change.

Just a few years into her tenure, the courts were reorganized to eliminate county judges, add the Court of Appeals, and create a central administrative office. Then, when she became comfortable with the system and its procedures, circuit court automation was introduced. In between, she lived through multiple construction projects and welcomed and bade farewell to three clerks of court, ten judges, five district attorneys, and four sheriffs.

Clerk of Circuit Court Diana Miller said Freid’s departure left a hole that cannot easily be filled. Her institutional knowledge and relationships with the judges and local attorneys made her an incredibly valuable employee, Miller said, but her personality and friendship is what office staff will miss most.

Eyes of a Child conference draws nearly 200

About 190 guardians *ad litem* from around Wisconsin turned out for the *Fourth Annual Through the Eyes of a Child* conference held in the Wisconsin Dells in November.

Attendance has grown each year, and was up about 25 percent from the previous conference.

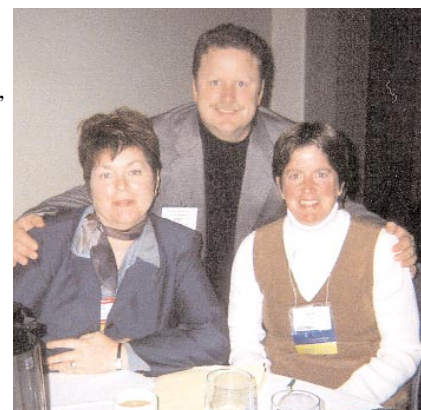
The conference targets guardian *ad litem* practice

issues and features experts in law, medicine, child development, child welfare, and domestic violence. This year’s wide-ranging topics included recognizing cultural differences,

understanding personality disorders, and examining the exposure of children to domestic violence. Participants earned continuing legal education, judicial education, social work, guardian *ad litem*, and ethics credits.

Emphasizing a multi-disciplinary philosophy on advocating for children, sponsors included the Court Improvement Program within the Director of State Courts Office, the State Bar’s Children and the Law Section, the Department of Justice Children’s Justice Act Program, the Department of Health and Family Services Division of Children and Family Services, the University of Wisconsin Extension Family Living Programs, and the Wisconsin Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. ■

Planning for next year’s conference is already underway; it will be held Nov. 13-14, 2004. For information, contact Program Director Cheryl Calder at (608) 266-1557 or Cheryl.calder@courts.state.wi.us.



Taking a break at the *Fourth Annual Through the Eyes of a Child conference in Wisconsin Dells* are (from left to right) Kitty Kocol, executive director of Crime Victim Services; Patrick Brummond, district court administrator; and Ann Rulseh, Children’s Justice Act grant coordinator.

NEW FACES

Margaret Brady
Human Resources Officer

Margaret Brady

Margaret Brady, who worked briefly for the Director of State Courts Office two years ago to revise and update the employee manual, has returned to the court system as human resources officer. Brady began work on January 6, replacing Lee Isaacson who returned to his former position with the state Department of Financial Institutions (*see The Third*

Branch, fall 2002).

Brady said she is enjoying being part of the court system's management team. "The public's high expectations of the courts' services combined with the current budget situation will create many human resources challenges that need to be addressed," she said. "I am confident that we will be able to respond effectively to these challenges."

Brady's most recent position was human resources director for the De Forest Area School District, where she had worked since 2001. She also served as the equal opportunity officer and diversity coordinator for the state Department of Revenue and as a human resource professional for Aurora Health Care, Inc. for more than 12 years.

She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in business administration/economics and is pursuing an MBA part-time at Edgewood College.

When she is not working, Brady spends her time enjoying her three sons, ages 16, 12, and eight. "These guys are the bright spot in my life," she said, "I feel privileged to be able to support them in any way I can."

Scott Johnson
District Court Administrator

Scott Johnson is a familiar face in a new location. Effective January 6, he became district court administrator for District Nine, headquartered in Wausau. The transfer followed four months of serving both District Nine and District Six (his original assignment, headquartered in Stevens Point) due to a vacancy in Wausau. The vacancy in Stevens Point will be posted soon.

Johnson joined the Wisconsin court system in November 1999. Prior to coming to Wisconsin, he worked in court administration in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oregon.

"Although Scott will be missed by those in the Sixth District, we are pleased that he is available for this new assignment," said Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran. "His experiences and enthusiasm will continue to be an asset in the Wisconsin judicial system."

At press time, Johnson had just been called to active military duty. Districts six and nine will be covered by some of the other eight district court administrators in his absence.

Brian Lamprech
Fiscal Officer

As a certified public accountant, Brian Lamprech has spent his career crunching numbers for various state government agencies. On January 6, he joined the court system, replacing Pamela J. Radloff who was appointed deputy director for Management Services (*see The Third Branch, fall 2002*). "I think my biggest challenge right now is to learn about the court system so that I can be an effective fiscal officer," Lamprech said.

Most recently, Lamprech was chief of the Accounting Systems and Support Section for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and acting chief of the General Accounting Section. Prior to his five-year stint at the DNR, he spent eight and a half years at the state Controller's Office. He began his career at the Legislative Audit Bureau.

Lamprech is a native of the La Crosse area, where his parents, sister, and identical twin brother still reside. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

When he is not at work, Lamprech may be found at home in Sun Prairie with his wife, Terri, and their six-year-old son and twin three-and-a-half year old daughters. "Right now my hobby is finishing a playroom/craft area in the basement of our house," he said, "in hopes of regaining our living room."

Tina Nodolf
Supreme Court Marshal

As the first woman to serve as the Wisconsin Supreme Court's marshal, Tina Nodolf is making history. For her, it's familiar territory.

When Nodolf was a college student, she became the City of Platteville's first female police officer. Her father was chief of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Police Department and her older sister was a Dane County deputy sheriff, but Nodolf found after five years that law enforcement was not for her. She accepted an investigator position with the Public Defender's Office working out of the Appleton, Green Bay, and Manitowoc offices and spent the next two years investigating cases in six counties before moving into a position with Grant County where she created a program to help welfare recipients learn vocational skills. When that position was eliminated, she became a private investigator. Eventually, another move brought her to Madison and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Nodolf moved over to the Supreme Court on January 6, replacing James L. Jerney, who retired after 11 years of service (*see The Third Branch, fall 2002*). As marshal, she is responsible for calling the Court into session, timing oral arguments, maintaining security and decorum in the Hearing Room, and much more.

In a sense, she has been training for the job for many years.



Brian Lamprech



Tina Nodolf

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New Faces

continued from page 10

“As a child, I frequently played in the original Supreme Court building near Belmont with my two sisters and three brothers,” she said. “Our home was about 300 yards from First State Capitol State Park, and the caretaker was my Dad’s elderly cousin, who let us play house in the buildings.”

BBE welcomes new leadership

The Board of Bar Examiners (BBE), an 11-member body that evaluates the skills, character, and fitness of people seeking to practice law in Wisconsin and also writes and grades the bar examination, has a new chair and vice chair.

Judge Eric J. Wahl, a former U.S. attorney and FBI special agent who has served on the bench in Eau Claire County for 10 years, has been elected as the board’s chair. Joining Wahl as vice chair is Atty. John O. Olson, a partner in a Lake Geneva law firm. Olson is a litigator and a former district attorney and family court commissioner for Taylor County. He also served as U.S. attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin.

New to the BBE is Atty. Mary Beth Keppel, an assistant family court commissioner in Dane County since 1987. Keppel also served as an assistant district attorney for 10 years and has worked for Legal Aid and as a hearing examiner for the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations.

Members of the BBE are appointed by the Supreme Court and may serve a maximum of two, three-year terms. There are five seats for lawyers, three for judges and law school faculty, and three for non-lawyer members of the public. ■

To learn more about applying to serve on the BBE or another Supreme Court board or committee, visit the Volunteer Center on the court system Web site at www.wicourts.gov.

Wisconsin courts turn to users for direction

by Dan Wassink, senior policy analyst

With a nearly \$19,000 grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI), the Wisconsin court system is preparing to conduct – in late winter or early spring – a customer survey that will update the one completed in 1996. Wisconsin is one of 21 states around the nation that are surveying users as part of the new SJI Solutions Project, an effort to identify and develop solutions to the most serious problems confronting state courts.

It has been nearly seven years since the Wisconsin court system solicited the opinions of its users statewide. That effort, also funded by SJI, yielded very useful information, including the interesting finding that people’s perceptions of the courts do not necessarily depend on the outcome of their cases.

The new survey will be coordinated through the University of Wisconsin Survey Center and conducted by mail in the following 10 counties: Chippewa, Dane, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Jackson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Vilas, Washburn and Waupaca.

Approximately 1,200 individuals who were recently involved in family, civil, traffic, and small claims cases will be asked to rate the courts’ performance on such issues as case processing,

courtesy and responsiveness of staff, and court decisions. In addition, the courts will solicit feedback from individuals who have had no recent court contact and a comparison of the findings from these two groups will be used to assess the degree to which experience in court shapes people’s perceptions.

The Planning and Policy Advisory Committee’s (PPAC) Planning Subcommittee will use the results in its ongoing effort to identify and prioritize the critical issues facing Wisconsin courts. Until now, the subcommittee has solicited feedback from many internal sources but has lacked the resources to gather information from the general public.

Survey results will also be shared with court officials in other states. After analyzing the results, SJI will hold a national conference where attendees will identify the most promising solutions to the critical issues facing the courts. These solutions will be compiled into a catalog for replication across the country. ■

For more information about the Solutions Project and the 20 other survey projects around the nation, visit the SJI Web site at www.statejustice.org.

PSAs *continued from page 7*

Milwaukee’s foster children seem to be improving. Changes mandated under the Adoption and Safe Families Act and streamlined procedures that have been introduced in the Milwaukee courts are expediting adoptions in Milwaukee County; in 2002, judges in Milwaukee finalized 504 adoptions, a number nearly double the 2001 figure.

And in a move that spells more good news for the nearly 5,000 children in court-ordered out-of-home placement in Milwaukee County, the county and the courts have developed a partnership with the Helen Bader Foundation called “Building Families Through Adoption.” This will result in the construction of a new courtroom at the Milwaukee County Children’s Court Center that will enable the courts to process these cases more quickly. ■

Moran *continued from front page*

Court, he manages the court system budget and is responsible for a variety of administrative services for the system’s 800 employees statewide.

Moran said he appreciated the challenge and responsibility of his role as the chief non-judicial officer of the courts, and he thanked his staff and “the many judges, past and present, whose dedication, skill and tireless effort have made it so productive and enjoyable. The professional relationships I have developed with colleagues in and connected with the courts have been their own reward and have formed the foundation of many lifelong friendships by which I feel especially blessed.”

In retirement, Moran plans to remain active in court management on a consulting basis, and to work on his golf game – not necessarily in that order. ■

VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

Dodge County gets restorative justice grant

A new restorative justice program in Dodge County has received a \$55,000 grant from the Office of Justice Assistance. "This grant means that we will be able to get this program off the ground and demonstrate for the people of Dodge County that justice can be enhanced by involving not only the offender, but also the victim and the community as well," said Sandra Kaul, president of Restorative Justice for Dodge County, Inc.

Dodge County started organizing its restorative justice program in spring 2002 after learning about similar programs in other counties. Judges Andrew P. Bissonnette, Daniel W. Klossner, and John R. Storck have helped to lead the effort. "Once I heard about restorative justice and what impact it was having in other Wisconsin communities, I knew that we needed to bring it to Dodge County to benefit our citizens as well," Bissonnette said. "Restorative justice programs leave victims feeling safer and more satisfied, while reducing recidivism for young offenders."

The program's first focus will be mediation in cases involving first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders. These mediations bring together victims and offenders for a face-to-face meeting designed to promote accountability and bring closure. Generally, these mediations lead to a signed agreement stating what the offender will do to make the victim whole.

After the mediation project is established, the group plans to expand to victim impact panels, which are designed to give offenders an up-close look at the devastation that can

result from drunk driving. Victims spend about an hour relating their stories as offenders listen. According to an Outagamie County study, 14.7 percent of offenders who attended a victim impact panel committed another drunk driving offense; the recidivism rate among those who did not attend was 36.4 percent.

Though not yet underway, the restorative justice program has tremendous support from the community, Kaul said. The board includes members from the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Probation and Parole, the Partnership to Address Violence through Education (PAVE), Dodge County Human Services, the Dodge County Board, and local clergy.

The staff of Barron County Restorative Justice will provide training for volunteers. That program started in 1999, also with funding through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner, Barron County Circuit Court, initially organized the effort and then turned over operations to a nine-member volunteer board to encourage community support and ownership. "Barron County has been our mentor through this," said Kaul. "They have been wonderful in guiding us."

The Dodge County project is currently screening applicants for the position of director and hopes to have someone selected by the end of February. The director's first duty will be to recruit volunteers. ■

For more information contact Kaul at (920) 386-3805.

New database helps modest-means people find lawyers

During the year 2000, according to the Wisconsin *Pro Se* Working Group, about 30 percent of the family court cases, 60 percent of CHIPS cases, and 90 percent of small claims cases filed in Waukesha County involved at least one self-represented litigant.

Judge Michael O. Bohren was brand new on the bench in Waukesha County in 2000, and was struck by the number of *pro se* litigants. Less than a year later, having noted that many litigants wanted representation but did not believe they could afford it, he formulated an idea for a database of attorneys willing to either work *pro bono* or provide unbundled legal services.

The first step was updating a 15-year-old list of attorneys willing to take *pro bono* cases. Bohren contacted the Waukesha County Bar, where he found interest, but no funds; he turned next to the State Bar of Wisconsin. The State Bar's Project *Pro Bono* devoted a staff person to the effort and mailed out letters from Bohren on State Bar letterhead with return postcards to the approximately 600 attorneys in Waukesha County. The letter explained the effort and the postcard gave the lawyers an opportunity to



Judge Michael O. Bohren

volunteer to:

- ◆ Represent criminal defendants of modest means
- ◆ Accept court appointments to represent criminal defendants.
- ◆ Accept referrals in family and civil matters.
- ◆ Participate in TEAM PRO BONO project cases (TEAM PRO BONO takes civil and family cases referred by Legal Action of Wisconsin's Volunteer Lawyer Project).

Only about 50 of those 600 cards came back, but Bohren is already expanding the group by speaking to new lawyers as he meets them in the courthouse and encouraging them to participate. The group has grown to about 60, and he hopes to work with the county bar to boost that number by including the postcard in renewal-notice mailings.

The list of lawyers can be accessed and edited by every judge and the Clerk of Circuit Courts Office through an Intranet database that Bohren developed in cooperation with

see **Database** on page 16

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THE NATION CONNECTS TO WISCONSIN

Abrahamson, Nelson team up in Puerto Rico



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and her administrative assistant, Atty. Ingrid Nelson, pause during a class break to enjoy Puerto Rico's 85-degree weather.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and her administrative assistant, Atty. Ingrid Nelson, traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico in January to teach a four-day class at the University of Puerto Rico Law School. The class, "Judicial Decision Making and Appellate Procedure," was presented to 25 second- and third-year law students.

Abrahamson and Nelson welcomed Chief Justice José Andréu-García of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court and Judge Hiram Sánchez Martínez of the Court of Appeals as guest speakers in the class.

In their free time, the pair met with Chief Justice Dana Fabe of Alaska, who happened to be in town on a family vacation. They also visited a nearby rainforest.

Flanagan, White named to leadership posts with NAWJ

The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ)

elected two Wisconsin judges to leadership positions during its convention in Minneapolis.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Mel Flanagan and Maxine A. White both won seats on the organization's national board. In addition, Flanagan was elected vice president for publications, which will require her to produce the NAWJ newsletter three times per year. She also will sit on the Executive Committee.

In addition to the national board slot, White was appointed district director for District Nine of the NAWJ, which is comprised of Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In this capacity, White will help the group to meet its goals of providing education and interaction, promoting equal justice for all, and working to ensure that support is available to enable judges to achieve their full potential on the bench. ■



Judge Mel Flanagan



Judge Maxine A. White

THE WORLD CONNECTS TO WISCONSIN

How I spent my (autumn) vacation

by Kerry M. Connelly, district court administrator

A couple of years ago at the Judicial Conference, I attended a breakfast meeting of judges and staff who had participated in court projects overseas at no cost to the Wisconsin court system. Inspired by the discussion, I contacted a consulting firm that specializes in court projects in developing countries.

To my surprise, a firm contacted me to ask if I would accept a short-term assignment in Israel working with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. My piece of the project would consist of working with court personnel in Gaza City and Ramallah on a records management system. This is part of a larger rule-of-law project that consists of setting up model courts and court automation systems and assisting in personnel training and education. After discussions with my wife and District Two Chief Judge Gerald P. Ptacek, and a check of my atlas to locate Israel and the West Bank, I accepted the offer.

My perfunctory interest in Middle East politics was quickly turned into a keen awareness of the activities in the region. Prime Minister Sharon and Chairman Arafat quickly replaced Sherman and Farve in the newspapers for me.

I flew to Tel Aviv, Israel and stayed in Jerusalem at the American Colony Hotel. The hotel is within walking distance from the Old City of Jerusalem. My office was in Ramallah, a short distance from Jerusalem. My workweek

was Monday through Thursday, off on Friday, work on Saturday, and off on Sunday. (The Muslim Sabbath is on Friday; the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday; and the Christians mark the Sabbath on Sunday).

Every morning I would leave for work at 7. Another employee would pick me up and we would drive to Ramallah, which is about 15-20 minutes from Jerusalem.

However, we took a route that stretched the commute to about an hour because the most direct route is

through an area that is always congested and can be dangerous. We drove to an entrance at Bet El. Bet El is further away, but reserved for United Nations workers, diplomats, and foreign service employees. It is rarely busy and less dangerous. We worked until 4 p.m. and went straight back to Jerusalem. There's a curfew in the West Bank so it's important to be out of Ramallah by dark.



District Court Administrator Kerry Connelly, based in Racine, traveled to Israel to assist with a Palestinian court modernization project. Here, he poses by the "safe passage" sign.

World *continued from page 13*

Gaza City is farther from Jerusalem – about a one-and-a-half-hour drive – and I worked there for three days. The office in Gaza City is located several blocks from the courthouse. On my first day in Gaza, one of the employees did a presentation to the some members of the Palestinian Supreme Judicial Council on the benefits of the new automated case management system. The presentation went very well. The second time I was there, we conducted a meeting using teleconferencing. I was doing a presentation on file management and my interpreter and other staff were back in Ramallah.

The roads in Gaza City are very well maintained and the landscape in this region of Israel is much like southeast Wisconsin except for the olive groves and fields of other farm produce. The Gaza Strip runs along the Mediterranean and borders Egypt. It is approximately 25 miles long and five miles wide.

Getting into Gaza is more difficult and time consuming than getting into Ramallah. In Ramallah there is only one checkpoint with a small group of soldiers. In Gaza there are three checkpoints, including one that requires the Israelis to more carefully check our passports and other identification. We were also required to walk about 150 yards with soldiers on each side of the road carefully watching us. Needless to say, we walked straight and steady with no quick movements.

DOC *continued from page 2*

financial obligations and risk/need. The plan will articulate the expectations for the next six months, including treatment participation, a reasonable schedule of payments for restitution, other court obligations and supervision fees, and a reporting plan.

In the monthly contacts with the agent, the offender must report residence and employment status, earnings, any police contacts, vehicle changes, school attendance and any required treatment attendance. The agent reviews and evaluates progress toward the objectives specified in the case plan. At any point, the case plan may be modified to reflect changed circumstances.

If the agent's review of the offense and the prior criminal history reveals no assaultive, dangerous, violent or threatening behavior, the offender's classification will be set at medium, minimum, or administrative supervision. At most, the offender will be required to meet with his or her agent one time per month, with a home visit required every 60 days.

If the non-assaultive misdemeanor, with no violent prior offenses, has a probation term of one year or less, the supervision level will be set at minimum, requiring mailed-in reports each month and a face-to-face meeting with the agent every third month. ■

Raemisich, a former Dane County sheriff, is the newly appointed administrator of the Division of Community Corrections. He can be reached at (608) 240-5304.

The Palestinians treated me very well during my time in the West Bank and Gaza. There were no outward signs of hostility toward me even though they knew I was an American. I was able to walk in downtown Ramallah and Gaza without fear. Some people came up to me and welcomed me to their city. The staff with whom I worked included several Americans – one of them Jewish – and approximately 12 Palestinians (one was educated in the America and had a law degree). They were dedicated and hard working. They made me feel welcome and appreciated my willingness to visit their country.

During my limited free time, I visited Old Jerusalem, Bethlehem (Church of the Nativity), and the Israel Museum (Dead Sea Scrolls). I also took a bus tour that included a trip to Haifa, Ceseara, Akko, and the Grottos at Rosh Hanikra on the border between Israel and Lebanon.

All in all it was a very successful trip. I completed my assignment, met some wonderful people, and learned about life in the Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. My new knowledge of the area and its people continues to compel me to follow the news from the Mideast – although some days the sports page still has to come first. ■

Editor's note: Connelly used vacation time for this trip.

Supervision fees continue to rise

In 1996, the Wisconsin Legislature first enacted legislation creating supervision fees paid by offenders on state community-based supervision to offset the cost of corrections to the taxpayers. The statutes [Wis. Stats. § 304.074 (5)] also require the Department of Corrections to promulgate rules that set rates and establish procedures for collection.

Then, in the 2001 budget adjustment bill, the Legislature raised the amount offenders are to pay for supervision fees to nearly \$12 million each fiscal year and, at the same time, cut this amount from the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) budget. This sum is equal to 85 percent of the DCC's non-salary operating budget, which covers costs associated with doing home visits, as well as computers, telephones, and the extradition of absconders who are captured out-of-state.

In order to collect the nearly \$12 million removed from DCC's non-salary budget, the Legislature raised the daily supervision fee payment to "...at least \$2.00 per day."

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, offenders were expected to pay in a total of about \$5.4 million, and this amount of money was removed from the DCC's operating budget.

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PEOPLE



Justice Diane S. Sykes

Justice **Diane S. Sykes** was in Oshkosh in January to swear in the new Winnebago County district attorney, **William Lennon**. The *Oshkosh Northwestern* captured the moment under the headline, "New era for district attorney's office." Lennon defeated incumbent **Joseph Paulus** in the Republican primary and Democratic challenger **Brad Priebe** in the November general election. The race became national news after an assistant district attorney secretly recorded Paulus detailing a sexual exploit in his office.

Beloit and Janesville have joined together to share information on juveniles who may pose a danger. **Gary Rau**, safety coordinator for the Janesville School District, told *The Janesville Gazette* that by sharing information among all agencies in a timely manner, officials hope to help kids who have the potential to become violent. The police departments in Beloit and Janesville, along with Rock County Human Services, District Attorney **David O'Leary**, and Judge **Richard T. Werner** of the Rock County Circuit Court's Juvenile Division, signed an agreement to formalize their commitment to share information about potentially dangerous juveniles. In the future, all Rock County school districts and law enforcement agencies will be asked to join.

A longtime collector of Native American artifacts, Judge **James R. Beer**, Green County Circuit Court, was recently featured in the *Monroe Times* showing off his impressive collection. Beer began collecting in junior high school and has exhibited his collection at artifacts shows. His most important find was a copper spear point with a sharp tool inside. He uncovered the item in Oneida County in 1987 and said *Prehistoric American Magazine* called it "the finest copper cache ever found."

More Wisconsin judges are holding people who skip jury duty accountable for shirking their obligation. Last spring, after noting that the number of jury duty no-shows was on the rise, Judge **James P. Daley** made headlines around the state by summoning the recalcitrant citizens to court and lecturing them on civic duty. After Daley pointed out that they faced contempt of court citations and hefty fines, the jurors made themselves available the following week.

More recently, judges in Dane and Dunn counties have followed suit. Judge **Steven D. Ebert**, Dane County Circuit Court, was selected by his fellow judges to take no-show jurors to task. In January, he summoned nine jurors to his courtroom, seated them in the jury box, and questioned each about the reason for the lack of response. After hearing about a variety of conflicts, Ebert found the nine in contempt of court but withheld fines for those who wished to sign up for the next jury call; all nine took the offer. The media were present for this hearing and wrote extensively on this new effort, including Ebert's warning that the next batch of reluctant jurors would be brought in soon.

In Dunn County, Judges **William C. Stewart Jr.** and **Rod W. Smeltzer** are also summoning those who fail to

appear. "We want the people of Dunn County not to look at it as a negative imposition, but as a responsibility citizens need to take seriously," Smeltzer said. The *Leader-Telegram* (Eau Claire) reported that Reserve Judge **Thomas H. Barland**, Eau Claire County Circuit Court, initiated a similar effort summoning non-responders to court. The response rate improved from 89 percent to 99.4 percent.

The Reporter (Fond du Lac) was there when Judge **Robert J. Wirtz**, Fond du Lac County Circuit Court, was a guest speaker at a Mothers Against Drunk Driving meeting recently. Wirtz presented recent statistics and other information on drinking and driving.

The fate of the Dane County Law Library was the topic of numerous news stories in late 2002 and early 2003. Thanks to nearly \$30,000 in donations from lawyers and judges, the library was able to reopen its doors on January 13 – albeit

with less staff and a reduced collection – after shutting down for two weeks following a massive budget cut. Chief Judge **Michael N. Nowakowski**, Dane County Circuit Court, led the fight to keep the library's doors open after Dane County Executive **Kathleen Falk** cut \$65,000 from the budget – leaving the library to operate on a budget of \$52,000. Nowakowski

asked his fellow judges and the county's lawyers to step forward and help with fundraising to keep the library afloat until next year. The library is a key resource for *pro se* litigants in Dane County, serving 300-400 people per week. Its resources and services are very different than what is available at the nearby Wisconsin State Law Library. Nowakowski made it clear in remarks to both local newspapers that the county law library is a government responsibility and cannot continue to be funded through donations.

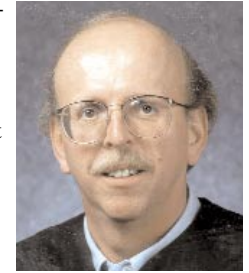
An alumna of Alverno College, Judge **Barbara A. Kluka**, Kenosha County Circuit Court, was the keynote speaker at the school's 126th commencement in December. The title of her speech was "The Living Space of Freedom."

Reserve Judge **Thomas H. Barland** was a keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers convention held in Milwaukee in December in connection with the Supreme Court's 150th anniversary.

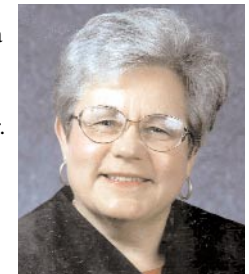
To gear up for the Supreme Court's 150th anniversary, Justice **Ann Walsh Bradley** spoke at the Sheboygan Rotary



Judge Robert J. Wirtz



Chief Judge Michael N. Nowakowski



Judge Barbara A. Kluka



Judge Steven D. Ebert

CELEBRATIONS

Judges, court staff celebrate season in many ways

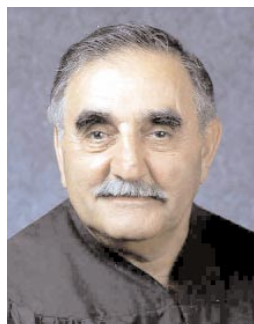
For the many judges, court commissioners, clerks, and court staff whose talents might have led them to Carnegie Hall but for that fateful decision to stay in school, the holidays present an irresistible opportunity to perform.

One of the most popular holiday programs is the No Strings Attached concert in the Milwaukee County Courthouse Rotunda. This was the 26th year for the performance, and an audience of 125 turned out for the event. The group includes judges, clerks, court reporters, and attorneys; jury managers from the Clerk of Circuit Courts Office provide punch, coffee, and cookies.

Judge Victor Manian, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, helps to organize the concert and plays violin with the group. He reported that the caroling could be heard throughout the courthouse.

The sing-along is held over the noon hour so that employees and visitors alike may participate, and the group provides lyric sheets to the audience.

In Dodge County, the bar association welcomed a trio of costumed carolers: Judges Charles P. Dykman, Court of Appeals; and Andrew P. Bissonnette and John R. Storck,



Judge Victor Manian

Dodge County Circuit Court.

In Dane County, the Court of Appeals for the fifth year adopted needy families in lieu of exchanging gifts among the judges and staff. Court of Appeals Staff Atty. Deborah Moritz organized the program and several staff attorneys, clerks, secretaries, and judges in Madison and Milwaukee participated by purchasing clothing, household items, toys, and food for 10 Dane County families. The families provide wish lists to a social worker who also delivers the gifts. ■



A very special rendition of Santa Claus is Coming to Town entertained members of the Dodge County Bar Association at the December meeting. The performers included (from left to right) Judges Andrew P. Bissonnette, Charles P. Dykman, and John R. Storck.



Posing with their gifts for 10 needy families are (from left): Rose Vine, secretary to Judge Charles P. Dykman; Carol Brehm, secretary to Judge Margaret J. Vergeront; Staff Atty. Deborah C. Moritz; Atty. Christy L. Curtis, law clerk to Judge Patience D. Roggensack; Staff Atty. Lisa F. Kane; and Jane L. Dixon, secretary to the staff attorneys. Seated, from left, are Connie C. Faust, secretary to the Court of Appeals staff attorneys, and Patti Gotrik, secretary to Roggensack. Gotrik made and filled Christmas stockings for each member of three needy families. Behind the camera is another participant: Chief Staff Atty. Peg A. Carlson.

Database *continued from page 12*

Clerk Carolyn Evenson. Bohren said he and his fellow judges use the database every day on the bench, entering geographic queries to find lawyers close to the person in need. Depending upon the situation, the judge then appoints the lawyer or prints the list for the litigant to make direct contact.

The database also provides information about the lawyers' language proficiencies; there are now lawyers on the list who are fluent in both Spanish and Hmong.

This effort is part of a broader commitment in Waukesha County to helping people who are representing themselves. In February 2002, a partnership of county court and administrative leaders, area judges, lawyers, and community

organizations launched the Waukesha Court Self-Help Center, a multifaceted program designed to steer individuals without legal counsel through the court process (see The Third Branch, *spring 2002*). The center, located in the courthouse and open 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. weekdays, guides Waukesha County residents who have already decided to represent themselves as well as those who remain undecided about whether to hire a lawyer. The center provides legal forms and instructions, information about the process, and access to computers and printers. ■

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PEOPLE *continued from page 15*



Justice Ann Walsh
Bradley

Club in November. Bradley spoke of similarities between issues from the 1800s and current concerns, reported the *Sheboygan Press*. To help the Supreme Court get the word out about its 150th anniversary, Bradley also spoke at the

Wisconsin Education Association Council convention and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. Bradley and Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** shared the podium for a presentation to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association at Monona Terrace.

The Daily Press (Ashland) reported the appointment of Judge **John H. Priebe**, Bayfield County Circuit Court, to the Wisconsin State/Tribal/Federal Court Forum. Under the leadership of Justice **N. Patrick Crooks**, the forum addresses civil jurisdictional and other issues pertaining to the relationship among federal, state, and tribal courts.

Chief Judge **Kathryn W. Foster**, Waukesha County Circuit Court, will chair the new Criminal Justice Collaborating Council. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported that the council grew out of the Criminal Justice Task Force, whose goal was to find ways to reduce the jail

population. With this task force finishing its work, the torch will be passed to the new task force with hopes of continuing to look at alternatives to jail time.

The judges in Marathon County Circuit Court have appointed Atty. **Sandra Hoenisch** as a new, full-time judicial court commissioner. Hoenisch filled in for the outgoing commissioner in December and officially started on January 1.

Judge **James P. Daley**, Rock County Circuit Court, gave thanks to veterans of the Battle of the Bulge at the Janesville Elks Club on the 58th anniversary of the infamous battle. Daley is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and a brigadier general in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. *The Janesville Gazette* reported that more than 70 veterans, spouses, widows, other surviving relatives, and guests were present.



Judge James P. Daley

“Municipal Court adds night sessions” was the headline

see **People** on page 25

TIS *continued from front page*

budget-related pain. The governor’s budget transfers the commission from the Department of Administration to the Department of Corrections (DOC). The commission was supposed to be administered by a six-person staff, but just two of those positions are transferred to the DOC. It is not clear how the commission will fulfill its statutory obligations with a two-person staff.

The commission has the authority to appoint the executive director, but has not yet met to consider this. Here is the status of the commission:

The Supreme Court made its appointments – Judges Patrick J. Fiedler and Elsa C. Lamelas – in September 2002. Former Gov. Scott McCallum appointed seven members; among them are Judges Dennis J. Barry, Racine County; Michael B. Brennan, Milwaukee County; and Michael J. Gableman, Burnett County. McCallum also appointed John Ross, a Madison man, to a slot designated for a non-government person and named Ross as chair of the commission. It remains unknown whether Gov. Jim Doyle will replace the McCallum appointees.

Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer appointed Sen. Dave Zien, R-Eau Claire; and Senate Minority Leader Jon Erpenbach appointed Sen. Gwendolynne S. Moore, D-Milwaukee.

Assembly Speaker John Gard has not yet announced his appointee; and Minority Leader James E. Kreuser, D-Kenosha, appointed Rep. David M. Travis, D-Waunakee.

State Public Defender Nicholas Chiarkas appointed Atty. Michael Tobin, director of the SPD Trial Division, and Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager selected Deputy Attorney General Daniel P. Bach to serve. Lautenschlager still needs to make two additional appointments and the State Bar of Wisconsin needs to make one appointment.

The director of state courts, the secretary of the Department of Corrections (DOC), and the head of the Parole Commission all are entitled to designate a non-voting member. At press time, only the DOC had made its appointment, selecting Steven B. Casperson, administrator of the Division of Adult Institutions.

The sentence adjustment compromise

Around the state, judges are bracing for a deluge of requests from inmates looking to have their sentences adjusted. Judge Thomas H. Barland told the *Leader-Telegram* (Eau Claire) that he expects every eligible Wisconsin prison inmate to petition for early release.

“You’d be a fool not to,” he said, adding that some judges are already receiving sentence adjustment requests.

The Legislature inserted this modification mechanism as part of the compromise that cleared the way for passage of the legislation to implement Truth-in-Sentencing. It allows inmates to petition the sentencing court to adjust a sentence.

Under the provision, inmates sentenced for Class A and B felonies are not allowed to petition for early release.

Inmates in prison for Class C, D, and E felonies can petition for release after serving 85 percent of the confinement portion of their sentences.

Inmates in prison for Class F through I felonies can petition for release after they’ve served 75 percent of the confinement portion of their sentences. These crimes include burglary, third-degree sexual assault, forgery, and failure to pay child support.

This mechanism has limits. Only one petition may be filed per sentence, and the sentencing judge or prosecuting attorney in each case can veto the petitions without explanation – although judges differ on whether they need to hold a hearing. If the petitions survive the judge and prosecutor, the victims in some sex crimes can issue vetoes. ■

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Supreme Court Hearing Room is site of State Bar reenactment

The State Bar of Wisconsin celebrated its 125th anniversary on January 9 with a reenactment of its first meeting in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.

At noon on Jan. 9, 1878, 265 lawyers from across the state assembled in Madison to found the State Bar of Wisconsin. Then-Chief Justice Edward G. Ryan called the meeting to order, spoke of the need for an organized bar, and presided as the leadership committee elected Atty. Moses Strong as the first president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Ryan and Strong were colorful characters. Ryan was known as a brilliant jurist but is perhaps best remembered for writing the opinion that barred women lawyers from practicing in the Supreme Court. He wrote the following in response to a petition from Janesville Atty. Lavinia Goodell in 1875:

It would be revolting to all female sense of the innocence and sanctity of their sex, that woman should be permitted to mix professionally in all the nastiness of the world which finds its way into courts of justice Discussions are habitually necessary in courts of justice, which are unfit for female ears. The habitual presence of women at these would tend to relax the public sense of decency and propriety. If, as counsel threatened, these things are to come, we will take no voluntary part in bringing them about.

Strong, too, loomed large in Wisconsin's early legal community, serving in the territorial Legislature and as a delegate to the first constitutional convention. He was the first attorney to sign the Roll of Attorneys of the Supreme Court in 1849. Since then, every attorney practicing in Wisconsin has signed the Roll. After statehood, Strong became a prominent Democratic leader in the state Assembly, serving as speaker in 1850.

Strong was known for having trouble working with others and a propensity for risky speculation in business and politics. In the late 1850s, as a member of the Assembly, he was a target of a bribery investigation involving public officials and railroad developers. After refusing to testify before a committee investigating the corruption, he was jailed. This scandal, along with his vocal opposition of President Abraham Lincoln's Republican administration during the Civil War, spelled the end of his career in politics.

Video in the works

A grant from the Wisconsin Law Foundation will fund an eight-minute video providing information on Supreme Court procedures and history for the more than 200,000 people who visit the Capitol each year. The video is scheduled for completion by May and will play continually in the Supreme Court Hearing Room for people touring the Capitol this year and in years to come.



Chief Justice Edward G. Ryan (Atty. Donald L. Heaney, Madison) addresses bar leaders, extolling the virtues of a formal bar association.

Supreme Court history hits the road

In celebration of the Supreme Court's 150th anniversary, a traveling exhibit of Supreme Court history, organized with the assistance of a professional museum designer, was installed in the Capitol in early January and moved

to the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville on February 10.

Through photographs and graphics, the exhibit explains the function and history of the Supreme Court and touches on the Court's future. It highlights several famous cases that involved issues such as women's suffrage, the rights of fugitive slaves, the legality of margarine, and the fight to keep the Braves in Milwaukee.

The exhibit moves to Racine in March and Waukesha in April. Volunteering his time and truck to move the exhibit is Steve Sasso, a retired University of Wisconsin police officer who is married to Sherie Sasso, administrative assistant to Justice Ann Walsh Bradley.

A traveling exhibit on Supreme Court history, developed with grants from the Milwaukee Bar Foundation and the Wisconsin Humanities Council, presents information on famous cases. The exhibit, which stands seven feet high and 14 feet wide, will visit courthouses around the state during 2003.



Photo credit: Deb Henegan, State Bar of Wisconsin

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Retirements *continued from page 9*

Judge John B. Murphy Sheboygan County Circuit Court



Judge John B. Murphy

Judge John B. Murphy, on the bench in Sheboygan County since 1990, will retire at the end of his term on July 31.

Murphy is a longtime member of the Records Management Committee, which recommends guidelines for the retention of court records and necessary changes to rules or statutes relating to records management. As chair of the Forms Subcommittee, Murphy oversaw the development of new forms, reviewed new and existing forms for their legal sufficiency, and helped to establish standards and guidelines for effective management of court records.

Murphy took the bench in 1990 as an appointee of then-Governor Tommy Thompson. A complete story on his retirement appeared in *The Third Branch*, fall 2002 edition.

Court Reporter Barbara Nestingen Trempealeau County Circuit Court

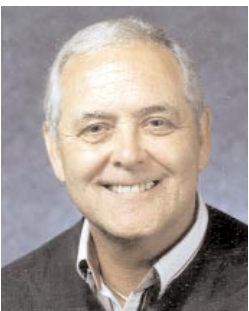
Court Reporter Barbara J. Nestingen, who has served in Trempealeau County Circuit Court for 29 years, will retire on April 15.

Nestingten has participated in a variety of initiatives in her years with the courts. She began as an appointee of then-Judge Albert Twesme in January 1974. From 1983-94, she worked with Judge Richard D. Galstad, and, upon Galstad's retirement, joined the staff of Judge Alan Robertson, who was appointed in 1994 but served for just one year. Since 1995, Nestingen has worked for Judge John A. Damon. Nestingen also was a court commissioner from February 1974 until March 1983.

She believes the Wisconsin Judicial College should include sessions on working as part of a team, and has written a manual, *Judge's Primer*, which outlines basic procedures for standard hearings in courts of general jurisdiction.

In retirement, Nestingen intends to travel in Europe, garden, and generally enjoy the tranquility of the countryside with her husband, Keith.

Judge Duane H. Polivka Adams County Circuit Court



Judge Duane H. Polivka

Judge Duane H. Polivka, who has presided in Adams County since 1991, is stepping down from the bench. Polivka said, "I feel very humbled and honored to have been chosen to serve the county where I was born." According to Polivka, having been born in Adams County was more of a benefit than a hindrance. "I think that people knew that I tried to do my best whether I had been their paperboy or their attorney."

The most challenging aspect of being a judge is maintaining a sense of fairness and consistency,

according to Polivka. He said he believes that a judge should have a degree of consistency that people can rely upon. Although he has presided over all types of cases, Polivka said, "I love adoptions because they are such a positive experience." The least satisfying cases for Polivka were those involving relatives. He noted, "The worst part about being a judge is making decisions in 'lose-lose' situations. Tragedies, in the end, are still tragedies."

One aspect of being on the bench that Polivka, a graduate of the UW Law School, said he would miss is the interaction with the other judges. "I didn't anticipate the camaraderie and was overwhelmed with the congeniality among the judges. I am proud to have been a member of that group."

Polivka plans to dance through retirement – literally. Every weekend, he and his wife try to go dancing, preferably the waltz. Polivka said he and his wife also hope to spend much of their free time traveling. He commented that although Mexico is a favorite destination, he could think of few places not on his list to visit.

Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski Milwaukee County Circuit Court

It has been said that the best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas. Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski's leadership in Milwaukee County Circuit Court has been emblematic of that notion, characterized by bold thinking, cooperative projects, and a determination to take on tough challenges.

As chief judge, Skwierawski oversees 47 judges, 26 court commissioners, more than 400 employees, and a \$42 million annual budget. "Nobody thinks of the local judicial system as a major kind of corporate entity, but that's what it is," Skwierawski told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. "It's a highly complex operation," he said, adding: "The toughest part of this job is the political aspect of it. The budget issues are now so difficult. That's a struggle, a major struggle."

But with the struggles have come successes. Revamping the civil court process, creating numerous specialty courts, and fundamentally changing how the system responds to domestic violence are the major initiatives that Skwierawski has helped to usher in during his 25 years on the bench in Milwaukee County. All of these efforts stem from a commitment to improving the functioning and efficiency of the courts, "which translates back to access to justice," Skwierawski noted.

In civil court, improved automation, better case management, and a reallocation of resources have drastically shortened the amount of time it takes a large claims case to work its way through the system. Resolving business disputes in a timely fashion saves time and money for the



Judge Michael J. Skwierawski

Retirements *continued from page 19*

organizations and, ultimately, for their customers.

Speedy resolution of criminal cases is also critical, and Milwaukee County has developed specialty courts to handle drug offenses, homicides, and sexual assaults in the most efficient way possible. "These courts are not fast just for the sake of speed," Skwierawski said. Processing cases efficiently removes stress and trauma from the lives of victims because every time a case is adjourned, the victim (or the victim's survivors) relive the trauma. "They have to sit down with the lawyers again and wake up at night worrying about it," Skwierawski said. "This is an attempt to stop the institutional trauma that can be inflicted."

The efficiency of these courts has made them a national model. The drug courts process cases in about 68 days (from filing to disposition), while the homicide/sexual assault courts dispose of homicide cases in an average of 110 days and sexual assault cases in about 87 days.

One of Skwierawski's major initiatives as chief judge has been the Judicial Oversight Initiative (JOI), an effort led by the courts to improve services for victims and treatment for offenders in domestic violence cases. The program has brought about \$7 million in grant money to Milwaukee County, enabling the county to devote four new prosecutors and one court commissioner to domestic violence cases and to assist community organizations in bolstering their services to victims and offenders. Three specialty courts in the Misdemeanor Division are now devoted to handling domestic violence cases.

Improving the system through innovations in administration is something Skwierawski will miss. "That's a really critical role," he said. "If we don't administer the courts properly, judges cannot do their best work." Skwierawski added that the most fulfilling part of being a judge is "trying to see to it that people have access to justice, whatever that may be in the particular case."

In retirement, Skwierawski plans to mediate and arbitrate, spend more time with his wife, adult children, and four grandchildren, ages two, one, six months, and on-the-way, and work on his golf game. His daughter, an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County, is running for his seat.

Judge Patrick L. Snyder Waukesha County Circuit Court

Waukesha County Circuit Judge Patrick L. Snyder's decision to step down from the bench after more than 25 years was one he called difficult and agonizing. "It is not easy," Snyder wrote to Chief Judge Kathryn W. Foster, "to leave a position that one has loved so much."

Ironically, it's a position Snyder initially did not want. When Acting Gov. Martin Schreiber approached him about an appointment in 1977, Snyder – a former postman, clothes salesman, and bartender – turned him down not once, but four times. Then, Assembly Speaker Ed Jackamonis and others entered the fray. "They built my head up so big, I had to take it," Snyder recalled. Characteristically, he down-

Sullivan to become chief judge

The Supreme Court has appointed Judge Michael P. Sullivan as chief judge for District One, effective August 1. He replaces retiring Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski.

Sullivan has been Milwaukee County's deputy chief judge for five years. He has been a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge since 1978 and, prior to that, spent five years as a court commissioner.

He will be eligible to serve as chief judge until 2009, and has selected two deputy chief judges, Kitty K. Brennan and David A. Hansher.

played the honor: "There weren't too many beauties in that contest."

Court of Appeals Judge Neal P. Nettesheim, a longtime friend, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that Snyder's respect for litigants, jurors, and attorneys – and his ability to address people in an understandable way – have made him an outstanding jurist. "I really think that he is among the best judges that the county has ever known," Nettesheim said. "He always managed to bring the proceedings to the level of the litigants where the average person could understand."

Snyder said he has always had great respect for the judge's awesome power and responsibility and tries to make a difference in the lives of the litigants who appear before him. The most challenging part of the job, he said, is handling battles over child custody. "It's the only time I wake up in the night with my heart pounding," he said. "There is just so much at stake. Sentencing criminal offenders doesn't even come close."

In his years on the bench, Snyder has noted profound improvements in family law and, more recently, improved courtroom decorum. "A lot of the honor has been taken out of the words 'your honor,'" he said, "but the law schools are doing a good job and I think the pendulum has started to swing back."

Snyder has devoted a lot of his time to judicial education and administration. He served as chief judge of the Third Judicial District from 1984-90 and was an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College. He said the college and other continuing judicial education seminars gave him the tools to be a good judge. "I commend the Office of Judicial Education," he said. "I think they are fantastic."

Snyder's interest in judicial education and his status as a recovering alcoholic led him to help develop a program for judges on addressing alcohol and other drug abuse. In retirement, he plans to work with the Director of State Courts Office to expand and refine that program. He also will mediate and serve as a reserve judge, in addition to spending more time with his children and grandchildren who live in several midwestern states. In his immediate future are a cruise with his grown children, a visit to Florida, and a long-awaited trip to his ancestral homeland, Ireland. ■



Judge Patrick L. Snyder

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Elections *continued from page 3*

administration. She served on the Public Trust and Confidence Committee, which examined how to build the public's faith in the courts, and is chair of the State Court/Tribal Court Planning Committee. Like Brunner, she is active on a variety of boards and committees in her community.

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Paul B. Higginbotham was a late entry in the race and was eliminated in the primary. Higginbotham called his effort a "campaign for equal justice," promising to "bring balance to Wisconsin's Supreme Court."

Adams County Circuit Court Pollex v. Thibodeau

The race for the judgeship in Adams County, a position that retiring Judge Duane H. Polivka has held for 12 years (*see separate story*), featured a four-way primary and now sets a longtime prosecutor against an attorney who has practiced law for nearly 35 years.

The top finisher in the primary was Adams County District Atty. Mark Thibodeau, a 1977 Marquette Law School graduate who has served as the county's district attorney since 1978. Thibodeau garnered 1,600 votes to Atty. Charles A. Pollex's 1,100.

In his tenure as district attorney, Thibodeau started the Adams County Crime Prevention Fund and a community service program, and helped to create the Adams Friendship Schools Law Enforcement Task Force.

Thibodeau and his wife, Terri, have a teenage son and daughter.

His opponent, Pollex, is a partner in Hollman and Pollex Law Offices, LLP, in Friendship. Pollex has been an attorney for nearly 35 years and has served as city attorney for Adams for 23 years. He also served three terms as district attorney for Adams County and is presently the county's court commissioner, a position he has held for 11 years.

Pollex was raised on his family's farm in the town of Quincy and lives on that farm now with his wife, Sharon. They have four adult children and have been active in sports and civic organizations for many years.

He told *The Daily Tribune* (Wisconsin Rapids) that his experience handling every type of case would serve him well on the bench. "There are two sides to every story, two points of view," he said. "I have been involved in both sides of every legal issue imaginable and that gives me the confidence to believe that I can serve the court in a fair, competent, and decisive manner."

Atty. Thomas M. Croke, who moved to Adams County from Milwaukee in 1995, finished third in the primary with 700 votes. The fourth-place finisher, with 600 votes, was Atty. Paul S. Srenock, an Adams County court commissioner who has been in private practice since 1979.

Bayfield County Circuit Court Anderson v. Priebe

In the contest for Bayfield County's single judgeship,

incumbent Judge John H. Priebe is facing Atty. John P. Anderson, a Bayfield County court commissioner who is president of the Ashland-Bayfield County Bar Association.

Priebe, 51, has been on the bench for six months as an appointee of Gov. Scott McCallum. Prior to his appointment, Priebe had practiced law for 22 years. He was a sole practitioner in the Oneida County community of Rhinelander when McCallum tapped him to replace Judge Thomas T. Lindsey, who died last June at age 48 after a two-year battle with cancer.



Judge John H. Priebe

Priebe earned his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Prior to taking the bench, he was active on a variety of boards in Rhinelander.

Priebe is married to Rebecca, a review-and-release specialist at Lincoln Hills School. The couple has four children.

Anderson, 40, is a Washburn native who is a partner in the Bayfield County law firm of Spears, Carlson & Anderson. He runs a general practice and serves as municipal attorney for several communities. Anderson also sits on the District 11 committee for the investigation of complaints against lawyers.

Anderson received his bachelor's degree from Luther College and graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 1989.



Atty. John P. Anderson

Brown County Circuit Court, Branch 4 Hammer v. Kelley

Judge Kendall M. Kelley, appointed by Gov. Scott McCallum in 2002 to fill a vacancy created by Judge William C. Griesbach's appointment to the federal bench, is facing opposition from Atty. Marc A. Hammer, a lawyer in private practice in De Pere.

Kelley was an assistant district attorney for four years prior to his judicial appointment. He helped to establish a municipal court for the Town of Suamico and served as the court's first judge.

Kelley received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Dallas and earned his law degree from Marquette Law School in 1987. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, he worked in private practice and spent nearly four years in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

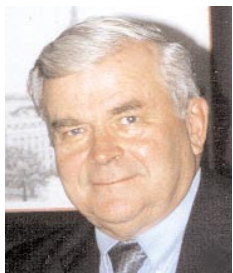
In the race, Kelley is emphasizing his "common sense



Judge Kendall M. Kelley



Atty. Mark Thibodeau



Atty. Charles A. Pollex

Elections *continued from page 21*

conservative outlook” and his past work with law enforcement. “As a prosecutor, I was on the front lines with other law enforcement officials working to keep our community safe,” he told a Brown County newspaper. “My perspective as a judge is not any different. Public safety is still a top priority for me, and I will use my position to protect my family and every family in Brown County from becoming a victim of crime.”

Kelley is married to Kathleen, who is home schooling their eight children.



Atty. Marc A. Hammer a Brown County court commissioner and president of the Brown County Bar Association.

Kelley’s opponent, Hammer, was one of the finalists for the appointment to this branch. A senior partner with the law firm of Stellpflug, Janssen, Hammer, Kirschling and Bartels, Hammer focuses his practice on civil cases. He is also an adjunct professor of business law at St. Norbert College,

He summed up his philosophy on judging as follows: “A judge’s job is to listen to both sides and then make a decision. What I have learned from my practice is don’t prejudge a case before you hear the facts.”

An Illinois native, Hammer earned his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1989.

He and his wife, Kathy, live in Ashwaubenon with their three children.

Burnett County Circuit Court
Kutz v. Gableman

Judge Michael J. Gableman

Judge Michael J. Gableman, an appointee of Gov. Scott McCallum who took the bench in Burnett County in September 2002 after Judge James Taylor retired, is facing a challenge from the county’s district attorney, Kenneth L. Kutz.

Gableman came out on top in the primary, garnering 1,600 votes to Kutz’s 446. Prior to being appointed to the Burnett County Circuit Court,

Gableman lived in Appleton and served briefly as an administrative law judge for the Department of Workforce Development. From 1999-2002, he was Ashland County district attorney; prior to this, he was an assistant prosecutor in Marathon County for one year and in Langlade County for two years.

Gableman is a graduate of Ripon College and Hamline University School of Law.

Kutz, who has spent 20 years in the Burnett County District Attorney’s Office – the last 16 as district attorney – was a finalist for the position when McCallum appointed Gableman. Kutz told the *Burnett County Sentinel* that jail overcrowding is one of the biggest problems facing the

county and he emphasized a commitment to rehabilitation programs.

The prosecutor is also a law enforcement instructor at Indianhead Technical College in Eau Claire and sits on the board of directors of the Burnett Medical Center. He is a member of a local group that works to address domestic violence.

Kutz and his wife, Patricia, have three sons at home.

Atty. Dennis C. Lieder, who has practiced law in Shell Lake and Siren since 1975, was eliminated in the primary.

Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 6
Anderson v. Gaylord

The contest for Branch 6 of the Dane County Circuit Court, which is rotating into the Juvenile Division for the next two years, pits a municipal court judge against an attorney in private practice.

Madison Municipal Judge Shelley Gaylord topped Atty. Michael S. Anderson in the primary by a vote of 24,500 to 13,000.

Anderson, 48, is a Minnesota native who graduated from Cornell University and was a law review editor at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. He is a partner with the Madison law firm of Axley Brynelson. *Madison Magazine* has twice named him as one of the city’s best lawyers, in the categories of civil litigation and intellectual property law. About 200 lawyers endorsed him.

Anderson currently is a member of the Preliminary Review Committee, part of the lawyer regulation system. He was appointed after serving the maximum nine years on a district investigative committee. He also served on the State Bar committee that looked at how to restructure the lawyer discipline system from 1996-2000.

In his spare time, Anderson teaches adult Christian education at his church. This has led him to read the Koran and study Islam to encourage improved cross-cultural dialogue.

Anderson and his wife, Gail, a psychologist at a Verona elementary school, have two sons – one in high school and one in college.

Madison Municipal Judge Shelley Gaylord, 47, was elected to the municipal court bench in 1993 and has been re-elected twice. In her first year on the bench, she said, she handled 19,000 cases; that number has increased each year and stood at 36,000 in 2002.

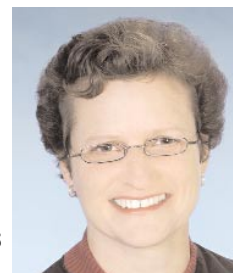
Prior to becoming a municipal judge, Gaylord spent 13 years in private practice, where she focused on juvenile law. She has served as an instructor for the University of Wisconsin Law School’s Legal Defense Project and teaches at circuit court and municipal court seminars. She also is co-founder of the Dane County Bar Association’s training programs for family law mediators and guardians *ad litem* and past-president of the board of directors for the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service.



Atty. Kenneth L. Kutz



Atty. Michael S. Anderson



Judge Shelley Gaylord

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Gaylord is the mother of a five-year-old son and stepparent to a six- and a 10-year-old. She and her partner live in Madison.

Eliminated in the primary was Atty. John P. "Jack" Schuster, 55, a sole practitioner in Madison.

Green County Circuit Court Sturdevant v. Beer



Judge James R. Beer

Judge James R. Beer, seeking his second term as Green County's judge, is facing a challenge from Atty. Roger D. Sturdevant, an assistant state public defender.

Beer, was appointed by Gov. Tommy Thompson in October 1996 and was elected to a full term the following April. Prior to becoming a judge, Beer was a Green County court commissioner for eight years. He also served a term on the county board and was the county's district attorney for two years in the 1970s.

Beer earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from Marquette Law School.



Atty. Roger D. Sturdevant

His opponent, Sturdevant, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, where he completed his degree in two years. Sturdevant is a disabled Vietnam veteran.

In 1984, Sturdevant became an assistant state public defender. He was sent to Monroe in 1985 to establish a public defender office and then worked in La Crosse for a year before returning to Monroe County in 1987. Since then, he has staffed the office providing public defender services to both Green and Lafayette counties.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Branch 12 Borowski v. Skwierawski

Voters filling the seat in Milwaukee County's Branch 12 – currently held by retiring Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski – will choose between Municipal Court Commissioner David Borowski and Assistant District Atty. Audrey Skwierawski.

Borowski finished first in the primary, with 14,000 votes to Skwierawski's 12,500.

A 1991 graduate of Marquette University Law School, Borowski has been a sole practitioner since 1996. His practice emphasizes personal injury, civil litigation, and business and commercial law. As a municipal court commissioner since 1998, Borowski presides at pretrial conferences, taking pleas, sentencing, reviewing warrant returns, and conducting in custody hearings.

Borowski is also chair of the Milwaukee Administrative Review Appeals Board, a body that reviews the actions of city authorities; and a former member of the Milwaukee Bicycle Task Force.

Skwierawski, a prosecutor since 1994, is running to serve in the branch that her father has held for 25 years. The elder Skwierawski will retire on July 31 (*see separate story*).

Skwierawski earned her degree from Georgetown

University Law Center in 1992 and worked briefly in Washington, D.C., focusing on insurance defense work. In the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, she has worked primarily as a sensitive crimes and domestic violence prosecutor. From 1998 to 2001, she directed the Domestic Violence Unit and played a leading role in Milwaukee obtaining a multimillion-dollar federal grant for a county program that has become a national model for curbing domestic violence.



Atty. Audrey Skwierawski

Skwierawski made public her intention to seek the post on the same day her father announced his retirement, causing other candidates for the job to complain that she had an unfair advantage. Borowski made this an issue in the campaign, urging voters to reject what he called "the stuff that's been going on at the courthouse for years: the nepotism, the favoritism, the insider politics."

But Skwierawski lined up endorsements from the Milwaukee Police Association, District Attorney E. Michael McCann, and U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett – among others – and then won the endorsement of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, which wrote: "Skwierawski's experience both in private practice and in the DA's office – specifically, her extensive courtroom experience handling a large number of cases involving a variety of legal issues – endows her candidacy with a strength that the other candidates cannot match."

Finishing third in the race was former Milwaukee County Judge Robert Crawford, whom the Supreme Court found guilty of misconduct in office in July 2001. Crawford was suspended for 75 days and subsequently defeated in his bid for re-election in April 2002 by then-Milwaukee Municipal Judge Louis Butler Jr.

The fourth-place finisher was Atty. Mary Woehrer. Woehrer, who represented Lawrence Bembenek in her recent effort to overturn her 1982 murder conviction, used a taped endorsement from Bembenek in a telephone campaign.

Polk County Circuit Court, Branch 2 Laux v. Rasmussen

Judge Robert H. Rasmussen, on the bench in Polk County Circuit Court since 1991, faced challenges from two local attorneys in the primary and is now campaigning against Osceola Atty. Timothy J. Laux, a partner in Laux Cutler, S.C.

Rasmussen received 2,500 votes in the primary to Laux's 850.

Rasmussen, 55, is a La Crosse native who served as Polk County district attorney and spent 14 years in private practice before becoming a judge. He is



Judge Robert H. Rasmussen

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also a member of the Juvenile Jury Instructions Committee.

Rasmussen earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Atty. Timothy J. Laux

Laux, 54, has been in private practice for 18 years. He initially planned to become a priest, but left the Sacred Heart Seminary in Oneida in 1967 and enlisted in the Navy. He served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise off the coast of Bangladesh and in the Tonkin Gulf.

Laux earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Prior to entering law school, he taught English and reading and was an athletic coach in the New Richmond schools.

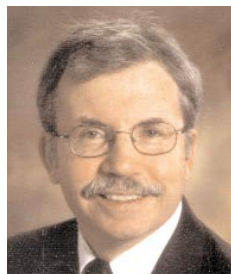
Laux is married to Cheri, a 6th grade math teacher. They have three grown children.

Atty. James J. Rennie, 45, a Minnesota trial lawyer who lives on a hobby farm in Polk County, was eliminated in the primary.

Sheboygan County Circuit Court, Branch 4 Bourke v. Donohue

The campaign for the Branch 4 seat in Sheboygan County Circuit Court – currently held by Judge John B. Murphy, who will retire in the summer – matches a private practitioner against a court commissioner.

Atty. Terence Bourke has been a Sheboygan County court commissioner for 14 years. He presides over misdemeanor and felony bail hearings, domestic abuse injunction hearings, traffic and ordinance returns, and initial civil commitment hearings. Prior to this, Bourke spent four years as an assistant district attorney in the county.



Atty. Terence Bourke

Bourke earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from De Paul University College of Law. Bourke is currently president of the Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association and past-president of the Sheboygan County Bar Association.

He is active in his community, serving as a regional director and a coach for the mock trial tournament, and as a big brother with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Also vying for this seat is Atty. Mary Lynne Donohue, who practices with the Sheboygan law firm of Hopp Neumann Humke LLP. She concentrates on personal injury and disability work, in addition to municipal representation.

Donohue earned her bachelor's, master's, and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin. After her law school graduation in 1979, she began practice with Legal Services

of Northeastern Wisconsin. Six years later, she was named as the organization's executive director.

Donohue has been active in the bar, serving as treasurer of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and as a member of the Bar's Board of Governors, where she sat on the Executive Committee. Donohue is a past member of the State Bar's Professional Ethics Committee and the Wisconsin Judicial Council, and past-president of the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

Locally, Donohue currently serves as president of the Police and Fire Commission. She is past-president of the Sheboygan Area School District Board of Education and past-president of the Sheboygan County Bar Association. She currently coordinates a Legal Aid Clinic at the Salvation Army.

Donohue is married to Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge Timothy M. Van Akkeren and is the mother of two sons.



Atty. Mary Lynne Donohue

Waukesha County Circuit Court, Branch 4 Flores v. Reilly

Reserve Judge Ness Flores is hoping to return to the bench in Waukesha County full-time. Flores, 60, was a circuit court judge in the county from 1978-83, just after court reorganization. He left the judiciary to accept an appointment as chair of the state's Public Service Commission, a position that he held until 1986 when he went into private practice.

Flores is a Texas native who received his law degree from Baylor University in 1970. He is a member of the Governor's Committee on Migrant Labor.

Flores and his wife, Phylis, have six children.

Also running is Atty. Paul F. Reilly, who has practiced with Hippenmeyer, Reilly, Moodie & Blum, S.C. since his 1987 graduation from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Reilly concentrates on litigation work in the state and federal courts and has a special interest in "bad faith" cases, which he litigates on behalf of people with medical bills that their insurance companies refuse to pay. For the past five years, he also has served as city attorney for New Berlin.

Reilly has been very active in both the legal profession and the Republican Party. He is a past-president of the Waukesha County Bar Association and served 1995-2000 on the State Bar Board of Governors, where he sat on the Executive and Finance committees.

Reilly and his wife, Kristin, have two daughters.

Waukesha County Circuit Court, Branch 10 Van De Water v. Becker

Judge Marianne E. "Teddy" Becker, who became the first woman on the bench in Waukesha County 18 years ago, is facing challenger Linda Van De Water, an attorney for the Wisconsin



Judge Ness Flores



Atty. Paul F. Reilly

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Elections *continued from page 24*

Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Van De Water, 39, is a former administrative law judge who heard probation revocation proceedings. She also served as a Waukesha County prosecutor and, in 1998, was the Republican Party candidate for attorney general, unsuccessfully challenging Jim Doyle. In 2000, she applied for appointment to the seat held by retiring Judge Joseph Wimmer. Then-Gov. Tommy Thompson chose Michael O. Bohren for that seat.



Atty. Linda Van De Water

Van De Water told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that she plans to spend \$80,000 - \$100,000 on the race; in recent Waukesha judicial races, candidates have spent up to \$86,000.

Van De Water is a Meals on Wheels driver and Special Olympics volunteer who said she could bring "needed change and focus to the system."

Becker, 61, is presiding judge in Waukesha County's Juvenile Division. She won a contested race for the newly created Branch 10 judgeship in 1985 and has been re-elected twice without opposition.



Judge Marianne E. Becker

Active in the judiciary and in her community, Becker is a member of the Juvenile Jury Instructions Committee and the Probate Benchbook Committee. She organized the Waukesha Victim Impact Program and founded the county's Citizens Advisory Council.

Becker is married to John and has five sons. She enjoys bridge, fishing, and travel.

Wood County Circuit Court, Branch 3 Henkelmann v. Zappen

Judge Edward F. Zappen Jr., on the bench in Wisconsin Rapids for 18 years, is facing a challenge from Wood County Assistant District Atty. John P. Henkelmann.

Henkelmann, 45, became a county prosecutor in 1985, the same year Zappen became a judge.

In an interview with *The Daily Tribune* (Wisconsin Rapids), Henkelmann called himself a "law-and-order candidate for judge" and noted that he is the son of a union carpenter and a homemaker, who he said taught him a strong work ethic.

Prior to joining the district attorney's office, Henkelmann spent three years in private practice. He also has taught business law at Mid-State Technical College and has been active on local boards.

Henkelmann is married to Karen and enjoys biking, cross-country skiing, and community theater.

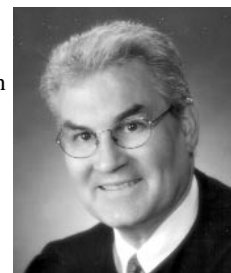
Zappen, 60, a native of Wood County, worked in private practice for 12 years prior to taking the bench in 1985. He served as Wood County district attorney for four years in the 1970s and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1989 as a lieutenant colonel.

Zappen has been active in court administration, serving on the Combined Court Automation Programs (CCAP) Functions Committee and the Jury Instructions Committee. He also has served as an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College.

He is married to Kathy and has five children. He enjoys sailing, skiing, and making furniture. ■



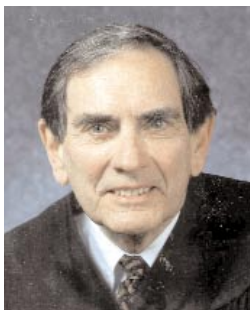
Atty. John P. Henkelmann



Judge Edward F. Zappen Jr.

PEOPLE *continued from page 17*

in *The Courier* (Milwaukee) in mid-December when Milwaukee's three municipal judges, **Vincent J. Bobot**, **James A. Gramling Jr.**, and **Derek C. Mosley** decided to give defendants the option to appear at night to help ease conflicting schedules and police overtime. The judges will continue to schedule night pre-trials and trials each month.



Judge William D. Dyke

The Dodgeville Chronicle printed a letter from Judge **William D. Dyke**, Iowa County Circuit Court. He submitted the letter to clarify the difference in penalties for underage drinking versus drunk driving. Dyke wrote in response to another correspondent who had written to complain after hearing about what he thought were very lenient drunk driving sentences. Dyke set the record straight, noting, "there

is no classroom alternative available for a first offense conviction of drinking and driving."

Polk County – along with the rest of the Tenth Judicial District – now has handouts available to litigants who

choose to represent themselves. "While we cannot give legal advice, we can certainly provide people with information – and that's what this pioneering effort is all about," Clerk of Circuit Court **Mel Madsen** told *The County Ledger Press* (Balsam Lake). The publications include toll-free numbers, Web site addresses, and suggestions.

There is also a detailed directory of attorneys available. "The courts exist to help people resolve their disputes peacefully," said Judge **Robert H. Rasmussen**, Polk County Circuit Court. "In order to fulfill that mission, we need to ensure that all people – with or without lawyers – have meaningful access to justice." ■



Judge Robert H. Rasmussen

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Justices star in PSAs

Radio stations across the state have begun airing public service announcements (PSAs) recorded by all seven Supreme Court justices. The project is a joint effort of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Wisconsin Broadcasters' Association Foundation in honor of the Court's 150th anniversary.

Each of the seven, 30-second spots focuses on a court issue that the justices deemed appropriate to highlight. Here is the line-up:

- ◆ History – 2003 celebration (Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson)
- ◆ Court of Appeals – 25 years (Justice William A. Bablitch)
- ◆ Protecting the best interests of children (Justice Jon P. Wilcox)
- ◆ Judicial Independence (Justice Ann Walsh Bradley)
- ◆ Volunteers in the Courts (Justice N. Patrick Crooks)
- ◆ *Pro se* litigants (Justice David Prosser Jr.)
- ◆ Right to Counsel (Justice Diane S. Sykes)

Education forum is set for December

The Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin Department of Curriculum and Instruction are planning a civics and legal history conference for grade school teachers at the Pyle Center in Madison. The conference, slated for December, will focus on bolstering the quantity and quality of information presented about state government – and specifically the judicial branch – in Wisconsin's classrooms.

The conference will build on an effort to develop a Center for Democracy Education at UW-Madison.

Portraits of Justice is available now

The second edition of *Portraits of Justice*, which includes biographies of Justices David Prosser Jr. and Diane S. Sykes – both of whom joined the Supreme Court after the first edition was published – is now available. The second edition also includes a new introduction from Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, who discusses the past, present, and future of the Court.

Portraits of Justice is a 104-page paperback book from the University of Wisconsin Press, distributor for the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. The price is \$10.95. Order by calling (800) 621-2736, or pick up a copy at the Museum Shop on the Capitol Square at State Street.

Grants from the University of Wisconsin Law School and the State Bar of Wisconsin Presidential Initiatives Fund are funding copies for Wisconsin's high schools, colleges, and universities. ■

