

# Muni View

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A periodic publication of Municipal Judge Education, Office of Judicial Education, Wisconsin Supreme Court

March 2001

## Coordinator's Corner

Enclosed with this mailing is the 2000 Muni Court questionnaire. As most of you have filled this out before, unless there are any changes in the information we have about you and your court, please only fill in your name and the caseload numbers for 2000. If you are one of the few judges who has never filled out the questionnaire, we ask that you do so now. Please return the questionnaires by April 30.

The 2001 update of the Municipal Court Clerk Procedure Manual has been sent to clerks and Municipal Judges without clerks. The Municipal Judge Benchbook is at the printer and will be delivered to those attending the Special Topic Seminar later this month and will be sent to the rest of the judges upon our return from that seminar.

Election day is April 3. If you are running, we wish you luck. Regardless of whether or not you are running, **please remember to VOTE!**

## Legislation

As you know, early in the session, Representative Bonnie Ladwig introduced a bill which would reinstate the Municipal Judge's ability to suspend a juvenile's driver's license for failure to pay a forfeiture.

That bill, AB 5, which had a large number of co-sponsors, passed the assembly

easily and is in the Senate judiciary committee. If you would like to see the bill get to the floor of the Senate, it would be a good idea to write to the members of the Judiciary committee asking them to do that.

## Resignations/New Judges/New Courts

There have been 2 new courts created since the beginning of 2001. The most recent is in the Town of Hobart where **Bruce Deadman** has been appointed judge.

**Laurie Dutcher** has been appointed to replace **Peg Schieffer** in the Village of Lannon.

Judges who are sitting judges but are not running in 2001 are: **Chris Denu**, Village of Arena (court will be abolished); **Willard Ehlinger**, Town of Wabeno (court will be abolished); **Michael Ganzer**, Village of Brown Deer; **Frank Murn**, City of New Berlin; **Thomas Joseph**, Town of Manitowish Waters; **John Kerski**, City of Marinette; **Darold Murray**, Town of Cottage Grove; and **Richard Schwan**, Village of Hortonville.

## WE WILL MISS YOU ALL!!!!!!! Judicial Education Seminars

The last seminar for the May 2000 – 2001 seminar will be held March 22 & 23 in

Appleton. Approximately 80 persons have signed up to attend.

Announcements for the May Institute to be held at the Mead in Wisconsin Rapids have been sent to all small court judges and all relatively new judges. The July Trial seminar, to be held in July in Oshkosh is in the planning stage, but we know it will cover trials from beginning to end.

The Notice of Credits will be sent after the July seminar.

## Others' Seminars

The DOT conducted an excellent day-long seminar in February. Present were Circuit and Municipal Judges, Circuit Court Commissioners and County and Municipal Clerks of Court. Much information was imparted and there was a good amount of sharing. The DOT is hoping to make this an annual event.

In April, the Resource Center will be conducting a day and a half seminar on drinking and driving. The Municipal Judge Education Committee has agreed to grant two credits to those Municipal Judges who attended or will attend each of these seminars. **HOWEVER**, those judges must notify the office of their attendance in order to receive the credits.

## VOTE APRIL 3!!!!!!!

(municipality's) witness fees EXCEPT there are no witness fees for police officers

## Did you know?

There is a \$4,000 limit to the amount of restitution you may order adults to pay **EXCEPT** for worthless checks and retail theft?

A discussion you have with a defendant about his/her case, in person or over the telephone, without the municipal attorney present, is an **EX PARTE** discussion and is prohibited by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Under **Graduated Drivers Licenses**, an equipment violation will not ever have the points doubled. **HOWEVER**, an equipment violation will be counted as a "prior violation" and the violation following it **WILL** have its points doubled.

**YOU MAY NOT** suspend for failure to pay parking tickets

**YOU MAY SUSPEND** for failure to pay the forfeiture on any violation "INVOLVING" a motor vehicle. That includes: Displaying false registration; Disorderly conduct with a motor vehicle; Passenger with open intoxicant; among others.

The defendant pays the plaintiff's

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### **Muni View**

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## How do you feel about it?

The DOT would like to know if you would you be interested in having FPFs put on the driver record in other states? That would allow an out of state driver to be suspended in his/her home state for failing to pay a Wisconsin forfeiture.

There are definite pros and cons on this subject, and if you have strong feelings on the matter, drop a note, a fax or an e-mail to the office and we will pass it along to the DOT.

## Like Puns?

A woman had twins but gave them up for adoption. One of the twins went to a family in Egypt and was named "Amal." The other twin went to a family in Spain and was named "Juan". Years later, Juan finds his birth mother and sends her a picture of himself. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband replies, "But they are twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Novocain during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked as they moved off. "Because" she said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer"

## Statistics

From the information submitted by you on your questionnaires, as of March 1, 2001 there are:

225 Judges

35 Female Judges

99 Judges who have served fewer than 5 years

28 Judges who have served more than 20 years

152 Judges over 60 years old

47 Judges who make more than \$10,000 per year

33 Judges who make less than \$1500 per year

113 Judges who are attorneys

281 Municipal Court Clerks

21 Courts that do not have a Court Clerk

48 Courts that do not have a prosecutor  
at trial

6 Reserve Judges – 5 in Milwaukee  
County, 1 in Ozaukee County

## Help

One of the Clerks has written to ask if any of you know of any companies that offer free internet access to Municipal Court. Apparently, that municipality's police agency has free internet access through CJI, but CJI will not provide the service to the court.

If you can help with an answer, please drop a note, a fax or an e-mail to [Ronni.Jones@courts.state.wi.us](mailto:Ronni.Jones@courts.state.wi.us) and I will include your answer in the next *Muni View*.

