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Fall  
2015

## Judges gather to learn, share ideas at conference

More than 300 Wisconsin judges participated in a wide range of educational opportunities at the 51st annual meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference held Nov. 11-13 in Middleton.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack opened the conference with her first "State of the Judiciary" address since being elected as chief justice by her colleagues on the Supreme Court.

Roggensack acknowledged the significant contributions of justices and judges at all levels of the court, including municipal judges, and reserve judges who serve in the Court of Appeals and in the circuit courts. Former Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson received a standing ovation when Roggensack recognized her for her work as chief justice.

Roggensack told the group, which also included court staff and administrators, that she has learned much since becoming chief justice, and she is very optimistic about the future of the Wisconsin court



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack delivers the 2015 State of the Judiciary Address on the first day of the Judicial Conference in Middleton.

[see Conference on page 12](#)

## Judicial family fondly remembers Justice Crooks



Photo credit: WJUK

Justice N. Patrick Crooks was buried with full military honors after a funeral service Sept. 26 at St. Matthew Catholic Parish.

Longtime Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice N. Patrick Crooks died of natural causes Sept. 21, in his chambers at the state Capitol. Crooks' life was celebrated days later during a visitation service at Newcomer Funeral Home and a funeral service at St. Matthew Catholic Parish in Green Bay. Crooks was 77.

Crooks was first elected to the Supreme Court in 1996, and re-elected in 2006. A week before his death, he had announced he would not seek another term when his term was set to expire July 31, 2016.

Prior to his election to the high court, Crooks served 19 years as a circuit court judge in Brown County. He was first appointed to the Brown County bench on Aug. 3, 1977 by then-Gov. Martin Schreiber. He won election to the county bench three times, and was named the American Board of Trial Advocates' Trial Judge of the year in 1994. While working in private practice from 1966 to 1977, he also taught business law at UW-

[see Obituaries on page 14](#)

## Justice Rebecca G. Bradley appointed

Justice Rebecca G. Bradley has been appointed to fill the Wisconsin Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of Justice N. Patrick Crooks.

Gov. Scott Walker announced the appointment during a press conference in the Governor's Conference Room at the state Capitol on Oct. 9.

Bradley, who was a judge on the Court of Appeals at the time of appointment to the Supreme Court, was sworn into office by Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack in the Supreme Court Hearing Room Oct. 12.

Bradley had previously declared her candidacy

for the Supreme Court seat held by Crooks.

Three other candidates have declared they also will run for the seat, which would trigger a primary election in February 2016 to narrow the field to two candidates for the spring election in April. Other announced candidates include District IV Court of Appeals Judge Joanne F. Kloppenburg, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Joseph M. Donald, and Madison Atty. Claude Covelli.

In appointing Bradley, Walker said he was impressed by her experience as a private sector



[see Bradley on page 16](#) Justice Rebecca G. Bradley



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## New judges join Court of Appeals, circuit courts

In addition to appointing a new Supreme Court justice, Gov. Scott Walker appointed two new Court of Appeals judges and three new circuit court judges, all of whom took office since Aug. 1.

### Court of Appeals

On Oct. 28 Walker appointed Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge William W. Brash, III to fill the vacancy on the District I Court of Appeals bench created by Justice Rebecca G. Bradley's transition to the Supreme Court.

Brash served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge since he was appointed in 2001. He won election to the Branch 21 bench the following year, and was re-elected in 2008 and 2014. Prior to his appointment to the circuit court, he served as a municipal judge for Milwaukee and worked in private practice.

A graduate of St. Norbert College and Marquette University Law School, Brash has served on the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), Legislative Committee, Municipal Judges Association, Pro Bono Association, and as a coach for the mock trial tournament.

"He is a dedicated jurist who strives to be fair, impartial, and thoughtful in all of the cases that come before him,"

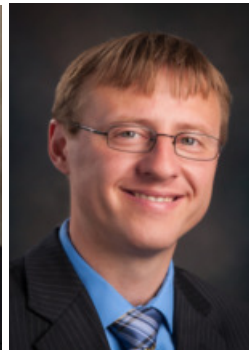
Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Paul R. Van Grunsven said of his colleague. "Judge Brash would be a tremendous addition to the appellate bench and fully deserves this appointment."

Brash and his wife, Ruth, live in Fox Point.

On July 31, Walker announced the selection of now-Judge Brian K. Hagedorn to serve on the District II Court of Appeals in Waukesha. Prior to the appointment, Hagedorn served



Judge William W. Brash III



Judge Brian K. Hagedorn

as chief legal counsel to the governor. Hagedorn, who took office Oct. 5, fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Richard S. Brown.

"Brian would be the kind of judge that would follow the Rule of Law and dispense justice fairly and impartially," Supreme Court Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler wrote the governor.

A swearing-in ceremony was held in the Supreme Court Hearing Room at the state Capitol on Nov. 6. Ziegler and Justice Michael J. Gableman spoke during the ceremony, as did Walker. Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack served as master of ceremonies.

Hagedorn received his law degree from Northwestern University Law School. He also previously served as an assistant attorney general, worked

in private practice, and as a law clerk under Gableman.

Hagedorn and his wife, Christina, have five children.

### Circuit courts

Michelle Ackerman Havas was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court bench, Branch 45, to fill the seat vacated when Judge Rebecca G. Bradley was previously appointed to the District II Court of Appeals.

Havas is a graduate of Concordia University and UW Law School. She previously served as a Milwaukee County assistant district attorney, worked in private practice, as a District II Court of Appeals judicial intern, as a probation and parole agent for the state Department of Corrections, and as a legal secretary for the



Judge Michelle Ackerman Havas

Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. In 2014, she was presented with the Women in Law Award from the Wisconsin Law Journal.

"She has a deep respect for the rule of law, and an understanding that the role of a judge is to administer the law as given by the legislature and not to legislate from the bench," Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John J. DiMotto wrote to the governor.

Havas and her husband live in

see [New judges on page 13](#)

## Zuidmulder to head Committee of Chief Judges



Chief Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder

The Committee of Chief Judges selected Chief Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder, Brown County Circuit Court, to chair the Committee of Chief Judges effective Aug. 1.

Zuidmulder replaced outgoing chair Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, who served the maximum three two-year terms as a chief judge.

Zuidmulder has been a judge since 1997 and has served as chief judge of the Eighth Judicial Administrative District since 2010. The Eighth District encompasses Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie and Waupaca counties. Before joining the bench, Zuidmulder served 22 years in private

practice. He also previously served as Brown County district attorney, and as an assistant state attorney general.

The Committee of Chief Judges consists of one chief judge from each of the state's 10 judicial administrative districts. The chair, informally known as "the chief of the chiefs," presides over approximately seven committee meetings per year.

Zuidmulder has been a member of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee of the Judicial Conference, and the Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee. He established Brown County's drug treatment court, mental health treatment court and heroin treatment court, as well as encouraged the establishment of the Northeast Wisconsin Veterans Treatment Court, which serves all counties in the Eighth District. ■

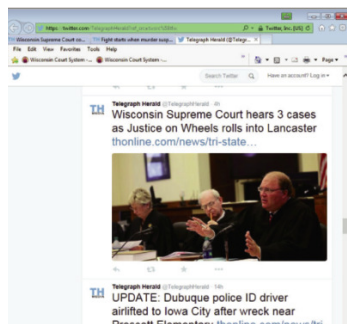
## Tradition and new media meet as *Justice on Wheels* rolls into Lancaster



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack (center) greets visitors at the Grant County Courthouse prior to hearing arguments as part of the Justice on Wheels program.

The Grant County Courthouse is among Wisconsin's most historically significant courthouses. Built from 1902 to 1905, it pre-dates the current state Capitol and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. But when the Supreme Court rolled into town for a *Justice on Wheels* visit Sept. 17, the building became the center of a modern media buzz.

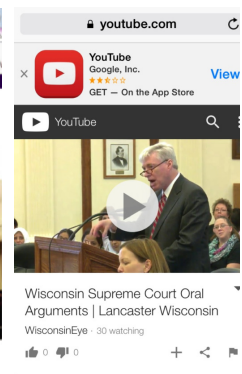
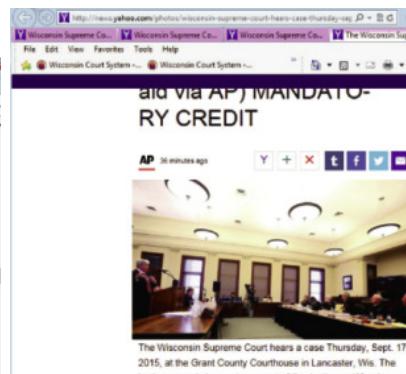
For the first time, arguments held as part of the *Justice on Wheels* outreach program were streamed live on YouTube, thanks to WisconsinEye; news of the event hit the *Dubuque Telegraph Herald's* Twitter account before justices even took their seats; and photographs of the Court at work appeared almost instantaneously on the newspaper's website. Photos also appeared on *Yahoo News* via the Associated Press.



The Court's visit also landed atop the front page of the next day's *Telegraph-Herald* print edition, and the following week's *Grant County Herald Independent*, which led with this:

"There was something a little bit different at the Grant County Courthouse last Thursday. You saw it at the front door, being greeted by deputies from the Grant County Sheriff's Department checking visitors. Upstairs, the third floor courtroom was packed to capacity with a mix of visitors, from area college and high school students, to prosecutors from Pakistan."

see *Wheels* on page 12



## Green County judges host legislator ride-along

Four southwestern Wisconsin legislators recently visited the Green County Justice Center in Monroe as part of the Judicial Ride-Along program.

Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) visited Green County Circuit Court Judge James R. Beer in Branch 1 and Green County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Vale in Branch 2 during a day-long visit to the circuit court on Aug. 17. Novak observed the workings of the court and discussed the needs of the court system with the courthouse staff. At the end of the visit, he was invited to return for a future visit.

On Aug. 19, freshman Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) observed proceedings in Branch 1 of the Green County Circuit Court. Ringhand, who previously served in the Wisconsin Assembly, represents most of the eastern portion of Green County. Ringhand observed the court in action and viewed a demonstration of videoconferencing equipment used for some court appearances. Courthouse staff discussed with her the needs of the courts in the state.

Freshman Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), who formerly had represented the western portion of Green County in the Assembly, visited the Justice Center as part of the program. Marklein, a member of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance, had also participated in the Ride-Along program while he served in the state Assembly.

Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) visited the Green County Circuit Court on Sept. 28 to learn about the needs of the courts and to gain a better understanding of how the court system functions in the state. ■



Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) and Green County Circuit Court Judge James R. Beer sit at the bench during Ringhand's visit to the Green County Courthouse on Aug. 19.

## Legislative Council proposals advance

By Nancy M. Rottier, Legislative Liaison

Proposals developed by Wisconsin Legislative Council study committees that would affect the court system are at various stages in the legislative process. Following is information on several proposals.

### Transfer of Structured Settlement Payments

The report prepared by the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on the Transfer of Structured Settlement payments was introduced as **Assembly Bill 129** and has been signed into law as **2015 Act 94**. It passed the Assembly on May 13, 2015 and was concurred in by the Senate on October 20, 2015. The bill received overwhelming bipartisan support as it worked its way through the Legislature.

The bill creates a new subchapter in Chapter 895 of the statutes, to govern the transfer of structured settlement payments in Wisconsin. It includes definitions of key terms, mandatory disclosures by a prospective buyer, standards governing the court's review of a transfer and procedures for parties and the court to follow. Wisconsin is one of the only states that does not currently have detailed court procedures when structured settlement payments are transferred.

Most often used in personal injury cases, structured settlements allow a defendant to make payments to the plaintiff over an agreed time frame, instead of under a lump sum. In a transfer of structured settlement payments, a prospective buyer offers to purchase some or all of the

future payments for an immediate lump sum payment.

The bill is based on and modifies the Model State Structured Settlement Protection Act, a model law that was developed in 2000 by the National Structured Settlements Trade Association and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers.

Racine County Circuit Court Judge Gerald P. Ptacek and Rock County Circuit Court Judge Michael R.

Fitzpatrick served on the study committee.



### Adoption Disruption and Dissolution

Four proposals developed by the Study Committee on Adoption Disruption and Dissolution passed the Assembly by voice vote on September 24, 2015. The four have been referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Here is a brief description of the bills:

**Assembly Bill 39** makes two changes to adoption proceedings. It extends jurisdiction and venue to allow a proceeding for adoption or an adoptive placement to be heard in the county where a termination of parental rights case was heard. It also provides for use of a standardized qualitative assessment system for the adoption home study; the system must be approved by the Department of Children and Families.

**Assembly Bill 40** revises certain aspects of the pre-adoptive training that is required under current law for first-time adoptive parents. Among the new requirements are longer hours, in-person training, training on trauma and

see [Legislative on page 10](#)

## Legal publication requirements change

By Nancy M. Rottier, Legislative Liaison

At the request of the court system, the Legislature eliminated the requirement that the Supreme Court publish the full text of proposed rules changes in the official state newspaper. Instead, the Court will continue to publish the hearing notice and the petition, which is usually a brief summary of the proposed rule change, along with the internet website address where people can review the full text. The Court will also continue to provide public notice and a summary of rule changes in a State Bar of Wisconsin publication.

The Legislature quickly moved to pass Assembly Bill 443, a bipartisan proposal, with virtually no opposition. The bill was signed into law as 2015 Act 69.

During the public hearings on AB 443 (and its companion, Senate Bill 346), Supreme Court Commissioner Julie Rich, who assists the court with rules matters, explained the court procedures when adopting rules. Rules can cover matters such as bar admissions, rules of professional conduct for lawyers, record retention, and rules of procedure.

If a proposed rule change is lengthy, the publication costs

can be in the thousands of dollars, and the savings to taxpayers could be significant. The current publication requirement is neither cost effective nor particularly efficient at providing the public with notice, Rich told the legislative committees who heard the bills.

Rich also explained the court seeks to ensure broad public notice by sending a letter to interested persons or organizations for every rule matter. The letter states when the hearing will be held, and invites written comment and public testimony. The letter is currently sent to nearly 50 different organizations and individuals and prompts most of the comments the court receives on rule matters.

AB 443 was sponsored by Rep. Tyler Vorpapel (R-Plymouth) and Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee). The Senate companion was sponsored by Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) and Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee). During the process, concerns were raised by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, and the bill was amended to require that a summary of the proposed rules changes be published with directions on where to view the full text of the rules. ■

# Treatment court training focuses on standards, performance measures

By Tommy Gubbin, Office of Court Operations

More than 500 people involved in running Wisconsin's treatment courts received training in treatment court standards and performance measures during sessions held at six locations across the state this fall.

Participants included judges, public defenders, district attorneys, department of corrections staff, treatment court coordinators, law enforcement, treatment staff, and social workers. Sessions were held from Sept. 9 to Oct. 23 in Madison, Appleton, La Crosse, Racine, Wisconsin Rapids and Trego.

The training provided in-depth information on the 17 Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards and on the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) Performance Measures, all of which help ensure that treatment courts effectively improve performance of the criminal justice system. Participants in the training sessions will use what they've learned to develop or refine specific plans for operating effective treatment courts in their jurisdictions.

Treatment courts are a cross-discipline approach aimed at reducing recidivism by and improving public safety by addressing underlying issues that may contribute to some criminal behavior. Wisconsin has 58 fully functioning treatment courts, which address a variety of issues relating to drugs, alcohol, mental health or other concerns.

The training and standards support the continuing implementation of evidence-based best practice approaches to the criminal justice system. The core of these standards is the Ten Key Components published by the U.S. Department of Justice. Each standard encompasses a set of practice points and identifies specific steps to achieve these standards for treatment courts in Wisconsin.

Defendants approved for participation in a treatment court program must agree to, and complete, a rigorous treatment program and meet a series of requirements for a year or longer to graduate. Requirements vary depending on the type of court, but often include random drug testing and regularly scheduled meetings with treatment court professionals.

The training also included an overview of the state Department of Justice's new Comprehensive Outcome, Research and Evaluation (CORE) Reporting System, which will be available to counties in the near future. The CORE Reporting System is designed to help collect participant-level data from treatment courts and diversion programs in a consistent way and will be available at no cost to programs across the state.

Local teams representing each of the treatment courts worked through multiple breakout sessions and ended the training with final action planning. Follow-up training and technical assistance will be provided in 2016.

The training was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. In developing the training curriculum and scenarios, the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals, the Director of State Courts Office, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice collaborated with 34 people from various circuit courts, counties, and state agencies. The group included judges, district court administrators, and staff from the Office of

Court Operations. A CORE training advisory group was also created and included members from the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee's (PPAC) Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee.

The NCSC worked closely with the advisory group to help structure the training and provide resources. As part of this project, NCSC also produced the Wisconsin Statewide Drug and Hybrid Court Performance Measures Report, which will be available on the Wisconsin court system website later this year.

Performance measures provide timely information about key aspects of the performance of the drug court to program managers and staff, enabling them to identify effective practices and, if warranted, to take corrective actions. The Performance Measures Report is a continuation of the partnership between the Director of State Courts and NCSC that also produced the *2012 National Center for State Courts Report: Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin*.

Training teams consisted of: District III Court of Appeals Judge Lisa K. Stark, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Ellen Brostrom, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott M. Levine, Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Mitchell J. Metropulos,

Dane County Circuit Court Judge John W. Markson, Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Kathryn W. Foster, Wood County Treatment Court Coordinator Ryan McMillen, Walworth County Treatment Court Coordinator Katie Behl, Milwaukee Treatment Court Coordinator Carol Carlson, Eau Claire County Treatment Court Coordinator Patrick Isenberger, La Crosse County Treatment Court Coordinator Jane Klekamp, Outagamie County Treatment Court Coordinator Bethany Robinson, Rock County Treatment Court Coordinator Elizabeth Pohlman-McQuillen, and Grant County Treatment Court Coordinator Kristin Schier.

Additional training was provided by Constance Kostelac of the state Department of Justice and Jared Hoy of the state Department of Corrections.

Feedback from attendees at the training sessions was overwhelmingly positive. As an attendee from the Appleton area training expressed, "I thought the process of addressing the standards, followed by team breakouts where actual action plans were developed was very beneficial. It took the seminar to a much higher level..." ■



Treatment court stakeholders attend a session in Trego, one of six trainings held throughout the state during September and October to address standards and performance measures.

## RETIREMENTS

### Judge Terence Bourke Sheboygan County Circuit Court

Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge Terence Bourke said dealing with so many cases over the span of a career can leave a judge with little time to reflect on one particular case. He does admit there are a few



Judge Terence Bourke

particular moments that stand out from his days in the courtroom.

One of these moments involved a young couple who were getting married in his courtroom. He remembers that the bride and groom did not sit together, and when he asked who the bride was, a young woman raised her hand. The young woman's mother then told her to take her gum out of her mouth, so the young woman handed her gum to a friend sitting next to her, who then popped the gum in her own mouth.

Bourke said during his 12-year career in Branch 4, he has found the civil cases more enjoyable than the criminal or family cases, because those cases often afforded him the opportunity to learn something new. He said when he first took the bench, he presided over a case that involved problems with a roof, and he ended up learning a lot about roof drainage.

But no matter the type of cases, he said he hopes people have benefitted from the decisions he has made.

"People come into your courtroom in need of someone to step in and say, 'this is the way things are going to be,' and you have to weigh the plusses and minuses."

Bourke said the job requires a lot of hard work and long hours, and a lot goes into making a decision. He admits that it can be difficult to get things done on a timely basis. But, he said being a good judge takes time and effort. He advises new judges coming into the circuit courts to be patient: "You will be a better judge the second year than you were the first year. And an even better judge the third year."

Bourke has served two terms on the Branch 4 bench, after first being elected in 2003. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association, and has served on the Sheboygan County Judicial Advisory Committee and as a coach of the State Bar's Mock Trial Tournament. Prior to taking the bench, he was a court commissioner and assistant district attorney for Sheboygan County.

After retiring at the end of his current term in July, Bourke said he will miss the relationships he had established in the courthouse and his friendship with his fellow judges. In his retirement, he said he plans to travel.

### Judge John V. Finn Portage County Circuit Court

After 27 years on the bench, Portage County Circuit Court Judge John V. Finn retired July 31 with a sense of pride that the people in his county have had respect for the three branches of the Portage County Circuit Court, thanks to the joint effort of all three judges. He said he will miss interacting with the other two judges, as well as all of the court staff, and the attorneys who appear in his court.

Two cases stand out for Finn, who likes to retell the stories. The first case involves an eviction action where a landlord claimed a tenant violated the "no dogs or cats" rule of the lease. The landlord claimed the woman had a dog because he had heard barking coming from her residence.

When the woman had her chance to tell her side, she asked the judge if he had ever heard of an African Grey Parrot. When Finn replied he hadn't, she told him her parrot could imitate a



see [Retirements on page 23](#) Judge John V. Finn

## Staff changes include departures, new roles

On Aug. 7, Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran named Brian



Brian Lamprech

Lamprech deputy director for Management Services.

Lamprech has been with the court system since 2003 and previously served as fiscal officer.

Prior to joining the court system,

Lamprech worked for 15 years in the financial area elsewhere in state government, including the Department of Natural Resources, the Department

of Administration, and the Legislative Audit Bureau. Brian is a CPA and holds a degree in accounting from UW-La Crosse.

In his role as Fiscal Officer, Lamprech exercised general responsibility for the fiscal functions of the courts, Director's Office, the State Law Library and several related departments. He also has served as the court system's fiscal liaison with the counties.

Lamprech replaces former deputy director for management services, Pam Radloff. Radloff left the court system during the summer to pursue

other interests after 23 years in Management Services.

Prior to becoming deputy director in 2002, Radloff served 10 years as fiscal officer. During that time, she helped automate the court system's accounting

and financial reporting systems, structured circuit court and guardian ad litem payments and oversaw many other projects.

Former Dodge County Circuit Court Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette decided to give retirement another try after returning to the court system to



Pam Radloff

see [Staff on page 20](#)

## AWARDS

**Abrahamson, Bradley honored**

The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) recognized Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley S.



Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson

Abrahamson and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley at its annual conference held Oct. 7-11 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Abrahamson received the Joan Dempsey Klein Award, which the NAWJ gives annually to honor a judge who brings distinction to her office and to the NAWJ as exemplified by Justice Klein, one of the organization's founders. Past recipients of the award include U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader

Ginsburg, and Sonia Sotomayor.

Bradley received the Norma Wikler Excellence in Service Award, named for the founding director of the National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts and given in recognition of and with grateful appreciation for exceptional, longstanding and ongoing service to NAWJ.



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley

The NAWJ's mission is to promote the judicial role of protecting the rights of individuals under the rule of law through strong, committed, diverse judicial leadership, fairness and equality in the courts, and equal access to justice.

**Register in probate recognized**

At the September Register in Probate (RIP) Conference in Madison, local government archivist Virginia Fritzsich was presented with a plaque in recognition of her many years of assistance to them and clerks of circuit court in the areas of records retention and transferring records to the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Fritzsich served as the collection development coordinator for more than 20 years, working with courts in counties all across the state.

The plaque reads:

"Virginia has become to the Wisconsin registers in probate, and to many other people, an invaluable resource for records management and records accessibility in the long term. As it pertains to registers in probate, clerks of circuit court and other governmental officials, Virginia has proven time and again that she is willing and able to do what it takes to help acquire and preserve the workings of government for the benefit and enjoyment of the people for whom the government was created to serve. Virginia is gifted in her calling and she has served in that calling very well over the span of her career." ■

## Conference raises awareness of effects of trauma on children, families involved in court

By Justin Wolff, Children's Court Improvement Program

More than 500 people gathered in Wisconsin Dells from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 for the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: "Moving Toward a Trauma-Informed Wisconsin." The goal of the conference, held at the Wilderness Resort, was to raise awareness of the lasting impacts of trauma on the children and families of Wisconsin and to begin working toward pragmatic solutions to address these impacts.

The conference was co-hosted by Judge Mary Triggiano, presiding judge of the Milwaukee County Children's Court, and Ron Rodgers, director of the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services. The conference included a variety of presentations by experts dedicated to improving court and child welfare system responses to the cumulative effects of trauma.

During her opening remarks, Triggiano addressed the breadth of the challenges and the importance of addressing these issues within the courts: "Trauma-informed care is not a natural fit for judges, but the justice system needs to know about this science. We can't continue to do business as usual; it's simply not working in our system," Triggiano said.

Triggiano's remarks were followed by a harrowing first-hand account about the experiences of Tonier Cain, a consumer advocate and survivor, who illustrated how perceptions and a "business-as-usual attitude" contributed to a life of abuse, neglect, drug-dependency and crime. Cain

said her road to recovery began when the perspective changed from "what's wrong with you?" to "what happened to you?"

Bruce Perry, senior fellow at The Child Trauma Academy, discussed the importance of these questions and the lifelong implications of trauma. Perry spoke to the prevalence of trauma in society, how it affects every person, and how resiliency can be built or inhibited dependent upon environmental factors.

Other presenters, such as Shawn Marsh of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona Gonzalez, emphasized the need for trauma-informed



Atty. Diane Rondini-Harness of the State Public Defender's Office, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary Triggiano, Alisha Fox, a post-traumatic stress disorder survivor, and Tim Grove of SaintA were among those who attended the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts.

## Judicial Dashboard showcased at national court technology conference

By Jean Bousquet, Chief Information Officer

Three Wisconsin judges took center stage with a presentation on judicial tools at the recent *Court Technology Conference (CTC)* hosted by the National Center for State Courts in Minneapolis Sept. 22-24. CTC is the largest national conference that is specifically aimed at courts and court technology.

One of the featured tracks, “Tools for the 21st Century Judge,” included presentations focused solely on technologies and applications for judges. Wisconsin is a recognized leader in this arena and Judges James C. Babler, Barron County Circuit Court; Richard J. Sankovitz, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; and John R. Storck, Dodge County Circuit Court, presented on technology tools used by Wisconsin judges. Their presentation, “Why settle for a Model T when you can have a Tesla - Driving

The judges demonstrated dashboard tools that judges have used for many years, and highlighted newer dashboard features, such as electronic document routing and eBench, which judges use to work through cases in court. They relied on a number of technologies throughout the presentation to keep the audience’s attention. The judges incorporated live demonstrations from their dashboards, using remote access technology to connect to their work computers. The judges augmented their PowerPoint slides with live demonstrations for a greater impact.

“The live presentations show just how easy accessing information is and also provides the anticipation of waiting for a crash at a NASCAR race,” Sankovitz said. The session sparked a lot of interest and questions and many attendees were interested in how they could get a version of

Wisconsin’s judicial tools to use in their own courts.

Courts throughout the nation are showing interest in judicial applications and tools. As more courts shift to electronic files and documents, the need to provide judges with application and tools to easily navigate these systems is critical.

In December 2014, the Joint Technology Committee, established by the Conference of State Court Administrators, the National Association for Court Management and the National Center for State Courts released the resource bulletin, “[Making the Case for Judicial Tools](#).” This paper introduces the concept of judicial case flow management to help shape future technology discussions and identifies considerations and recommendations for creating judicial tools. A second paper scheduled to be released later this year covers how to deliver the tools including important

considerations for technology, training, implementation, and long-term costs and support. These papers were authored by a cross-sectional team of court administrators, technologists and vendors from across the nation. They draw upon the experiences of courts that have offered judicial tools, including the many advances made by the Wisconsin courts. ■

*Editor’s note: Chief Information Officer Jean Bousquet also presented at CTC on “The Impact of Judicial Tools on Information Technology.” She also helped organize the sessions on judicial tools and contributed to “Making the Case for Judicial Tools.”*



Judge James C. Babler, Barron County Circuit Court, presents on the Judicial Dashboard at the National Center for State Courts Court Technology Conference held during September in Minneapolis.

Wisconsin’s Judicial Dashboard” took attendees on a test drive of the Wisconsin Judicial Dashboard, where they showcased the many important tools and applications that are essential to working effectively in a paper-on-demand environment.

The Judicial Dashboard and a new component called ‘eBench’ consolidate the most important tools used by judges. This includes quick access to case information, electronic documents, legal research materials, a tool to create jury instructions and numerous supporting applications. They also give judges tools to manage their calendars, track cases, and gauge progress toward case-processing goals.



## Court team attends human trafficking summit

By Judge Michael J. Dwyer, Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Wisconsin joined 45 other states and four U.S. territories in sending a team to the National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts on Oct. 7-9 in New York City. The summit was sponsored by the State Justice Institute, a federal agency whose function is to improve the quality of justice in the state courts.

Each team was tasked with planning a statewide response to the rapidly growing problem of human trafficking, which may involve sex trafficking or labor trafficking. Most of the conference focused on sex trafficking, which is estimated to take in \$9 billion each year in the U.S. alone.

Many state teams included Supreme Court justices, attorneys general and directors of state courts. The Wisconsin team consisted of Judges Michael J. Dwyer and Carolina M. Stark, both of Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Sara Ward-Cassidy, deputy director, for court operations; and Michelle Zaccard of the Children's Court Improvement Program.

The goals developed by the Wisconsin team are to educate judges on human trafficking, encourage judges to coordinate local efforts to combat the problem, and to ensure that consistent training is provided to law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The summit was particularly timely because all states, including Wisconsin, are in the process of implementing the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. The law requires states, among other things, to identify and provide services to children, especially those in the child welfare system, who are victims or are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking.

Human trafficking is a significant problem in Wisconsin and the U.S. At the conference, human trafficking was called the "new slavery" and those engaged in the fight against it the "new Abolitionists." Human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the U.S. after the drug trade, and growing rapidly.

A major focus of the summit was the issue of adult prostitution. The presenters challenged us to think of women who engage in prostitution as victims rather than criminals. We were challenged to accept the proposition that "prostitution is not a profession of choice – period." Doing so requires that the justice system respond by offering support and services to victims, rather than prosecution and punishment. Innovative diversion programs in Houston, Texas, Columbus, Ohio, and New Orleans, Louisiana were discussed. The quality programs are those that are trauma informed, victim centered, and meet the needs of victims for

safety, shelter, and mental health and drug treatment.

The most disturbing statistic we heard was that the average age of entry into the trafficking world is 13. It is a tragic fact that a large number of the people who are trafficked are children. Those at highest risk are poor children who have been sexually abused, involved in the child welfare system, or are runaways. It is a sobering realization that many of the child victims of trafficking are already the responsibility of our child welfare system. Since there is no such thing as a child prostitute, it is clear that criminalizing child victims of trafficking is inappropriate. (2015 AB 267/SB200 is currently pending in the Legislature to prohibit charging children with prostitution.)

We were reminded that trafficking occurs in rural areas as well as urban ones.

Trafficking is well known to occur around truck stops and strip clubs. Given that family members frequently traffic their children, it is certain that trafficking occurs in rural families as well. In addition, many girls who run away from home in rural counties are recruited, transported to distant places and forced into the sex trade. As if to emphasize the statewide nature of the problem, law enforcement officials announced the results of an anti-trafficking operation the week after the summit. Victims were rescued and traffickers arrested in the following counties: Outagamie, Winnebago, Brown, La Crosse, Green, Racine, and Milwaukee.

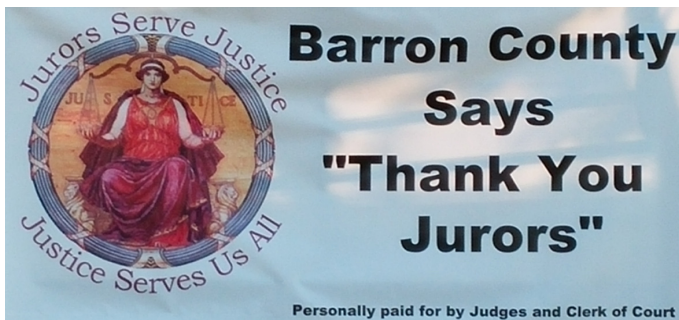
The need to reduce the demand for prostitution was also emphasized. Enforcement in the sex trade has traditionally been against the female providers. However, buyers of sex tend to be white, middle-aged, educated, and middle- to upper-middle class males who are often not held accountable. This situation is inappropriate, especially when their victims are children. ■

Additional information about trafficking and how to combat it can be found at [www.htcourts.org](http://www.htcourts.org).



Michelle Zaccard of the Children's Court Improvement Program, Deputy Director for Court Operations Sara Ward-Cassidy, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Dwyer and Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carolina M. Stark attended the National Summit on Human Trafficking and State Courts in New York City.

## Counties celebrate jurors in September



During September, counties throughout the state celebrated Juror Appreciation Month. Here's a partial listing of some of the events and activities.

### Shawano County

Shawano County held its combined jury orientation and juror appreciation activities for more than 90 participants on Sept. 8. The Branch 2 courtroom was decorated in fall colors and posters thanking the jurors for their service.

see [Jurors](#) on page 11

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2015

## WISCONSIN CONNECTS

## Justice Abrahamson, instructor visit Thailand

Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Chris Smithka, a clinical instructor at the UW Law School, visited Thailand in August to present several seminars for judges. The pair spoke with judges in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket, lecturing on judicial administration and case management (Abrahamson) and the role of the court in business cases (Smithka) in each city. They also met with the Secretary-General of the Office of the Judiciary and the President of the Supreme Court. Free time was reserved for visits to temples and an elephant camp. The visit was sponsored by the Rabi Bhadanasak Research Institute, a division of the Thai Office of the Judiciary. ■



Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and UW Law School instructor Chris Smithka (front row, fourth from left), pose with judicial officers and staff in Phuket, Thailand.

### Legislative *continued from page 4*

abuse, and referral to post-adoption resource centers.

**Assembly Bill 41** requires a child who is a citizen of another country, who has been adopted in that country by a parent who is a Wisconsin resident, to be readopted in Wisconsin.

**Assembly Bill 42** requires certain petitions and agreements in child welfare or juvenile justice matters to include information on whether the child has previously been adopted. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required to compile information on children entering the child welfare system who have previously been adopted and prepare a report for the Legislature.

### Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives and Diversions

The Assembly Committee on Corrections held a three-hour public hearing on two of the Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives and Diversions study committee's recommendations, **Assembly Bills 51 and 52** on September 10, 2015. Two circuit court judges and other court staff spoke in support of the proposals. No one testified in opposition, although the committee received written comments expressing some concerns with the legislation.

Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Kathryn W. Foster and La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott M. Levine spoke in favor of both proposals. The judges provided insight for the committee on the workings of treatment courts, the principles behind them and the benefits to the criminal justice system. The judges currently preside over OWI treatment courts in their respective counties. Judge Levine was a member of the study committee that developed the legislation, and both judges also are past presidents of the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals.

Both Judges also helped teach at recent training sessions on treatment court standards that were held throughout the state.

The committee also heard a presentation about the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court Program from Sara Scullen, Children's Court Staff Attorney, and Rebecca Foley, the coordinator of the treatment court program. Both spoke in favor of AB 51 that would establish a grant program for counties to set up family or juvenile treatment courts. In addition to their presentation, Scullen and Foley answered committee members' questions for about half an hour. Milwaukee County was the first county with a family treatment court, so members had numerous questions about what it would take to establish a similar court in other counties, how it works, and what results the court has seen.

AB 51 creates a grant program that would be available to family treatment courts. The grant program would be administered by DCF and make grants available to counties to create programs that screen, assess, and provide new dispositional alternatives for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the children's court or for juveniles who have problems related to mental illness or substance abuse.

AB 52 codifies the current statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council into the statutes, amends the current Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program and makes other changes supportive of problem-solving courts. A third proposal from this study committee, **Assembly Bill 50**, has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation. No action has been taken on the bill at this

see [Legislative on page 20](#)

## Justice Prosser elected life member of ULC



Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser addresses the Uniform Law Commission. Prosser was elected a life member of the commission, which he first joined in 1982.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser was elected as a life member of the Uniform Law Commission at the commission's annual conference in July.

Prosser has served three separate terms on the commission. He was first appointed as a legislative member in 1982 by then-Assembly Minority Leader Tommy Thompson and served through 1996. He was reappointed in 2005-07 and in 2012 to the present, by several Assembly speakers.

Prosser is only the sixth person in commission history to satisfy the 20 years of service requirement for life membership after two breaks in service.

The Uniform Law Commission was established in 1892, and provides states with non-partisan, well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law.

Members are practicing lawyers, judges, legislators and legislative staff, and law professors who draft and promote enactment of uniform state laws in areas of state law where uniformity is desirable and practical. ■

### Jurors *continued from page 9*

The quarterly orientation has proven to be very beneficial to those unfamiliar with the court system and served as a refresher for those who have served in years past, said Clerk of Circuit Court Sue Krueger. She hosted a question-and-answer session with potential jurors before treats were served at the event.

#### Oneida County

In Oneida County, Clerk of Circuit Court Brenda Behrle issued a press release on behalf of herself and Circuit Court Judges Patrick F. O'Melia and Michael H. Bloom.

"The Oneida County Circuit Judges, Clerk of Circuit Court and court staff would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to past, present and future jurors. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the Court. We would also like to thank the many private companies, government agencies, small businesses, school districts and all those who encourage and support their employees when they are called to jury service," the letter read.

"Whether a juror serves in September, or on another date, this is the legal system's chance to call attention to the contribution of every prospective and sworn juror...Juries serve several important purposes: 1) they decide the facts in a case as presented by evidence and testimony at criminal and civil trials; 2) they provide a means by which community values and sentiments are reflected in the court process; and 3) they foster the public's acceptance of legal decisions."

"Thank you for your service," the letter concluded.

#### Waukesha County

In Waukesha County, jurors received either a magnetic clip or a small flashlight as a token of appreciation for jury duty. Potential jurors and other visitors at the Waukesha County courthouse were also greeted with a banner hung in the lobby of the courthouse recognizing September as Juror

Appreciation Month. Jurors selected to serve were treated with fresh-baked cookies.

#### Barron County

During September, Barron County displayed a banner at the courthouse and gave each juror a pen paid for by the judges and clerk of circuit court. Because Barron County wants to show appreciation for jurors year-round, all jurors who report for jury duty throughout the year receive a pen that says, "Barron County Appreciates Jurors," said Barron County Clerk of Circuit Court Sharon Millermon.

Millermon distributed a public outreach and education article about juror appreciation month. In addition to thanking jurors for their service, the article outlined the process used to select jurors from the Department of Transportation list. This year, Millermon announced that prospective jurors now have the capability to complete their juror qualification questionnaire online. Barron County is also working to notify jurors online and by text messaging about upcoming trials or cancellations. Millermon publicly thanked "our three very part-time bailiffs: Dave Dhein, Bob Rogers and Dan Fitzgerald...who do an absolutely wonderful job of alleviating stress along with taking care of the needs of the jurors during jury trials."

#### Walworth County

In Walworth County, the clerk of circuit court's office submitted a guest column to local newspapers, showing appreciation for past, current and prospective jurors. The county summoned more than 4,000 jurors in 2014 to help support the justice system.

"Without the willingness of Walworth County residents to serve as jurors and supportive family members and employers, our judicial system would not work," wrote Evan Wynn, office supervisor in the clerk's office.

*see Jurors on page 19*

Fall  
2015**Conference** *continued from front page*

system.

Roggensack said the court system must take advantage of new technology, such as electronic filing of court documents (eFiling), to ensure that courts meet the needs of the public

efficiently. eFiling may soon become mandatory in certain case types statewide.

Roggensack also touched on court innovation and leadership in other areas, such as trauma-informed decision making and treatment courts, which address addictions faced by some individuals who become involved with the courts.

“Above all, the most compelling aspect of treatment courts is the lives they transform and save – the members of our communities who become productive, healthy citizens and actively engaged parents...” Roggensack said.

Roggensack also announced during her remarks that Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran, who began as interim director in June 2015, has agreed to terms that will extend his contract as director for a year.

Following the “State of the Judiciary,” Moran gave a brief update on activities in his office. Staff resources are already being assigned within Consolidated Court Automation



Judge John R. Storck, Dodge County Circuit Court, presents to fellow judges on the advantages of the Judicial Dashboard during an educational session held at the annual meeting of the Judicial Conference.

**Wheels** *continued from page 3*

Students from UW-Platteville observed argument in Judge Robert P. VanDeHey’s Branch 1 Courtroom, as did high school students from the Grant County communities of Lancaster, Boscobel, Platteville, Potosi and Fennimore.

Bringing an international feel to this year’s Justice on Wheels, U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil, Western District of Wisconsin, attended with 15 visiting female prosecutors from Pakistan. The study group was in the United States as part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s [Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training](#).

In addition to hearing three cases, justices met with local officials, lawyers and members of the public at a luncheon hosted by the Grant County Bar Association at the county

administration building. Programs (CCAP) to help accommodate the anticipated increase in workload that will result from the expansion of eFiling, Moran said.

The conference offered educational programming on treatment courts and many other topics, such as: implicit bias in the courtroom; domestic violence; juveniles and families; immigration; complex litigation; and working with electronic records and documents.

Noted author Lynne Cheney presented on the biography she wrote, *James Madison: A Life Reconsidered* (Viking, 2014). Cheney holds a Ph.D. in 19th century British literature from UW-Madison and served as chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1986 to 1993. She also taught at UW-Madison. ■



Author Lynne Cheney offers some historical context on the subject of her biography, *James Madison: A Life Reconsidered*. Cheney was introduced to the audience by Justice David T. Prosser, who is seated at Cheney’s right.

administration building.

Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack noted the importance of court outreach in remarks made during an opening ceremony at the courthouse.

“We realize that every person here has a stake in our decisions. We want to make sure that you are familiar with and have the utmost confidence in our Wisconsin courts. And, we think that one of the best ways to make that happen is to let you participate in the judicial system through observations of the court in action during Justice on Wheels,” Roggensack said.

Grant County is the 26th location visited as part of the Justice on Wheels program, which was started in 1993. ■



Atty. Rose Oliveto explains some of the issues to be heard by the Supreme Court during the Justice on Wheels program. Each trip, the Court seeks local attorneys to help provide context to the cases being heard “on the road.”



Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson poses with the group of women prosecutors from Pakistan who sat in on oral argument during the Justice on Wheels program in Lancaster.

## Grant County celebrates courthouse makeover

By Judge Craig R. Day, Grant County Circuit Court

On Aug. 26, Grant County celebrated a rededication of its courthouse. The rededication followed completion of a \$2.2 million exterior refurbishment of brick and stone work that took place during 2014 and 2015. Approximately 500 tons of old stone were removed from the courthouse and either repaired or replaced. Subterranean waterproofing was also done to preserve existing stone structures.

The Grant County courthouse was built from 1902 through 1905 at an original cost of \$135,000. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The exterior is composed of Milwaukee brick and sandstone quarried from an island in Lake Superior. Replacement stone installed in 2014-15 could not be quarried from the original source and was instead shipped in from a quarry in Utah to match the existing stone. The exterior work builds on the work of a complete interior renovation undertaken from 1998 through 2000.



Grant County Circuit Court Judge Craig R. Day addresses the audience during a rededication ceremony after extensive renovation work at the courthouse.

The Aug. 26 rededication ceremony featured courthouse tours, refreshments, and an auction of historic stone removed from the courthouse.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley served as special guest and keynote speaker.

The program also included a performance of the oratory Judge George Clementson delivered at the laying of the original cornerstone 113 years earlier, on Aug. 26, 1902. Lancaster thespian Bill Haskins portrayed Clementson, who was judge of the Fifth Circuit from 1883-1920.

Local historian James Hibbard spoke of significant events in the history of the Grant County courthouse and the courthouse square. Grant County Circuit Judge Robert P. VanDeHey detailed the recent interior and exterior renovations of the courthouse and gave the audience a preview of future developments in the administration of justice, such as electronic court records and filings. Grant

County Circuit Court Judge Craig R. Day served as Master of Ceremonies.

Bradley entertained the gathered crowd with a tale of the trials and tribulations of Rose Zoldoski, a native of Bradley's hometown of Richland Center. Zoldoski was tried in the Grant County Courthouse in 1891 before Clementson. In a trial filled with salacious accusations and accompanied by great public fury, Zoldoski was convicted of murder. She was subsequently pardoned by Gov. W. H. Upham.

Bradley reminded the audience that the courthouse exists for all who seek civil and peaceful resolution of their controversies and that impressive edifices like the Grant County courthouse bring proper respect to the third branch of government. ■



Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley chats with local officials, including Grant County Circuit Court Judges Craig R. Day and Robert P. VanDeHey, after a courthouse rededication ceremony.

Photo credit: Grant County Herald Independent

### New judges *continued from page 2*

Franklin with their two daughters. Her term began Aug. 31.

Former private practice Atty. Robert J. Shannon was selected by Walker to serve on the Portage County Circuit Court Branch 2 bench. Shannon fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John V. Finn, who retired on July 31 (*see Retirements on page 6*).

Shannon received his law degree from Marquette University Law School and has worked as a partner at a private firm in Stevens Point. He began serving on Sept. 15.

"He has demonstrated not only a long history of service to the Portage County community, but also a strong dedication to the fundamental constitutional principles that should serve as the foundation for every judge across the state and nation," Walker said in his press release appointing Shannon.



Judge Robert J. Shannon

Shannon has served as a member of the Portage County Courthouse Security Committee, in addition to many other community organizations. He and his wife, Ann, live in Stevens Point.

Walker appointed Atty. Brian H. Wright to serve on the Branch 1 bench of the Eau Claire County Circuit Court. Wright, who began serving on Aug. 14, replaces Judge Kristina M. Bourget, who resigned in June. Bourget had served on the Branch 1 bench since July of 2013.

Wright has worked in private practice, and as a reserve court commissioner for Eau Claire County. He holds a law degree from Marquette University Law School, an M.B.A. from the University of Denver, and a B.A. from LaGrange College.

"Brian has been tested in multiple areas of the law and has passed with flying colors," former Eau Claire County Court Commissioner Timothy Adler wrote in support of Wright's appointment.

Wright and his wife and daughter live in Eau Claire County. ■



Judge Brian H. Wright

Fall  
2015**OBITUARIES** *continued from front page*

Green Bay. The day after his death, Gov. Scott Walker ordered the flags across the state be flown at half-staff in recognition of Crooks' years of service to the state.

The Supreme Court held a moment of silence for Crooks before hearing oral arguments on the morning of Sept. 22.



Justice N. Patrick Crooks

His robe was draped over his empty seat at the bench of the hearing room in the state Capitol for the duration of the Court's proceedings that day.

Crooks was a proud graduate of St. Norbert College in De Pere, and the University of Notre Dame. He

was awarded the St. Norbert Alma Mater Award in 1992, and the Notre Dame Award of the Year in

1978. While attending St. Norbert College, Crooks had the opportunity to meet then-U.S. Sen. John F. Kennedy, who visited the campus while campaigning in 1960. Crooks had helped organize the speaker series that brought Kennedy to the school, and was later able to sit next to Kennedy at a lunch on the campus. After receiving his law degree, Crooks served as U.S. Army officer at the Pentagon in the Office of the Judge Advocate General. While attending the Judge Advocate General's Legal School at the University of Virginia, Crooks was among those gathered at the funeral procession for Kennedy in Washington D.C.

"Justice Crooks was an outstanding jurist, a thoughtful decision-maker and a colleague with a wonderful Irish sense of humor," Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said of



Gov. Scott Walker issued an executive order for flags across the state to be flown at half-staff in honor of Justice N. Patrick Crooks' service to the state. Above left: flags flying at half staff at the state Capitol, just above the Supreme Court conference room. Above right: the lowered flag at Lambeau Field on Sept. 25.

her colleague's passing.

"In addition to having served as a circuit court judge and on the Supreme Court, Justice Crooks made significant contributions to the legal profession as a lawyer and a teacher. He was a good friend and colleague, and he will be greatly missed by all."

Crooks served as a member of the Federal-State Judicial Council, Wisconsin Judicial Council, State Bar Media/Law Relations Committee, Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Law Foundation, Association for Women Lawyers of Brown County, Juvenile Justice Task Force,

James E. Doyle Inns of Court, New York University School of Law Institute of Judicial Administration, and the National Judicial College. He also served as the director of the Notre Dame Law Association, and was a frequent presenter for the Justice Teaching Institute, which gave middle school and high school teachers tips and ideas on how to teach students about the judicial system.

Crooks also served as a long-time board member for the Wisconsin Law Foundation, a charitable organization that promotes the public understanding of the law and administration of justice through funding innovative law-related public

service programs. On Sept. 30, Crooks' contributions to the Law Foundation were recognized at a dinner in Madison.

"He loved this organization so much," said his oldest son, Atty. Michael P. Crooks, who accepted an award on his father's behalf at the dinner. "It was everything to him that embodied what it meant to be a lawyer, what it meant to be a judge, what it meant to be actually involved in the law because it promoted the law and it taught people about the law, which was essentially what he was about. He loved the law, he loved justice, he loved fairness, he loved equity."

In 2013, Justice Crooks celebrated 50 years as a member of the State Bar. At the time, he told the State Bar's publication, *Inside Track*, that he became a lawyer, in part, to fulfill his father's unrealized dream of entering the legal profession. Crooks said five of his six children became lawyers, "I think it was sibling rivalry, to be honest with you."

"The measure of the man is his commitment to his community and



Justice N. Patrick Crooks' seat on the Supreme Court bench (far left) remained empty, with his judicial robe draped over it, during the Court's hearing of oral arguments on Sept. 22.

see [Obituaries](#) on page 15

**OBITUARIES** *continued from page 14*

things that are important,” Chief Judge Donald Zuidmulder, Brown County Circuit Court, told Fox 11 News in Green Bay. “He started our juvenile detention center, getting kids out of the jail and into a detention center. He was one of the pioneers of our open housing laws at times in which those things were not easy things to do.”

Hundreds of people attended the funeral service for Crooks at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Allouez on Sept. 26, including more than 50 judges from around the state and Gov. Scott Walker. Michael Crooks spoke at the funeral about his father’s commitment to doing what was right, but also about his stubbornness, symbolized by his father’s 53-year-old Army boots. Holding up the boots, Michael recalled: “He wore them to Packers games, he wore them to shovel and he wore them to the Court when the winter was bad... You can’t see these under the robe.”

Along with his dedication to the legal field, Crooks will be remembered for his kindness, quick wit, and love of sports, especially cheering on his Badgers, Packers, Fighting Irish, and the Chicago Cubs. He is survived by his wife, Kristin, and their six children and 21 grandchildren.

### **Judge John G. Bartholomew Pepin County Court Eighth Judicial Circuit Court St. Croix County Circuit Court**

Former Pepin County Circuit Court Judge John G. Bartholomew passed away on Oct. 22 at the age of 96.

Bartholomew was first elected to the Pepin County Court in 1963. In 1967, he successfully ran for Western Wisconsin’s Eight Judicial Circuit Court. He was later transferred to the St. Croix County Circuit Court after the Court Reorganization Act in 1978. Bartholomew continued to serve until his retirement in 1989.

Bartholomew served as a faculty member for the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. He also continued to serve as a reserve judge after his retirement from the circuit court bench.

“He desired a Bench and Bar that was not only intelligent and skilled but honest and principled,” an obituary read. “Presiding over more than 800 jury trials and 17 first-degree



*Judge John G.  
Bartholomew*

murder trials, he was a wealth of knowledge and influenced many legal careers.”

A graduate of UW-Madison, Bartholomew enlisted in the U.S. Army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. After serving in the Judge Advocate’s Office, he was discharged as a staff sergeant in 1945. He enrolled in Marquette University Law School and graduated in 1947. He served as the Pepin County district attorney from 1948-56.

Bartholomew is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha, and his six siblings.

### **Rose Lee Racine County Clerk of Court**

Racine County Clerk of Court Rose Lee passed away unexpectedly on July 31 at the age of 64.

“She did a wonderful job,” Chief Judge Allan “Pat” Torhorst, Racine County Circuit Court, told the *Racine Journal Times*. “She has made wonderful improvements, she knew what should be improved, and she worked well with everyone.”

Lee was first appointed clerk of court in 2009, and won her first election to the position in 2010. She had previously worked with the Racine County Family Court Commissioner’s Office, the Racine Child Support Office, as a criminal court case manager for the Clerk of Court’s Office, and as an administrative deputy clerk of court.

“Rose was one of the sweetest, most loving people I have ever known,” Racine County Circuit Court Judge Faye Flancher, who told the paper the two had been friends since working in the child support office together, was quoted as saying. “My heart is breaking.”

Lee is survived by a daughter and a son, her mother, two sisters, a brother, nieces, and nephews.

### **Kenneth M. Schopen Jefferson County Clerk of Court**

Former Jefferson County Clerk of Court Kenneth M. Schopen passed away on Oct. 15. He was 78.

Schopen served as clerk of court for the county for 38 years, first running for election in 1968. He retired in 2006. According to an obituary, prior to serving as the clerk of court, he had worked as a Senate page in the state Capitol early in his career, and had also worked as an accounting clerk for Crepaco in Lake Mills.

Schopen is survived by his wife, Ione; two daughters; two sisters; and five brothers. ■

## **State Bar launches Appellate Help Desk**

The Appellate Practice Section of the Wisconsin State Bar is offering an online help desk for self-represented litigants involved in civil appeals.

The help desk, which is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, is available to answer questions on the state appellate process; provide information on court rules, procedures, practices, and terms; provide non-confidential information on pending cases; provide information on locating and filling out court forms, and check forms for

completeness; and provide information on court deadlines.

The help desk will not be able to provide legal advice or representation, or do legal research.

For more information on the Appellate Help Desk, email [appellatehelp@gmail.com](mailto:appellatehelp@gmail.com) or call 414-671-9041. More information about the Appellate Help Desk can be found at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B03qk\\_4HcMIoNmxjZW5NUHA1TE0/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B03qk_4HcMIoNmxjZW5NUHA1TE0/view?pli=1). ■

## Tour brings students to Shawano courthouse

Reserve Judge Thomas G. Grover was among volunteers who recently helped students from Bonduel and Shawano High Schools learn about legal and emergency service careers during a “business tour” sponsored by Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC).

The tour started Sept. 22 at the Shawano County courthouse with an introduction, lunch and overview of programs at the college. Students were then divided into groups to tour four different stations, including Legal, Fire, Police/Investigation and Emergency Management Response.

Grover, who previously served as a county and circuit court judge, and Shawano County District Attorney Greg Parker discussed careers in the legal field. Shawano Police Chief Mark Kohl and Shawano County Sheriff’s Department Cpt. Tom Tuma were available to talk about career options in criminal justice. Community leaders from other departments discussed career opportunities in other areas.

Last year, NWTC facilitated six business tours, where 300 students and teachers participated in these educational events. ■



*Reserve Judge Thomas G. Grover (second from right) responds to questions from students who participated in a recent “business tour,” which included a stop at the Shawano County Board Room at the courthouse.*

### Bradley *continued from front page*

attorney and as a judge in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court and in the District I Court of Appeals.

Roggensack, who addressed reporters at the press conference, said Bradley’s experience would assist the new justice in making a smooth transition to the Supreme Court.

Bradley was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 2012, and won election to the Branch 45 bench in

2013. She was appointed to the Court of Appeals bench on June 1. Prior to serving on the circuit court, she worked in private practice for 16 years.

A Milwaukee native, Bradley received a bachelor of science degree from Marquette University in 1993 and received her law degree from the UW Law School in 1996. She is a member of the Wisconsin Juvenile Jury Instruction

Committee; Wisconsin Juvenile Benchbook Committee; Board of Advisors, Milwaukee Lawyers Chapter, Federalist Society; Board of Governors, St. Thomas More Lawyers Society; and the Wisconsin State Advisory Committee, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She was a member of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association and the Milwaukee Trial Judges Association. While in private practice, Bradley served as an American Arbitration Association Arbitrator and was chair of the State Bar Business Law Section. ■



*Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack and members of the media gather in the governor’s conference room as Gov. Scott Walker announces the appointment of Justice Rebecca G. Bradley to the Wisconsin Supreme Court on Oct. 9.*



## Plaque honors Dane County attorney veterans

After spending six years lost in storage, the Dane County Bar Association History and Memorials Committee located a bronze plaque that honors local attorneys who fought in World War I. On the 100th anniversary of the start of that war, Assistant District Atty. and Committee Chair Paul Humphrey worked with Dane County Facilities Management to restore the plaque and have it hung on the exterior of the Dane County courthouse.

The plaque was re-dedicated at a ceremony on Sept. 18. A crowd of 25 judges, lawyers and county dignitaries were present as Humphrey, Dane County Bar Association President Sarah Walkenhorst and Dane County Circuit Court Judge David Flanagan made remarks. Flanagan, a Navy Veteran, also presides over the Veteran's Diversion Court. ■



*Dane County Veterans Service Officer Dan Connery, Dane County Supervisor Mary Kolar, Dane County Circuit Court Judge David Flanagan, Dane County Assistant District Atty. Paul Humphrey and Dane County Bar President Sarah Walkenhorst pose outside the courthouse with a plaque honoring county bar members who served in World War I.*

## Clerks of court group visits with lawmakers

Members of the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association visited with legislators at the state Capitol as part of the organization's 2015 Legislative Day on Sept. 16.

Before visiting individual legislative offices, clerks of circuit court were welcomed to the Capitol by Rep. Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwonago). The group also met with Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran and the court system's Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier.

Assistant Minority Leader Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) spoke to the group during a lunch meeting in the North Hearing Room.



*Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), speaks with the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association in the North Hearing Room of the state Capitol during the group's visit Sept. 16.*

Other guest speakers included Kyle Christianson and Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, both of the government affairs staff of the Wisconsin Counties Association.

The legislators discussed the legislative process and issues of interest with the group.

While visiting legislative offices, the clerks handed out informational flyers providing a description of a clerk's duties as a constitutional officer, including an explanation of the important role of a clerk:

"... The clerk of circuit court is able to enhance public confidence in the justice system by having dedicated professional and knowledgeable personnel who provide timely and efficient court administration, record keeping, jury management, interpreter services, and fiscal responsibility." ■



*Members of the Wisconsin Clerks of Court Association pose outside the Supreme Court Hearing Room at the state Capitol during their Legislative Day visit.*

## Judges bring recognition to pro bono work

By Jeff Brown, Access to Justice Commission

The second year of the [Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society](#) marked a significant increase in the number of attorneys recognized for their pro bono work – 398 attorneys in 2014, compared to 121 attorneys in 2013. The Pro Bono Honor Society is an annual recognition program created by the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission with support from the State Bar of Wisconsin's pro bono program. The attorneys honored have performed at least 50 hours of qualifying pro bono legal services during the calendar year by providing legal services without fee or at a substantially reduced fee for persons of limited means, or for organizations that serve persons of limited means. As the Wisconsin Supreme Court stated in an open letter congratulating the 2014 honorees, "Volunteers are a key component of our legal services delivery system in Wisconsin and their services are a valuable contribution to the fair and effective functioning of our courts."

Circuit court judges and district court administrators (DCA) around the state have played a vital role this year in recognizing the 398 attorneys in 39 counties. Their efforts and participation have made it possible to honor these attorneys at a local bar event or some other meaningful occasion in their own counties, even if there is only one honoree in the county.

For example, in District 10, now-

former District Court Administrator Kristina Aschenbrenner contacted the presiding judges in the counties with pro bono honorees, and the judges decided the occasion to present the certificates of recognition to the honorees. These occasions included county board meetings and a meeting of the local Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

In counties where the bar associations already had annual events to honor attorneys for their pro bono work, such as Milwaukee, Dane, and Washington counties, recognition of the Pro Bono Honor Society attorneys has been added to the agenda, with circuit court judges participating in the presentations. Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Michael K. Moran arranged for a presentation of the certificates to District Nine's honorees at a Marathon County Bar Association meeting.

Judges have also arranged for presentation of the certificates in their courtrooms at an occasion when other members of the local bar are present: Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Anna Becker and Green County Circuit Court Judge James R. Beer each took this approach. And in Brown County, Chief Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder and Brown County Bar Association President Corey Kimps jointly decided that a special session of the Brown County Circuit Court, sponsored by the Robert J. Parins Inns of Court, would be the appropriate

opportunity at which to recognize the five Brown County honorees.

The commission is grateful for the willingness of so many judges and DCAs to participate in honoring attorneys for their pro bono contributions. It is crucial that attorneys know their pro bono work is valued by the judiciary.

Judges can also play a role in encouraging attorneys who meet the qualifications for membership in the honor society to submit their names during the annual certification period. The certification period for pro bono work in 2015 is open now and will close at the end of February 2016. Each Wisconsin attorney will receive email notification of this. Attorneys may self-certify that they qualify based on their work in 2015, and others knowledgeable about the attorney's pro bono work – such as judges, law firms, and pro bono programs – may certify on the attorneys' behalf. Certifications should be submitted using the online form on the commission's website.

The commission looks forward to recognizing an even greater number of attorneys for their contributions in 2015, and to the continued support of the judiciary in these efforts.

### In Other News:

The commission has launched [Wisconsin Legal Advice Online](#), a new statewide resource that connects volunteer Wisconsin lawyers with members of the public who have legal questions. Volunteers are being recruited now and outreach to the public will begin this fall. We believe the website will be a great resource for the public and for overburdened court staff who don't have a local resource where they can refer litigants who have legal questions that staff cannot answer.

The commission is also pleased to report that Wisconsin is no longer on the very short list of states that include no funding for civil legal aid to low income residents in the state budget. The Legislature approved and Gov. Scott Walker signed the budget bill that includes \$500,000 per year for legal aid services to abuse victims in the 2015-17 biennium. ■



Judge James R. Beer, Green County Circuit Court, left, and retired Court of Appeals Judge Margaret Vergeront, center, presented certificates of recognition to attorneys Michael Gengler and Timothy Burns for their pro bono work in the county. Also pictured is Jane Bucher of the Green County Bar Association, right.

**Jurors** *continued from page 11*

“While judges, lawyers and members of government make important decisions, arguably the most important determinations are made by citizens who carry out the great burden of reaching just, fair and conscientious decisions...Jurors who serve on jury trials consistently tell us that while they originally were hesitant to carry out the responsibility, in the end they were happy and proud they did so. Juries are one of the ways American society guarantees the rights of citizens on trial. It’s the best the world has to offer,” Wynn wrote.

**Brown County**

Brown County Clerk of Circuit Court John Vander Leest showed his appreciation for jurors in a letter to the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

The letter stated in part: “Individuals summoned to serve as jurors in Wisconsin set aside their work and personal lives to ensure that the cornerstone of American justice perseveres. Whether a juror served in September or another month, this is the legal system’s chance to thank all the jurors for their time and contribution to our justice system.

Vander Leest wrote that juries serve three important purposes:

They decide the facts in a case as presented by evidence and testimony at criminal and civil trials.

They provide a means by which community values and sentiments are reflected in the court process.

They foster the public’s acceptance of legal decisions.

During the period from January through September, Brown County summoned 7,200 citizens for jury duty, and 2,050 jurors actually served on a jury trial in Brown County during that time, Vander Leest said. ■



*Court officials pound the pavement. Former St. Croix County Clerk of Circuit Court (presently Anoka County, Minn. court administrator) Lori Meyer; Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Eugene Harrington; and Barron County Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon participated in the Lyndon Ellefson Memorial Run in Barron, Wis. on Sept. 19. Millermon and Meyer ran the 5K with times of 25:35 and 28:22, respectively. Harrington ran the half marathon with a time of 2:25:04. Barron County Circuit Court Judge James Babler (not pictured) annually volunteers at the pre-registration.*

**CCIP** *continued from page 7*

practices and training at all levels within the court and child welfare systems. Work has already begun in many jurisdictions, either independently or as part of the Department of Children and Families’ Trauma Project or the Fostering



*Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack attends the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts.*

Futures initiative.

Marsh went on to address the significant secondary traumatic effects that may result in high rates of turnover and other work impacts for court staff. These sentiments

were repeated in further detail by James Henry of the Western Michigan University Children’s Trauma Assessment Center. Henry addressed compassion fatigue and burnout as the inevitable outcomes of unchecked secondary traumatic stress. One part of the solution, Henry said, was simply to recognize the stress and sharing that pain and sadness rather than suppressing it.

Anton Treuer, a professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, addressed the trans-generational effects of historical trauma, largely through the lens of the Native American experience. There were also workshops on topics, ranging from epigenetics and trauma in opiate users to case planning and dual-status youth.

Participants also had the opportunity to learn skills for dealing with stress and building resiliency in evening events geared toward mindfulness, meditation, and tribal talking circles.

The conference concluded with a

spirited presentation from Tamra Oman, who discussed the traumatic effects of events she experienced as a youth. She explained how these events eventually led to her incarceration, but ultimately put her on the path to help not only those who have had similar struggles, but also those who work closely with traumatized individuals.

The conference was sponsored by the [Children’s Court Improvement Program](#) and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, with assistance from several partner organizations. ■



*Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Jason A. Rossell at the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts.*

Fall  
2015**Legislative** *continued from page 10*

time. AB 50 relates to access to ignition interlock device reports and occupational license eligibility periods for participants in certain treatment projects.

**Review of Criminal Penalties**

A fourth committee, the Study Committee on the Review of Criminal Penalties, had its report introduced as Assembly Bill 128 on March 27, 2015. It was referred to the Assembly Committee on Corrections, but no action has been taken at this time.

**Assembly Bill 128** classifies the majority of unclassified misdemeanors into one of the three current classes of misdemeanors (A, B or C). In addition, the bill deletes certain obsolete misdemeanors and changes the penalties for some of the misdemeanors that had no jail-time component (fine only) to a civil forfeiture. The bill also provides that the criminal procedure rules of discovery would apply to civil forfeiture actions initiated by the citation procedure contained in the bill. Three circuit court judges served on the study committee: Chief Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder of Brown County, Scott W. Horne of La Crosse County and David M. Reddy of Walworth County. ■

**Staff** *continued from page 6*

Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette

serve as a part-time executive assistant to the chief justice in 2014.

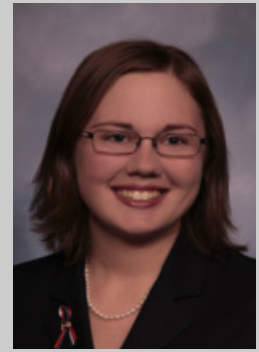
Bissonnette had served as a judge in Dodge County from 1989 to 2013. In his role as executive assistant, he worked on the Working

Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) of Wisconsin. WINGS brings together elder care agencies

to address the issues faced by elderly in need of guardianship.

Kristina Aschenbrenner, former District Ten Court Administrator, accepted a new position as the city administrator for the city of Rhinelander. She began her new position on Sept. 8.

Aschenbrenner had previously served as the clerk of court for Eau Claire County from 2008 until 2014, when she became the district court administrator. ■



Kristina Aschenbrenner



*In August, the chairs, desks, and attorney table were all removed from the Supreme Court Hearing Room in the Capitol to make way for new carpeting. The only furniture remaining in the room during the installation was the Supreme Court Bench, which is mounted to the floor. The new carpeting replaced carpeting installed in 2001 to match the original carpeting.*

*While the new carpet installed this year matches the look of the original, it is designed to hold up better to foot traffic and cleaning.*

**Conference held for municipal court clerks**

More than 230 municipal court clerks from throughout Wisconsin gathered in Appleton on Oct. 22-23 to study a variety of topics at the 2015 Municipal Court Clerk Seminar.

The annual seminar was hosted by the Office of Judicial Education with planning support from the Municipal Court Clerk Advisory Committee, which presented an orientation session for new clerks.

Breakout sessions were held on topics, including Department of Natural Resource violations, joint municipal courts, costs and fees, Department of Transportation records, debt collection, stress management, and personal safety in the courtroom. Other sessions addressed communications, legal issues, job responsibilities, juvenile cases and alcohol assessments and driver safety plans. ■



Judicial Education Director Karla Baumgartner, seated at right, and Program Assistant Carol Koschel register attendees at the 2015 Municipal Court Clerk Seminar at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Milwaukee's youngest offenders may have a chance to face a jury of their peers, thanks to a plan by Milwaukee's Youth Council to create a youth court, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The proposed court, like other teen courts currently operating in the state, would allow first-time teen offenders charged with minor non-violent crimes to appear before a panel of teenagers.

**Kalan Haywood II**, one of the 14 members of the youth council, believes teen offenders may respond better to people their own age, rather than a judge who may be the same age as their parents, the newspaper reported.

"It wouldn't be a bench above where we were judging, it would be an equal discussion," Haywood told the paper. "To be able to talk to your peers, who can relate to you and see things from your point of view...they would be more open."

The program could also help reduce caseloads for municipal judges, according to the article, by steering offenders toward youth employment and after school programs already offered by the city. The youth council told the *Journal Sentinel* they hope the estimated \$20,000-\$60,000 annual cost to run the program will be included in the city's annual budget.

The *Green Bay Press-Gazette* reports that Pulaski Municipal Judge **Robert Betley** is being recognized as the longest serving sitting judge in the state. His 42 years on the bench is just five years shy of former Port Edwards Municipal Judge **Donald Carl**, who had served 47 years

when he retired in 2006. Carl is believed to be the longest serving judge in the state's history, according to the newspaper.

Betley, who began serving in 1973, has apparently served longer than his 239 fellow municipal court judges, and current state court judges. Former Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Michael D. Guolee**, retired in 2014 after 38 years on the bench, and Supreme Court Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** has served as a justice for 39 years.

Betley served as a village trustee before taking over the municipal judgeship after his predecessor became ill and no one else stepped up. He has never faced an opponent in an election. He told the paper he plans to serve out his current term, which ends in three years,

and will decide then whether to run again.



Judge Alan J. White

In August, Columbia County celebrated its first OWI Treatment Court graduate, according to the news website [www.madison.com](http://www.madison.com). Attendees, including current program participants, filled the Branch 3 courtroom, as Columbia County Circuit Court **Alan**

**J. White** congratulated the graduate and presented him with a framed certificate.

White told those in the courtroom that the OWI treatment court has saved the county close to six figures and over 1,000 jail days for all participants since it began in 2014. White was quoted as saying the benefits go beyond savings, noting: "It is families that are back together, parents playing with their kids again."

The program is offered to third-time OWI offenders, who must complete three phases, including jail time, treatment, supervision, and required check-ins with the judge in court.

White said that the support system that developed between the participants in the program was a surprising, positive outcome.

Chief Justice **Patience Drake Roggensack** and Director of State Courts **J. Denis Moran**

attended the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska July 25-29. This year's meeting focused on reform in

the state courts' juvenile justice systems. Educational sessions

see [News and notes on page 22](#) **J. Denis Moran**



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*The Wisconsin State Law Library has developed a new brochure to highlight the many different reasons lawyers, other legal professionals, business owners, students, and the public should take advantage of the many resources at the library and its branches. The brochure, entitled "Explore, Inform, Connect," is now available [online](#) and at the State Law Library, 120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Madison, and at its branch libraries in the Milwaukee and Dane County courthouses.*



Judge Michael D. Guolee



Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack



J. Denis Moran

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 21*

addressed school discipline, adolescent brain development, racial and ethnic disparity, and due-process issues in juvenile cases. The meeting marked the 60th anniversary of COSCA, which was established in 1955. Past COSCA presidents, including Moran, gathered to recognize the occasion.

Former president and founder of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) **Edward B. McConnell** passed away on Aug. 10. McConnell served as the administrative director for the New Jersey court system from 1953 to 1973. After leaving the New Jersey court system, he helped found the NCSC, and served as the center's first president from 1973 to 1990.

"Ed was one of the true founders of judicial administration not just in the U.S. but globally," said current NCSC President **Mary C. McQueen**.

"Without Ed there would not be an NCSC. Many of you may not know that Ed signed personal bank notes and secured a second mortgage on his home to make payroll in the infancy of NCSC. His commitment and vision were seeds that flourished to become the institution that is recognized around the world for service and leadership to courts." Director of State Courts **J. Denis Moran** was among those who attended a memorial for McConnell in Williamsburg during October.

The Waukesha County Clerk of Courts Office received the 2014 Organization Angel Award from the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County.

In existence for 65 years, the Christmas Clearing Council is a nonprofit group that matches families in need with individuals and groups who want to provide gifts to their children during the holiday season. In 2014, the organization provided gifts to 4,100 children in need.

The award was presented to the clerk's office at their management meeting in July, and will be displayed in the administrative lobby.

According to the Christmas Clearing Council's records, the Waukesha County Clerk of Courts Office has supported the program since at least 1999.

"I have the pleasure of working with incredibly kind-hearted people and this group loves to support the children of our community in any way we are able to," Waukesha County Clerk of Court **Kathleen Madden** said.

Youth in Madison have a new option to avoid fines and a conviction record when they violate city ordinances, according to *The Capital Times*. On Sept. 15, Madison and Dane County leaders launched a restorative justice program that works with the YWCA of Dane County and Dane County TimeBank to allow offenders between the ages of 12 and 16 to participate in a teen court and restorative sentencing in order to avoid a conviction on their criminal record.

"You get an arrest and a civil conviction for disorderly conduct, retail theft, it impacts your ability to get a driver's license, which impacts your ability to get a job, go to school," YWCA Restorative Justice Policy

and Partnership Associate **Carousel Bayrd** was quoted as saying. "These things, once *you're in*, they impact the rest of your life."

According to the article, 800 municipal citations, or about a quarter of all Madison Police Department arrests, were issued to teens between the ages of 12 and 16.

Through the program, families of teens issued citations may contact the YWCA prior to the court date, and the ticket will be put on hold. Offenders will appear before a court of their peers, and sentencing will most likely be restorative.

When an offender completes the program, the YWCA will contact the court to have the offense cleared. If an offender does not complete the program, they will have to go to court.

"Restorative justice is about addressing harm, it's not about letting people off the hook," YWCA CEO **Rachel Krinsky**, who also runs a similar program in the Madison school district, told the paper.

The appointment of Judge **Rebecca G. Bradley** to the District I Court of Appeals (now a Supreme Court justice) that was effective June 1, created the first all-female appeals court in the state, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported in August.

Bradley, who was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. **Scott Walker** joined Judges **Joan F. Kessler**, **Patricia S. Curley**, and **Kitty K. Brennan** on District I. She replaced Judge **Ralph Adam Fine**, who passed away in December of 2014.

Curley talked to the paper about being one of only three women to graduate from Marquette University Law School in 1968, and about being one of the first two women to serve on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court when she was appointed in 1978.

Bradley said she is grateful for the women judges for laying the groundwork.

"There's no difference in how we conference or decide cases. Women don't really think differently, it's just not true," Kessler told the paper.

While Kessler said being a woman does not impact the way judges rule, there may be some difference when it comes to



[see News and notes on page 24](#)

Justice Rebecca G. Bradley



Judge Kitty K. Brennan



Judge Patricia S. Curley



Judge Joan F. Kessler

**RETIREMENT** *continued from page 6*

cat, a dog, even Bob Uecker calling a home run for the Brewers. Somewhat amazed by this bird's abilities, and considering a bird did not technically violate the no dogs or cats rule, Finn said he was just about to dismiss the case, when the landlord asked to show the judge one more piece of evidence. The landlord took out his cell phone and handed it to Finn. The phone showed a photo of the tenant, taken that morning, walking out of her house with a dog tucked inside her coat.

The second case involved siblings in a family who had purchased six family burial plots, one for each parent, and one for each of the four children. Over time, the parents and one of the siblings passed away and were buried in the family plots. A spouse of one of the siblings had also passed away, and that sibling had them buried in one of the plots, leaving one too few plots for the remaining siblings. Two of the siblings were arguing to have the spouse removed. Since the contract stated "family member," Finn said he had to do some research into the law, and found that it basically said "first come, first serve," and the spouse could remain there. So he said he told them, basically, if they wanted in, they just had to die first.

Finn said the most difficult aspect of the job for him has been the administrative work, since he was trained in law, not administration. But the increased use of technology in the courts has helped with that. He said there were no computers in the offices when he started.

"In 1990, the DCA (district court administrator) asked me if I wanted a laptop, and I asked, 'why?' And he said, 'because you're one of the few who is using the desktop.'"

Finn said child custody cases have also been difficult for him at times. He said he has tried to get people to come to an agreement themselves, as he believes it's better to let the parents make the custody decisions.

"I say to them, 'Do you want to go home and tell your children a man in a black robe made the decision?'"

Finn was first appointed to the Branch 2 bench in 1988, and won his first election that following year. A former private practice attorney and assistant district attorney in Bronx, New York, he holds a B.A. from Marquette University and a law degree from St. John's University School of Law. He has been a member of the State Bar Media/Law Relations Committee, the State Bar Public Image Committee, Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference, Portage County Justice Center Planning Management Team, and a delegate of the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

In his retirement, Finn said he hopes to do things he's never done before and visit places he's never been. He also plans to visit family, do more reading, and spend more time outdoors.

"I've never had a summer off since I was 14," he said. "That's why I didn't want to quit in the winter."

**Judge Kenneth W. Forbeck  
Rock County Circuit Court**

Although he did not seek re-election this past spring, Rock County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth W. Forbeck warns this may not be the last we see of him. Forbeck said the reason he did not file the paperwork to run again was due to medical reasons. In October 2014, Forbeck underwent a heart and kidney transplant at the Mayo Clinic.

Forbeck said since his return to the bench, the more serious cases have been transferred to other judges in the county. But he said he has enjoyed all of the interesting cases that have come before his bench since he was first appointed by then-Gov. Jim Doyle in 2007.

Forbeck said he is proud of the fact that he has made most of his decisions in open court, and written very few decisions, since he prefers to give his decisions to the parties involved immediately.

Forbeck worked in private practice for 37 years before joining the bench. He won election to the Branch 5 bench in 2009. He noticed one significant difference between being a judge and being an attorney once he took the bench.

"People actually listen to you when you're a judge," he said.

A graduate of Marquette University, Forbeck holds a law degree from Marquette University Law School. In 2009, he helped organize the Rock County foreclosure mediation program to help homeowners and mortgage companies reach agreements.

Forbeck offered this advice to the new judges who will be taking the bench, including Branch 5: "Listen to every litigant. Listen to the evidence, and make decisions in a reasonable period of time. People have the right to be heard and listened to."

"And schedule your vacations right away, the calendar fills up fast," he added.

Forbeck said he will miss the camaraderie and working with the people in the courthouse, and while he has not ruled out running again in the future, he does plan to enjoy himself.

"It's the first time in 45 years that I haven't worked," he said. "I have an 18 year-old heart and I'm feeling really good."



*Judge Kenneth W. Forbeck*

**Judge Daniel S. George  
Columbia County Circuit Court**

"I'm probably most known for deciding what to do with Jeffrey Dahmer's brain," Columbia County Circuit Court Judge Daniel S. George said, prior to his retirement in July at the end of his term.

George said the issue of what to do with the brain was raised in probate in 1995 after Dahmer's death in prison. The rest of Dahmer's body had been cremated, but the brain had been preserved by the state pathologist's office. Dahmer's mother wanted it donated for research, while his father wanted it to be destroyed.

"It needed to be destroyed," George said about



*Judge Daniel S. George*

Fall  
2015**NEWS AND NOTES** *continued from page 22*

topics of conversation outside the law in the District I offices, where even the support staff are all female.

"We talk about our grandkids, I'm not sure how much guys do that."



The National Center for State Courts recently made available posters to warn people about possible scams that use jury duty as a ploy to get people to provide personal information or money to fraudsters. Milwaukee County is among counties displaying the posters at the courthouse. Pictured above are jury coordinator Lori Schumann (center) and staffers (left to right), Pria Micklevitz, Juan Jimenez, Trinette Smith and Lisa Bucci.

The *Wisconsin State Journal* reported on a phone scam that is threatening people with jail time for missing jury duty. According to the article, the caller, who poses as a sheriff's office lieutenant, tells people to send money in order to avoid jail time.

Both the Madison Police Department and the Dane County Sheriff's Office have received complaints about the phone calls.

Police are encouraging anyone who receives such a phone call to report it, and remind citizens that they do not collect fees over the phone, according to the article.

WSAU reported on the outreach program, Court with Class, that is co-sponsored by the Supreme Court and State Bar of Wisconsin. The program invites high school classes in to the Supreme Court hearing room in the state Capitol to observe oral arguments before the Supreme Court. The program, which first began in 1996, also allows the students to meet with a justice, who discusses the role of the judiciary and how the Supreme Court operates.

"It's more important for them to see what an appellate court looks like," Chief Justice **Patience Drake Roggensack** told the station. "I think the Judicial Branch of government is the least understood and it's mostly because people don't see what we do."

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* posted a photo on its website of a suspect in a bomb threat called in to the Racine County Courthouse on Oct. 26.

The photo, released by authorities looking to identify the suspect, shows an individual making a call on a public phone.

The threatening phone call, made around 8:30 that morning, caused the building to be evacuated. The courthouse was reopened around 1 p.m. after it had been searched and cleared, the *Journal Sentinel* reported.

The Jefferson County Alcohol Treatment Court celebrated its first graduate on Oct. 7, according to the *Daily Union*. The program, which is just over a year old, is offered to qualified repeat offenders over the age of 18 willing to complete a four-phase treatment program.

The celebration for graduate **Henry Gibbemeyer** was attended by Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge **William F. Hue** and Chief Justice **Patience Drake Roggensack**, as well as other program participants.

"This treatment court holds offenders accountable for their crimes while treating and resolving alcohol issues," Hue told the paper. "We are fortunate to have many talented people joining in this effort strongly supported by the administration and county board here in Jefferson County."

According to the article, Gibbemeyer completed 139 preliminary breath tests, 140 self-help meetings, eight random drug screenings, 34 office appointments with staff, and 17 court appearances before graduating from the program.

"I am a big fan of treatment courts," Roggensack was quoted as saying. "I think they are so important and so critical, and you are very fortunate in Jefferson County to have the kind of county board you have that supports this, and believes it and understands it."

Former Dodge County Circuit Court Judge **Andrew P. Bissonette** spoke to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* about



Judge William F. Hue

[see News and notes on page 27](#)



Three Milwaukee judges volunteered as part of the Association of Women Lawyers to paint the interior of a Habitat for Humanity house near Washington Park on Oct. 17: District I Court of Appeals Judge Joan F. Kessler, and Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Michelle Ackerman Havas and Mel Flanagan (front row, left to right). Also pictured are Daryl Whyte of Habitat for Humanity, and attorneys Pria Barnes, Jill Kastner and Cathy Burgoyne.



**RETIREMENT** *continued from page 23*

Dahmer's brain. George also handled the dispute over what should be done with the serial killer's belongings. Families of Dahmer's victims wanted the items auctioned off to raise money, but George released the items to an organization of Milwaukee business owners, who raised money to purchase the items from the families with the intent of destroying them.

George said he always enjoyed the jury trials he presided over, regardless of what kind they were, because that was what he missed most in going from being a lawyer to the bench.

The job of being a judge can become alienating, George said, due to the requirements in terms of relationships with others, especially in a smaller community.

"After 24 years there are few people who you haven't had some dealings with," he said.

George was first elected to the bench in 1991. He had previously served as corporation counsel for Columbia County, and as a district attorney and assistant district attorney for Dodge County, as well as worked in private practice. A graduate of UW-Madison and Marquette University Law School, George has served on the Supreme Court Special Committee on Gender Neutrality and as a coach and judge for mock trial.

George said the most difficult part of leaving will be saying goodbye to the people he has worked with. And he had the following advice to offer his replacement: "Work hard, listen, be fair."

In his retirement, George said he planned to spend time with the four grandchildren he had been blessed with in the last year and a half.

### Judge Charles A. Pollex Adams County Circuit Court

As the only judge in Adams County, Circuit Court Judge Charles A. Pollex has had to hear all types of cases. But he said the only ones he did not really enjoy were the pro se divorce cases. Pollex said that being a one-judge county has meant he has had to deal with a heavy caseload, and not always having adequate time to research cases. But he also said he has really enjoyed the last 12 years. Pollex retired on July 31 at the end of his term.

"I am very proud to have had the privilege of serving Adams County," he said. "It is a very high honor, as far as I'm concerned."

Pollex was first elected to the Adams County bench in 2003, to fill the vacancy of retiring Judge Duane H. Polivka. He had previously served as the city attorney for Adams County for 23 years, three terms as the Adams County district attorney, and 11 years as the Adams County court commissioner. He holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and a law degree from UW Law School.

"I'm going to miss the routine of getting up and going to work at a job I enjoyed," Pollex said. But he plans to spend his time now farming; he grew up on a town of Quincy farm, which he and his wife took over, as well as traveling.



Judge Charles A. Pollex

"I look forward to being able to spend more time with my family," Pollex said.

### Judge Gerald L. Wright Sawyer County Circuit Court

Sawyer County Circuit Court Judge Gerald L. Wright did not seek re-election this spring after serving one term on the Sawyer County Circuit Court. Wright said over the last six years, significant legislative restrictions have posed a challenge for the court system's efforts to create new systems of dealing with criminal offenders. He said he believes there is not enough the courts can do under the current funding, and courts are left trying to decide where their limited resources should be applied.

During his term, Wright was instrumental in establishing a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee in the county, and advocated for drug court program funding.

Wright said he has found presiding over adoptions to be the most enjoyable part of the job because they offered a positive outcome.

Wright was elected in 2009 to replace retiring Judge Norman L. Yackel. Wright received his bachelor's degree from Luther College and his law degree from UW Law School. He had previously served as an assistant state public defender and worked in private practice.

Wright advises his successor, Yackel's son Judge John M. Yackel, to maintain an active life off the bench in order to stay grounded and avoid "compassion fatigue."

While he said he had no immediate plans for retirement, Wright said he was going to be an assistant coach for a developing mountain bike team.

### Gail Richardson District Five Court Administrator

District Five Court Administrator (DCA) Gail Richardson recalls arriving in Wisconsin for a job interview on a brisk November Election Day in 1991. She was initially interviewed for her DCA position by then- (and now) Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran, then-Deputy Director (Court Operations) Kathleen Murphy and then-Chief Judge Robert Pekowsky, of Dane County Circuit Court. Coming from the Illinois Administrative Office of the Courts, Richardson recalled discussing the joke about Illinois politics and voting "early and often." Born in Ohio, Richardson accepted no responsibility for such habits.

Richardson plans to retire from the court system effective Feb. 1, 2016 to be replaced in Madison by current District Two Court Administrator Theresa Owens. Recruiting is underway for the District Two post, as well as for District Ten.

Richardson began work as the District Five court administrator on Dec. 7, 1992. Prior to coming to



Judge Gerald L. Wright

Fall  
2015**RETIREMENT** *continued from page 25*

Wisconsin, she worked in Illinois, both in the central court administrative office and in the 19th Judicial Circuit (Lake County). Before that she also worked as a court administrator in the Third Judicial District in North Carolina and Bucks County, Pennsylvania, her first position after school, starting in 1978. Richardson has an undergraduate degree in history from Ohio University and a master's degree in judicial administration from American University in the District of Columbia. She became a fellow of the Institute of Court Management in 1990. Her assignments in District Five covered all areas of court administration, with a focus on jury management that was recognized in 1996 when the American Bar Association (ABA) and National Center for State Courts presented her with an award for her role in implementing the ABA Standards Relating to Juror Use and Management in Wisconsin.



Gail Richardson

"I don't think I am unique in saying I did not grow up wanting to be a court administrator," said Richardson. "I never even heard of the career until graduate school, but I'm glad I found it, or it found me, as it has been rewarding and fulfilling. It has allowed my curiosity free rein to investigate all aspects of the court system, provided opportunities to work with colleagues at all levels to try new ideas, fed my need to organize everything around me, and let me meet and work with a wide,

wide range of characters in the legal, local and state government fields," Richardson said. Her work on various committees throughout the years allowed her to get to know and make friends with clerks, judges and commissioners from across the state.

"I value that experience. I can't say enough good things about all the district court administrators and Court Operations staff I have worked with over the years. I have never been associated with a more committed, professional, energetic and productive group of people. The positive role played by the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) in advancing court system technology cannot be overstated. I was very fortunate in my chief judges. Judge Pekowsky, Judge Dan Moeser, Judge Mike Nowakowski, Judge Bill Foust, and now Judge James Daley, have been all a court administrator could ask for in a chief and I owe them my sincere thanks for the respect, support and friendship they offered."

Richardson said she will miss the people of the Wisconsin Court system, but she is "ready for a new chapter in my life. I look forward to hearing about your future successes from wherever I land."

### **Sherie Sasso** **Supreme Court Judicial Assistant**

Supreme Court Judicial Assistant Sherie Sasso retired at



Sherie Sasso

the end of July, after 21 years of service to the Court. Sasso began working as a judicial assistant for Justice Ann Walsh Bradley on the first day Bradley's first term, Aug. 1, 1995.

Prior to joining the court system, Sasso worked as a legal secretary and a paralegal in private practice for 22 years. She also worked for Congressman Bob Kastenmeier's

Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice in Washington, D.C. In 2006, Sasso was named an Unsung Hero by the *Wisconsin law Journal*.

"All told, my career spanned 44 years, 9 months, and 27 days," Sasso said. "I loved working in the law. It was always interesting and challenging, and I will miss that part of it. I will also miss my boss, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, and my coworkers in the Capitol, who always kept me laughing."

In her retirement, Sasso said she plans to spend more time with her four grandchildren, and take some road trips with her husband, Steve, who has been patiently waiting for 13 years for her to join him in retirement.

### **Cindy Kimmons** **Lincoln County Clerk of Court** **Kathleen Buros** **Vernon County Clerk of Court**

Wisconsin will be losing a combined 60 years of experience with the retirements of two veteran clerks of circuit court later this year, Cindy Kimmons of Lincoln County and Kathleen Buros of Vernon County.

Kimmons was appointed to her position in June 1996 and elected that fall. As she reflected upon her years of service, she noted that what she will miss most is the "in the trenches" work, made all the more rewarding by the constant support of supportive and knowledgeable staff, who have been like a second family to her. Her focus has been on the people served by her office, be they civil litigants or criminal defendants.

Kimmons recalled in particular an incident where a defendant with mental health issues managed to disrobe during a hearing and create something of a spectacle atop the counsel table. In the telling, such a story could be played for laughs, but for Kimmons, it brought home the pressing mental health issues that must be continuously addressed by our criminal justice system. In retirement, she plans on taking the first year to get healthier, travel, and enjoy more family time, while also continuing to run the pick-your-own strawberry farm she manages with her husband.

Buros was first elected to the office in 1984. Looking back upon her career, she noted that one of the high points was working with the Vernon County board in 1996-98 to completely modernize the courthouse. The overhaul improved security, storage space, customer service and jury assembly facilities, and proper ADA accommodations to better serve her community. That the dedication of the improved facility coincided with Wisconsin's

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## NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 24*

the need to improve the guardianship system in the state, especially as the baby boomer generation ages and the number of elderly in need of guardianship increases over the next several years.

"There was some recognition around the country that there were weaknesses in guardianship and if true, those problems would only be exacerbated by the quickly growing caseload," Bissonnette told the paper. The article cites several cases of abuse Bissonnette had collected documentation of, most involving family members in guardianship roles misusing finances.

To help address this concern, Bissonnette has worked to bring together a group of elder care stakeholders, with the Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS). Bissonnette first worked to establish the program while working as an executive assistant for Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson**, and has continued to volunteer for it in his retirement.

"We have a lot of guardianships in this state," Abrahamson is quoted as saying. "The issue is you can always do better. The question is how you can do better."

La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge **Elliott M. Levine** wrote an article entitled "Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) in Wisconsin: A Primer," for the August issue of Wisconsin Counties magazine.

Eau Claire and Milwaukee counties were selected to participate in a nationwide five phase EBDM initiative by the National Institute of Corrections. Only five other cities in the country were selected to participate in Phase II of the initiative, which involves a planning process for implementing the framework at the local level. For Phase V, which involves expanding the framework with cooperation at the state level, Chippewa, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie, Rock, and Waukesha counties were also selected to participate.

"In Wisconsin, reform of the criminal justice system has historically originated with local innovation and implementation followed by state-level support and development," Levine wrote. ■



Judge Elliott M. Levine

## RETIREMENT *continued from page 26*

Sesquicentennial celebration was a source of great pride to Buros. What she will miss most in her retirement are all the people - staff, county board members, and her constituents - that made the job a great experience. Her primary focus in retirement will be to just relax and spend more time with her kids and grandkids, kicking it off with a three month winter road trip adventure with her family.

The Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association honored these two extraordinary clerks of circuit court at their annual fall conference with certificates of appreciation, as well as flags that had been recently flown over the state Capitol, contributed by their representatives in the Legislature.

### Judith Wolf Assistant to the District Court Administrator

When Judith Wolf first started working for the court system on Dec. 19, 1974, court administration did not exist. She said she came on as part of a pilot project during the court system reorganization, which only guaranteed her a job for three years.

Wolf retired from her position as assistant

to the District Court Administrator for the Tenth Judicial District this fall. She said it had been a pleasure working in the court administration office, even through the trying moments, and the staff had become like family to her over the years. But she said it was time for her to move on.

"It was a long haul, but I loved every minute of it," Wolf said.

In her retirement, Wolf said she plans to travel, spend time with her children, grandchildren, and her 92-year-old father, and work in the garden. ■



Lincoln County Clerk of Court Cindy Kimmons and Vernon County Clerk of Court Kathleen Buros retired after a combined 60 years of service.