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## Budget Situation Remains Unclear

Emphasizing that it remains too early to tell precisely how the state's budget deficit will affect the operation of the courts, Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran has provided judges and court staff with the following information on the cuts that the governor proposed in his budget reform bill. The proposal – aimed at reducing the state's \$2.4 billion budget gap – may undergo substantial revision before it emerges from the Legislature.

The governor has called for a general (there are exceptions) cut of 10 percent in the current year and 11.5 percent next year. The court system's three sum sufficient appropriations (circuit courts, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court) are on a list of state programs exempt from the proposed further reductions. The governor proposes maintaining funding at the level that reflects the four percent reduction taken at the beginning of the biennium. The State Public Defender's Office (SPD) appropriation for providing representation for qualifying people is also exempt.

The court system's sum certain appropriations, including the Director of State Courts Office and the Wisconsin State Law Library, are not exempt and will have the full reductions imposed if the proposal passes. This is also true for the administrative budget of the SPD.

In order to fund the exemption for the courts and the SPD, the administration proposes to increase the circuit court support fee, collected on most civil filings and forfeitures, by 30 percent. The \$40 court support fee in civil actions will increase to \$52, the \$30 fee in small claims will go to \$39 and the \$100 fee in large claims will increase to \$130. These increases are projected to generate \$8 million, which will go directly into the state's general fund and not be distributed to the counties in whole or in part as is currently

see **Budget** on page 13

## Independent, Prominent Justice Opt's for a Change

After nearly 20 years as a justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice William A. Bablitch has announced that he will not seek another term. Bablitch plans to step down at the end of his current term in July 2003. In retirement, he wants to pursue teaching, mediation, and consulting.

Bablitch is a Stevens Point native who began his career in public service as a member of the Peace Corps. He served for two years in Liberia, West Africa, as an elementary school teacher and soccer coach. His daughter, Bulleh, a native of Liberia, now lives in the United States, shares her father's passion for cooking, and has a family of her own.

Bablitch was elected to the Court in 1983 and re-elected in 1993. He served for four years as Portage County district attorney before his election to the Wisconsin Senate in 1972. He was elected Senate majority leader in 1976, a position he held until he ran for the Supreme Court in 1983.

As a senator, Bablitch played a key role in shepherding through court reorganization, which was implemented in 1978 and brought many changes, including the creation of the Court of Appeals, and the elimination of county courts. Today, Wisconsin has a single-level trial court, the circuit court.

In his nearly 20 years on the Court, Bablitch has been unpredictable. At times his independence has surprised Court observers who try to hang "liberal" or "conservative" labels on the justices. In one case, *Woznicki v. Erickson*, Bablitch wrote a majority

opinion that set up a new system for the release of open records. The system requires the custodian to notify the person whose records are being sought and give him/her an opportunity to ask a judge to block the release. In the opinion, Bablitch wrote that privacy and

reputation are valuable commodities, and argued that a person who stands to lose these things has a right to be heard.

In another case, *State v. Oakley*, Bablitch concurred in a decision that a man who had not paid support for his nine children could, as a condition of probation, be barred from procreating. The opinion in this so-called "deadbeat dad" case drew national attention.

While Bablitch has generally favored tight controls on police

authority in search-and-seizure cases, he has not been predictable. In a 1993 Fourth Amendment case, *State v. Richards*, Bablitch wrote the majority opinion that reaffirmed an exception to the knock-and-announce rule for cases involving drug dealers. Bablitch argued that the danger to the officers and the potential for destruction of evidence is so overwhelming in drug cases that the exception is good public policy. "When we compare these limited privacy interests to the substantial interest the public has in allowing the police to safely and effectively execute a search warrant, the balance overwhelmingly favors the public interest," he wrote. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 affirmed the Wisconsin Supreme Court in this case, but the decision emphasized that the Fourth Amendment does not



"I am very grateful to the citizens of Wisconsin for allowing me to serve them and deeply humbled and honored by their support."

Justice William A. Bablitch

see **Bablitch** on page 17



## RETIREMENTS

### Five Retirements Cost Courts More Than 100 Years of Judging Experience

#### Judge Henry B. Buslee Fond du Lac County Circuit Court

In 23 years on the bench, Judge Henry B. Buslee has seen it all – and that, at times, has been a bit too much. To wit: the day he agreed to perform a wedding for a local couple. The pregnant bride ran over from the bar across the street and the groom dashed in from a nearby wrecking yard on a work break. Needless to say, neither was dressed for a wedding. Buslee was willing to overlook the dirty bib overalls and crusty gloves, but he did ask the groom to remove his hat. “Then I saw his hair,” he recalled, “and I told him to put the hat back on.”

Buslee, who calls himself a dinosaur, halts court proceedings at least once a day to advise someone in his courtroom to remove a hat. He wistfully recalls the days when people called for jury duty would come to court in business attire rather than running shoes. He also regrets changes in the practice of law



Judge Henry B. Buslee

that have turned the profession into a business, even as he praises certain changes – such as the increased use of alternative dispute resolution to save clients time and money.

Buslee’s ability to control his courtroom and his unfailing sense of humor have brought him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the state. Once, after he sentenced a drunk driver, the defendant opined in a stage whisper, “I’m going to lose my f---ing license.” Not missing a beat, Buslee corrected him: “No, but you did lose your driver’s

license.”

Buslee, who planned to step down in late February, was one of the first judges in Wisconsin to preside in a trial that was televised live by Court TV. That was the 1990 escape trial of Lawrencía “Bambi” Bembenek and Dominic Gugliatto. Bembenek had escaped, after serving 10 years of a sentence for murder, with Gugliatto’s aid. Over the years, Buslee has handled many high-profile trials and has worked well with the media. “It gives the public an opportunity to be here and see what goes on,” he said. And besides, “we’re all kind of hams to begin with.”

Because Buslee is leaving two years before his term expires, the governor will appoint a replacement who will have to seek election to the post in spring 2003.

In retirement, Buslee plans to spend more time fishing on his land in Canada with his two sons, Christopher (a lawyer in Ladysmith) and Hans (a manufacturer’s representative in Minneapolis). Buslee’s daughter, Ingrid, is a teacher in Madison. He also will see more of his wife, Ruth, his high-school sweetheart to whom he has been married for more than 50 years.

#### Judge James R. Erickson Polk County Circuit Court

Judge James R. Erickson, on the bench in Polk County since 1984, will step down at the end of his term in July.

Erickson became a judge after a lengthy career in the law. He served as Polk County district attorney in the early 1970s after doing a brief stint as an assistant district attorney in Dane County in 1968 when he was fresh out of the University of Colorado Law School. From 1975 until he became a judge, Erickson worked in private practice.



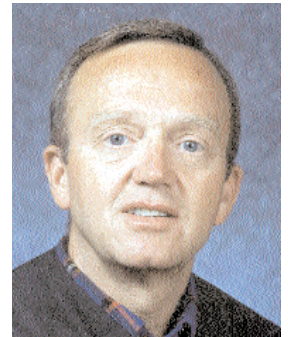
Judge James R. Erickson

Four candidates will face off in the Feb. 19 primary for an opportunity to be on the April 2 ballot.

#### Judge Dennis J. Flynn Racine County Circuit Court

Judge Dennis J. Flynn, once called the ‘James Brown of the Wisconsin judiciary’ by a lawyer who was referencing James Brown’s famous “hardest working man in America” moniker, retired from the bench effective Jan. 1. Flynn’s departure capped a 25-year judicial career. Court Commissioner Faye M. Flancher was appointed to the post (*see separate story, page 17*).

When he joined the bench in 1976 at age 34, Flynn’s youth raised some eyebrows. But he had established a reputation as a hardworking and very bright corporation counsel, and earned great respect from the bench and bar as a judge. Flynn is known for his outspokenness, his organizational skills, and his ability to keep cases moving. One year, in felony court, he presided over 81 jury trials. He also was involved in judicial education, serving as faculty at the Wisconsin Judicial College and presenting at numerous seminars.



Judge Dennis J. Flynn

Flynn is a decorated Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star for his work as an ambulance platoon leader. Upon returning from Vietnam, Flynn worked in private practice for a short time with his father, the late Congressman Gerald Flynn. He then served a short stint in the Racine County District Attorney’s Office before being appointed corporation counsel.

A newlywed who has six children from his previous marriage, Flynn begins his retirement with a two-month trip to Arizona.

*continued on next page*

**RETIREMENTS** *(continued)***Judge Robert A.P. Kennedy  
Florence/Forest County Circuit Court**

Judge Robert A.P. Kennedy, a Rhinelander native who, as a newly minted lawyer, served a short period as Oneida County district attorney before beginning a career in Forest County



*Judge Robert A.P. Kennedy*

that would span 37 years, will retire in July at the end of his current term.

Kennedy has served on the bench in Florence and Forest counties for 13 years, traveling between Florence and Crandon to hear cases. Florence/Forest is one of three paired circuits in the state. The other two are Buffalo/Pepin and Shawano/Menominee.

At 70, Kennedy still looks

like the All-American football player he was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the 1950s. He played in the 1953 Rose Bowl and maintains a strong interest in athletics. In retirement, Kennedy plans to coach football when he is not woodworking and spending time with his grandchildren.

Three attorneys will face off in the Feb. 19 primary; the two winners will meet again on April 2 for the general election.

**Judge Robert W. Radcliffe  
Jackson County Circuit Court**

Judge Robert W. Radcliffe's great-grandparents made their way across Wisconsin in the mid 19th century in search of a better life. They found it among the magnificent forests and rolling hills that dot the landscape midway between Minneapolis and Madison in Black River Falls. Today, Radcliffe still farms the land his ancestors claimed as a homestead. For the past 30 years (18 as a judge, 12 as Jackson County district attorney), he has fit farming – and fishing, hunting, raising horses, gardening, flying (a skill he learned as a jet pilot in the U.S. Navy) and woodworking – around a busy court calendar. That will change when Radcliffe retires in July at the end of his third term in Jackson County Circuit Court.



*Judge Robert W. Radcliffe*

Radcliffe has won the respect of colleagues around the state for his quiet, no-nonsense approach to judging and for his leadership on administrative matters. The Wisconsin Supreme Court recognized Radcliffe's abilities when it appointed him chief judge of the Seventh Judicial District, which encompasses 12 counties in southwestern Wisconsin. The state's other

nine chief judges then elected him "chief of the chiefs" – head of the Committee of Chief Judges, which handles administrative issues in the circuit courts. As a judge in a single-judge

county, Radcliffe valued the opportunity to work with other judges. Like many judges in small counties, Radcliffe found the job isolating and, at times, lonely. "You don't have anyone to talk to about whatever problem you're having in court that day," he said. "And you're isolated within the community too. You don't dare go to the local bar and have a beer after work because the guy next to you will be someone you sent to prison."

Still, Radcliffe has enjoyed the job immensely and has been pleased with the changes that technology – in particular, the Combined Court Automation Programs – and real-time court reporting have brought to the courtroom.

In retirement, Radcliffe plans to spend more time woodworking – a skill he learned from his father, who was a carpenter. He also will see more of his family, including his wife, Judith, and his four grown children. Radcliffe's oldest son, Richard, is a lawyer in Tomah; daughter Noel is a family practice doctor in Minneapolis; and his twin sons, Robin and Rolfe, are both veterinarians – one an expert in Black Rhinoceros reproduction, the other a surgeon who teaches in Toronto.

Two lawyers seeking the seat will face off on April 2.

**Judge Earl W. Schmidt  
Menominee/Shawano County Circuit Court**

Judge Earl W. Schmidt likely holds the distinction of driving the highest mileage vehicle in the state judiciary. His pick-up has 429,000 miles on it, and serves at least one valuable purpose. "It keeps me in salvage yards, mechanic shops...keeps me in touch with the people," Schmidt said.

Being part of the community is, Schmidt believes, an important ingredient in judging. Born and raised in Shawano, Schmidt put in 25 years as a dairy farmer in Shawano before becoming a judge. His first job out of law school was as an assistant district attorney in Menominee/Shawano counties. He also served eight years as a representative in the Wisconsin Assembly.

Schmidt has served on the bench in Menominee/Shawano County Circuit Court since 1983, and will step down in July at the end of his current term. Although he presides in one of the state's three paired circuits (the others are Buffalo/Pepin and Florence/Forest), he does not travel between the counties. Menominee County is a federal reservation and both circuit court judges who serve it – Schmidt and Judge Thomas G. Grover – sit in the Shawano County Courthouse.

Schmidt has been active in court administration, serving as chief judge of the Ninth Judicial District, which covers counties in northcentral Wisconsin, and sitting on the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court Special Committee on Gender Neutrality, and the Legislative Committee of the Judicial Conference.

Prior to attending the University of Wisconsin Law School, Schmidt spent five years as a development economist in South



*Judge Earl W. Schmidt*

Winter  
2002

## LEADERSHIP

### Historic State Court-Tribal Court Agreement Signed at Bad River Reservation

Representatives from the four Chippewa tribes in northern Wisconsin met with the judge who oversees administration of the state courts in the 10th Judicial District – which covers 13 northwest Wisconsin counties – to sign and officially implement a new system for handling court cases in which the tribal and state courts share jurisdiction.

The new system, believed to be the first of its kind in the



After signing an historic agreement on shared jurisdiction, judges and attorneys took part in a peace pipe ceremony. The peace pipe is from 1850, and was smoked in Washington, D.C. following the successful negotiation that established Indian reservations in Wisconsin.

Pictured left to right are: Judge Alton "Sunny" Smart and Chief Judge Ervin Soulier, Bad River Band; Chief Judge Robert Buffalo, Red Cliff Band; Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner, Barron County Circuit Court; and Tribal Atty. Kris Goodwill, Lac Courte de Oreilles Band. Not shown is one other signatory, Chief Judge Louis Bearheart, St. Croix Band.

nation, will make it easier in cases involving shared jurisdiction to determine whether the state court or the tribal court should hear the case. Examples of these cases are divorces in which one party is a tribal member, or lawsuits that involve a tribe. Often in such cases, hearings are held in both the state and tribal courts on the same issues – resulting in confusion and inefficiency.

Under the new system, state court and tribal court judges will temporarily stop actions that are filed in both courts and hold a joint hearing to determine which court should handle the case. If the judges cannot agree, a third judge will be summoned from a pool of state and tribal judges and the arguments will be re-heard until a decision on jurisdiction is reached.

"I am delighted that our region of the state is leading the way toward improved tribal-state relations and setting an

example for others to follow," said 10th District Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner. "These protocols are historically significant in Wisconsin and, as far as I am aware, a first in the nation. Our cooperation will save time and money for litigants and for the courts – and that's just good government."

Chief Judge Ervin Soulier, of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, joined Brunner, who sits in Barron County Circuit Court, for the signing ceremony in early December. A traditional Ojibwe pipe and drum ceremony commemorated the occasion. Also participating were Chief Judges Louis Bearheart, St. Croix Chippewa; Robert Buffalo, Red Cliff Chippewa; and Sheila Corbine, Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa.

"With many Wisconsin tribal courts expanding services to their members, litigants sometimes find themselves in a position where they would prefer the matter be heard in one court or another, yet the opposing party in the case would prefer the opposite court forum," Soulier said. "When both the state and tribal courts have jurisdiction over the matter, the question arises: Which court should hear the case? The protocols should lead all parties to a rational solution to this dilemma."

The new protocols were drafted by Judge Robert E. Eaton, Ashland County Circuit Court; Atty. David Siegler, Ashland; and Atty. Kevin Osterbauer, general counsel to the Bad River Band of Chippewa.

The new system is in effect in the state's 10th Judicial District, which includes the following counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, and Washburn. ■

#### Judges Make a Difference at 9/11 Site

by Judge Mel Flanagan  
Milwaukee County Circuit Court

On February 11, five months after the terrorist attack on two American cities, the bodies of five heroic Port Authority police officers were pulled from the World Trade Center rubble. They were, according to press reports, surrounding the body of a woman still strapped into a rescue chair.

When I read the continuing accounts of the devastation and heroism, I am transported back to the site of the attack where Judge Maxine A. White and I volunteered with the American Red Cross in early October. We were in New York City for a conference, and went to work at the Red Cross Family Resource Center at Pier 94.

Prior to reporting to the center, we visited the Wall Street area. Standing on the street looking at Ground Zero where the World Trade Center once stood so proudly, I felt a tremendous sadness and powerlessness in the presence of such devastation. The people present seemed drawn to the strangers around them to talk, touch, and commiserate. The scene was as dramatic as all the pictures depict. I felt as if I was looking through a door to hell. I was frighteningly aware that human beings have the capacity to be unspeakably cruel and evil.

Many people have asked how we could help given our profession. We certainly didn't try to be judges or legal advisors. We were volunteers willing to do whatever might be of assistance and we were assigned to assist in reception. There we greeted the victims, registered them and referred them to a worker who could assist them as soon as possible. Our job was to direct traffic as best we could, to provide a smile or a few minutes of conversation, to distract and amuse young children who were way beyond exhausted and to give the victims a sense of hope and courage that the future will improve.

Pier 94 holds a building more than one city block square, which prior to 9/11 was an empty shell. By a few weeks after the attack, it was a self-contained city with cafeterias, office space for all relevant social service agencies, organizational headquarters for rescue workers, firefighters, police and military agencies, a day care, legal services to prepare death certificates, a treatment area for medical and psychological issues, a pharmacy, and an area for victims to create memorials to those missing or dead.

The experience of working at the Family Resource Center left me with tremendous respect and admiration for the Red Cross and the other agencies that continue to work with the victims of 9/11. Most importantly, it also restored for me a strong sense of the goodness and integrity of human nature. ■

## Bioterror Experts Showcase new Detection Methods

by Steven R. Steadman, district court administrator

District One Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski and I took part in the Conference on Bioterrorism, Biological Attack and the Courts in Oakland, Calif., on Jan. 17-19.

Participants were given information to identify higher probability microbial attack agents such as smallpox, anthrax, plague and tularemia. The illness-causing properties of these agents were discussed, as were quarantine, treatment, and the impact that events may have on court operations. Scientists from Lawrence Livermore discussed detection methods including handheld devices that will soon be provided to regional "hazmat" (hazardous materials) teams across the country and a "bio smoke detector" that has the potential to be integrated into building heating and cooling systems.



Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski



District Court Administrator Steven R. Steadman

Of particular interest to judges, evidentiary issues concerning bioterror cases in court were reviewed. Chain of custody and comparisons with DNA evidence were discussed. Participants were encouraged to begin building networks to gain expert assistance as courts confront these issues. This can be achieved by enhancing understanding of the need to involve public health and law enforcement officials in the context of congruent and conflicting powers of state health

departments, law enforcement, and federal anti-terrorism statutes.

The conference provided scientific, legal, and security information to 90 court leaders selected from around the nation. The U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Conference of Chief Justices sponsored the conference, which Judge Skwierawski and I attended on full scholarships at no cost to Wisconsin. The program was coordinated by EINSAC, the Einstein

Institute for Science, Health & the Courts, in Maryland. ■

## Retirements *continued from page 3*

America. He worked in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil in a program designed to help developing nations build infrastructures. The work taught Schmidt a lot about finding creative ways to solve problems. "We used whatever we could get our hands on," he recalled.

Schmidt's many vocations and avocations have given him knowledge that proves valuable in the courtroom – especially in small claims court. "I know how a power saw works, how a tree falls, how to change the oil in a car...[and] it helps you ascertain the reliability of what a person says happened to them," he said.

In retirement, Schmidt plans to focus on a longtime goal: converting an old cow pasture into a hardwood forest. "I've always said I'm a tree farmer and a hobby judge," he said, adding that the project pits him against various critters. "I've got enough barbed wire out there to stop the German army."

Schmidt has been married to his wife, Judy, for 27 years. The couple has three daughters, a son, and one granddaughter. Their son is a biologist working at Mayo Clinic on interspecies organ transplants. One daughter is an accountant in Wausau, another is a music teacher, and the third is a credit collector in Minnesota.

Six candidates will face off in the Feb. 19 primary, including the district attorney, corporation counsel, family/judicial court commissioner, and Shawano's municipal court judge. The two winners will be on the April 2 ballot. ■

## Security Tightened at Courthouses

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, have brought changes to courthouse security in many counties.

Courthouses are making security improvements with help from a training program being presented in each of the state's 10 judicial districts. The Supreme Court and Director of State Courts Office developed the program in conjunction with Fox Valley Technical College, the Wisconsin Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Association, and the U.S. Marshal's Office (see *The Third Branch*, fall 2001 for details).

Here are just a few examples of changes that are taking place:

In Milwaukee County, people entering the courthouse are now required to pass through security screening. The installation of perimeter security followed a recommendation by the county executive's new security committee whose members include Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski. There is a separate entrance for courthouse employees.

"While the first few days were slow at some entrances, it seems to be going much more smoothly," Skwierawski said. "Once employees and visitors actually saw the amount and type of materials being confiscated, I think support grew for perimeter security."

In Waukesha County, some of the 37 entrances to the courthouse and adjoining administration building have been locked, and others have been made accessible only with employee access cards. The county anticipates installing video cameras rather than metal detectors at the public entrances.

In Winnebago County, magnetic screening was set up at the public entrance and caught 86 knives, several tools, pepper spray, and bullets in a period of eight days. The system has caused delays for people entering the courthouse and is expected to be replaced with a more efficient design in the future. ■

Thanks to Deputy District Court Administrator Beth Bishop Perrigo for contributing to this story.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

### Milwaukee CASA Gears up for First Volunteer Training

Milwaukee County is implementing a new CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program with funds given by the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation specifically for this purpose. Organizers are now recruiting and screening volunteers. By mid February, they had a group of 20 ready to participate in training.

"They are moving forward very well," said Marsha Varvil-Weld, executive director of the Wisconsin CASA Association. As soon as enough volunteers are trained, Varvil-Weld said, the program will begin to assign CASAs to cases.

Start-up has gone smoothly in part because of the assistance provided by the Wisconsin CASA Association, a statewide organization that provides assistance and technical support to new and existing CASAs in the state. The association was recently formed with a \$50,000 grant from the National CASA Association.

Headquartered in Portage, the organization offers assistance and technical support to counties interested in starting a new CASA program or fine-tuning a current program. Wisconsin CASA will also advise programs on policies and procedures and provide education about relevant legislation.

Varvil-Weld visits programs all over the state to answer questions, discuss concerns, and share information. Common concerns are budget, volunteer recruiting and policymaking. Varvil-Weld plans on regular site visits to each program in the near future to help ensure their questions and concerns are addressed.

One of the association's goals is to create new programs in the state. Varvil-Weld said the first step is to make the people in the system aware of CASA and to educate them about the benefits of participating in the program. Even some rural counties that have relatively few CHIPS (child in need of protection and/or services) cases and even less funding can offer the services of CASAs with a little creativity. Varvil-Weld said Columbia and Sauk counties created a dual program that has been very successful. She believes more counties could do this.

The Wisconsin CASA Association will host its first conference September 21 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. A representative from the National CASA Association will speak at the event.

#### History of CASA

Concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's

lives without sufficient information, a Seattle judge conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in court. This program's success led judges across the country to begin using citizen advocates. In 1990, Congress encouraged the expansion of CASA with passage of the Victims of Child Abuse Act. Today more than 900 CASA programs are in operation, with 58,000 women and men serving as CASA volunteers.

A survey taken by the National CASA Association using 2000 data indicates that there was a 10.7 percent increase in children served from 1999 to 2000, resulting in an estimated 229,090 children served by local CASA programs. The survey also shows that the number of CASA volunteers increased by 11.1 percent, resulting in 58,620 estimated volunteers in all programs. Volunteer hours increased by 16.2 percent, resulting in an estimated 8,354,610 hours contributed in 2000. To view the full survey results, go to [www.casenet.org](http://www.casenet.org). ■

*Those interested in learning more about CASA programs, starting a new program, or arranging for a speaker for a group may contact Varvil-Weld at (608) 742-5344, fax (608) 742-4087, or e-mail [wicasa@wisconsincasa.org](mailto:wicasa@wisconsincasa.org).*

### Wisconsin's Eight CASAs

#### Columbia-Sauk CASA Program

Location: Portage

#### Conflict Resolution Center, Inc. (CASA)

Location: Fond du Lac

#### CASA of Brown County

Location: Green Bay

#### Dane County CASA Program

Location: Madison

#### Milwaukee CASA

Location: Milwaukee

#### Red Cliff Tribal CASA Project

Location: Bayfield

#### Voices for Children (CASA)

Location: Kenosha

#### YWCA CASA for Kids

Location: La Crosse

*If you know of a program that exists in Wisconsin and is not listed, please go to [www.casa.volunteermatch.org](http://www.casa.volunteermatch.org) to post the organization.*



A POWERFUL VOICE  
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.™

### Outagamie County's VIOS Program Publishes New Handbook

Volunteers in Offender Services (VIOS), which figuratively wrote the book on mentoring, tutoring, and providing other services to juvenile and adult offenders, has now literally written a book – a handbook for volunteers. The book will be provided to all VIOS volunteers and will be available for purchase by other court-connected volunteer programs on a first-come, first-served basis. It includes job descriptions for all volunteer positions; updated information on insurance coverage; profiles of common personality characteristics among probationers and inmates; and detailed guidelines for volunteering in the jail.

VIOS began its program 30 years ago, and continues to add components

to the services provided through its team of 125 volunteers. One of the more recent additions is the Dads Program, a parenting class for fathers incarcerated at the Huber Center. VIOS, in cooperation with the county's Human Services Department and Sheriff's Department, developed a 10-week program that teaches a wide range of parenting skills in two-hour classes held one night per week. Last year, 22 dads completed the program.

VIOS will celebrate its 30-year anniversary with a banquet on April 8. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson will be the keynote speaker. ■

Contact VIOS at (920) 832-5248 for more information or to order a handbook.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

### Youth Courts Begin Year-Long Public Awareness Campaign

A one-year Public Awareness and Service Campaign has officially begun for 2002. The National Youth Court Center (NYCC) has invited all youth courts to participate in this first-time program to increase public awareness on various topical issues.

There are at least 17 youth courts in Wisconsin, operating in rural and urban counties around the state. Youth courts, also called peer courts and teen courts, take many forms but generally they permit teenagers to hear cases against their peers and decide appropriate punishment. The typical participant is between the ages of 12 and 17 and is a non-violent first offender. In most youth courts, the offender must admit the offense and agree to abide by the court's decision before being accepted into the program. Completion of the sentence removes the offense from the youths record.

The NYCC is encouraging staff, youth, and adult volunteers currently involved in the more than 850 youth courts nationwide to support the campaign through service to their individual communities. Through this campaign, the NYCC hopes to connect youth and adults by encouraging them to volunteer together in their communities.

The goals are to:

- Educate youth involved in the

program on important social/societal issues.

- Facilitate more meaningful and educational community service options for youth.
- Share a common experience with other youth courts from across the country.
- Increase the youth court program's recognition among other local community agencies and groups.

To prepare for the campaign, themes were selected for each month. To generate broad interest and to make it a fair process, all active and developing youth courts were mailed a ballot and asked to vote for one campaign per month. The featured campaigns that won are listed in the sidebar.

Once the campaigns were selected, each program received a Public Awareness and Service Campaign package that included background information for each monthly campaign and ideas for projects or activities. The package also included materials and forms for evaluating the activities and reporting to the NYCC. ■

*For more information about the campaign contact the National Youth Court Center at (859) 244-8211, fax (859) 244-8001, or e-mail [nycc@csg.org](mailto:nycc@csg.org). The campaign package is available at [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net).*

### Marinette County to use Victim Impact Panels

Marinette County Circuit Court Judge Tim A. Duket is leading an effort to organize drunk driving victim impact panels for Marinette County. The first panel discussion will take place on the evening of April 16 at the courthouse.

As of early February, Duket and Judge David G. Miron had ordered about 25 second-offense drunk drivers to attend. They were also exploring the possibility of inviting judges in nearby counties to send drunk drivers through the Marinette program. The judges in Door and Kewaunee counties have embraced this approach to victim impact panels, joining forces because of the relatively small number of convicted drunk drivers in the two counties.

Victim impact panels are designed to

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

After hearing about the program, Duket sat through a victim impact panel in Appleton with Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge John Des Jardins, who helped to organize that county's program. "I thought it was an excellent program," Duket said, "and I wondered if we could imitate it here in Marinette."

One challenge Duket has found is bringing the victims to Marinette. Some

have to travel a fair distance, and he is looking into whether they might be reimbursed for their mileage.

To organize the Marinette program, Duket brought together representatives of a local alcohol counseling program, officers from the Marinette Police Department and Wisconsin State Patrol, the victim-witness coordinator, the clerk of circuit court, a probation and parole officer, a court reporter, an assistant district attorney and several private attorneys. The state chair for Mothers Against Drunk Driving is also involved. ■

*The University of Wisconsin Law School's Resource Center on Impaired Driving has published a reference manual on victim impact panels. To order a copy, call (800) 862-1048 or (608) 265-3411.*

### Campaign Themes

#### January

Martin Luther King Jr.

#### February

National Child Passenger Safety Awareness

#### March

National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness

#### April

National Crime Victims' Rights

#### May

Law Day

#### June

National Safety Day

#### July

National Parents Day

#### August

National Kids Day

#### September

National Youth Court Month

#### October

Make a Difference

#### November

Family Volunteerism

#### December

Tie one on for Safety

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

### Appointment Committee Changes the Face of Court-Related Boards

by Sarah Maguire, contributing writer

Interested in volunteering for service on a court-related board or committee? If so, you will get to know the Appointment Selection Committee, a group of 12 people of diverse interests and backgrounds who are in charge of reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Supreme Court. The Court created the committee in March 2000 to help promote quality and diversity in candidates for service on court boards and committees.

The Court designed the Appointment Selection Committee as an independent body to avoid the appearance of favoritism or patronage in the appointment process and to reach out to people of varied backgrounds and interests who would not otherwise be aware of opportunities to get involved.

The Senate and Assembly co-chairs of the Legislative Council and the state Ethics Board chair select the three public members of the Appointment Selection Committee. "This group comes together in the most objective way," said Madison Atty. Michelle A. Behnke, the committee's co-chair (the other co-chair is Mona Steele of the League of Women Voters). "Members are not hand-picked because of how we're likely to vote. There's no way to rig who is on the selection committee." Behnke said the committee benefits the court system in a number of ways, particularly in that it brings legitimacy to the appointment process. "Perception is really important," she said. "The public doesn't always perceive that lawyers are adequately governing themselves and that doesn't serve anyone well."

The committee meets as often as

necessary, collecting names of lawyers and non-lawyers interested in serving on bodies such as the Board of Bar Examiners and the boards and committees associated with the Office of Lawyer Regulation. "We look and see if we can't get a good mix," Behnke said.

One of the committee's biggest challenges has been publicizing open seats, especially those designated for non-lawyers, to ensure a good pool of candidates. The committee seeks



"This group comes together in the most objective way."

Atty. Michelle A. Behnke  
co-chair

publicity around the state through press releases, letters to the editor, word of mouth, and public service organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Rotary, and Kiwanis. "Getting a sufficient number of names to serve on the committees can be difficult – particularly public names," Behnke said. The committee also strives to form geographically diverse committees.

Behnke said she enjoys the diversity of the Appointment Selection Committee and the group's work ethic. "There is now an objective group of people to look for nominees, which increases public confidence," she said. "The public sees this work is done by hard-working people who care about public service." ■

### Members of the Appointment Selection Committee

**Atty. Michelle A. Behnke**  
Madison

**Arnold L. Brown, M.D.**  
Madison

**Atty. Elizabeth Estes**  
Milwaukee

**Atty. Thomas R. Marlier**  
Shawano

**William J. Hotaling**, retired  
PepsiCo executive, DePere

**Atty. Marjorie Schuett**  
Madison

**Atty. Grant F. Langley**  
Milwaukee

**Atty. Barbara A. Neider**  
Madison

**Atty. Charles G. Norseng**  
Chippewa Falls

**Atty. C. Gordon Paulson**  
Rhineland

**Mona Steele**, League of  
Women Voters, Madison

**Jacqueline Turk**  
UW-Marathon Center

### How to Apply

Lawyers and non-lawyers interested in serving on a court-related board or committee should send a letter and resume to: Cornelia Clark, Clerk of the Supreme Court, P.O. Box 1688, Madison, WI 53701-1688, or fax to Clark's attention at: (608) 267-0640 or e-mail to:

[cornelia.clark@courts.state.wi.us](mailto:cornelia.clark@courts.state.wi.us).

Positions are filled on a continual basis and resumes will be kept on file for consideration for future opportunities.



## PEOPLE

Judge **Philip Kirk**, Waupaca County Circuit Court, received a commendation from the state Department of Workforce Development for outstanding service as chair of the Chief Judges' Subcommittee on Child Support. "You have



Judge Philip Kirk

maintained open lines of communication with the Department and have devoted countless hours [to child support and guardian *ad litem* issues]," the commendation said in part. "Your testimony on numerous pieces of child support legislation has been important in developing an understanding in the legislature of the potential impact on the judiciary of proposed changes in child support legislation."

Judge **William C. Griesbach** is President **George Bush's** pick for the new federal court in Green Bay. He is among 24 federal judicial nominees now awaiting confirmation in the U.S. Senate. The new court will serve the 21 northern counties in the Eastern District.

The *Chippewa Herald Telegram* featured an article on the new videoconferencing system that Chippewa County has started using. "Videoconferencing is going to be the technology of the future," said Judge **Thomas Szama**, Chippewa County Circuit Court. The article also quoted Clerk of Circuit Court **Karen Hepfler** and Judge **Roderick Cameron**, who said videoconferencing will help save money on prisoner transport and will allow easier scheduling for medical testimony by allowing doctors more flexibility and reducing time constraints for travel.



Judge Thomas Szama

Judges **Robert C. Crawford**, **Kevin E. Martens**, and **William W. Brash III**, all of Milwaukee County Circuit Court, will face opponents in the next election, reported the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Milwaukee Municipal Judge **Louis Butler Jr.** and Attorneys **Catherine A. La Fleur** and **Karine Moreno-Taxman** are all opposing Crawford in his bid for re-election. Martens, facing his first election, is challenged by **John J. Brennan**, an attorney in private practice. Brash, also running for election after a recent appointment, faces challenger **Ramon Valdez**, a criminal defense lawyer.

Judge **Edward F. Vlack**, St. Croix County Circuit Court, says life is never boring as a judge. He was featured in the *Hudson Star-Observer* as one of Wisconsin's newest judges. Vlack said one of his most unusual cases was a civil matter in which the plaintiff didn't show. His lawyer attempted to find



Judge Edward F. Vlack

him, but he had walked off.

A growing number of defendants demanding that their

attorneys be fired as a stall tactic has prompted Judge **John J. DiMotto**, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, to take action.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* interviewed DiMotto who said, "It's our duty as judges to not allow defendants to use the right to counsel to impede justice." He spoke on the topic at the Wisconsin Judicial Conference in Delavan in the fall. Most judges raised their hands when DiMotto asked if they had seen more of this in their courtrooms.

Judge **Elsa C. Lamelas**, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, is one of six women chosen to receive the 2001 Outstanding Women of Achievement Award by the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, reported the *Whitefish Bay Herald*. The awards were presented at a 500-person luncheon at the Hyatt Hotel in Milwaukee.

Interior Designer **Diane Al Shihabi** received a gold award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers in January. This first place award recognized Al Shihabi's work on the East Wing Capitol Restoration and Renovation Project. She was among 37 entrants whose work was judged on an appropriate design solution, materials and furnishings, creative and functional use of space, color composition, scale and proportion, and innovation.

Judge **Darryl W. Deets**, Manitowoc County Circuit Court, was appointed to the Judicial Education Committee for a three-year term that commenced in January, reported the *Herald Times Reporter*.

**Michael C. Hodkiewicz**, Oconto County clerk of circuit court, wrote an article for the "Focus on Family" Web site ([www.family.org](http://www.family.org)). It discusses jurors' needs and the importance of acknowledging their critical role in the justice system.

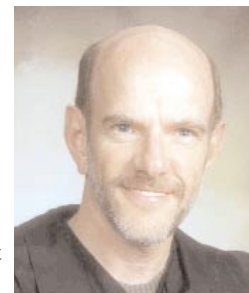
Delavan Municipal Judge **Leroy Himebauch** was featured in *The Delavan Enterprise* for being honored with the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to School and/or Community by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators recently. Himebauch was given the statewide award in part for his efforts in cutting truancy in the Delavan-Darien High School by adopting a local ordinance that put stricter penalties on truant students.

Dane County Circuit Court hosted the regional round of the 2001 **Thomas Tang** Moot Court Competition in October. The University of Wisconsin Asian Pacific American Law Student Association/South Asian Law Student Association, in conjunction with the UW Law School, sponsored the event. Event organizers were **Alvin Chou** and **Alia Rouf**. Fourteen teams participated from Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Judges were from all parts of Wisconsin. The team from Loyola won the regional event. The late Judge Tang was a leader in the Asian-American community and served 18 years on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



Photo Credit: Bill Tennesen

Judge Elsa Lamelas accepts the YWCA's Woman of Achievement Award at a Milwaukee luncheon. Justice Diane S. Sykes gave Lamelas' introduction.



Judge Darryl W. Deets

Winter  
2002

## THE WORLD CONNECTS TO WISCONSIN

### Milwaukee Judges Participate in Mexico Conference

by Beth Bishop Perrigo, deputy district court administrator  
District One

When District One Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski received an invitation from the Mexican Consulate to visit Mexico City in September 2001, he decided to look into what could be gained through the trip.

He discovered that the visit was an

opportunity – funded by the Mexican government – for judges to learn more about the Latino community, which by U.S. Census Bureau estimates grew by more than 50 percent in Wisconsin in the 1990s. As the number of Latinos has steadily increased in Milwaukee County, so has the Latino population in the court system here.

Judges Kitty K. Brennan and Elsa C. Lamelas, both of Milwaukee County Circuit Court, accompanied Skwierawski on the trip. With an itinerary that kept them busy from 8 a.m. until late evening, the group learned about the Mexican constitutional system, toured the Mexico Supreme Court, met with justices, and listened to lectures on topics such as the state of relations between Mexico and the United States. They also learned about the psychological

and cultural characteristics of immigrants and had an opportunity to meet informally with Mexican officials and attend several cultural events.

The meeting, arranged through the Legal Affairs Department of the Mexican Consulate in Chicago and the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, was attended by judges from several Midwestern states with large Mexican populations. ■

### Korean Attorney Stops in Madison

Atty. Joo-Hyun Park, from Seoul, Korea, visited with Dane County Circuit Court Judges Angela B. Bartell and Patrick J. Fiedler, and retired Court of Appeals Judge William Eich on Jan. 17 at the state Capitol. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson led a tour and joined the group to discuss court structure, court procedure, and the role of the judge in the U.S. and Korea. ■



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Elsa C. Lamelas (middle, back) and Kitty K. Brennan (far right) met with federal court judges in Mexico during a conference in September.

### Dane County Tries Strategic Approach to Jury Diversity

In Dane County, as in many communities around the country, minority groups are underrepresented on juries. While the problem is well known, it has proved difficult to solve. Now, Dane County has a strategic plan that calls for a series of changes to be implemented throughout 2002 and 2003. The ultimate goal: significantly increase the number of minorities on juries by 2006.

The most current figures indicate that fully half of all jury summonses delivered to people of color (people of African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American descent) in Dane County are returned as undeliverable. And 10 percent of those delivered receive no response. In contrast, just 17 percent of summonses mailed to non-minorities are returned to sender, and just two percent of those delivered are not answered.

Dane County began a Jury Study Committee in 1992 that transformed into a Jury Implementation Committee under the direction of Judge Moria Krueger in 1993. Since then, ideas such as a public information campaign (run by the League of Women Voters of Dane County) were tried with limited success. In 1999, the committee decided – with the endorsement of all Dane County judges – to move forward with a grant application for technical assistance. Clerk of Circuit Court Judy Coleman was awarded a \$12,000 grant from the State Justice Institute in 2000 to hire a consultant to develop the now-

complete strategic plan.

Odom & Associates, LLC conducted the research and wrote the plan. Information was gathered in a variety of ways, including group interviews held in cooperation with social organizations that serve minority populations.

The interviews revealed a number of obstacles to jury service, including lack of paid work leave for jury service, no child care, and misperceptions that unpaid fines and warrants automatically prohibit a person from serving.

The plan recommends a mix of education/outreach/communication activities such as public service announcements and partnerships with schools, neighborhood associations, and faith-based organizations to get the word out about the importance of serving. It also recommends changes to administrative procedure including sending juror lists to collection agencies bi-weekly to obtain updated addresses and working with the Department of Transportation to improve the reliability of the master list. ■

For a copy of the plan, contact Coleman at (608) 266-4679.



Judge Moria Krueger

## State Law Library Celebrates new Beginning

*The celebration during National Library Week of the Wisconsin State Law Library's move to permanent quarters is one in a series of events leading up to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's 150th anniversary as a separate court. The Supreme Court first sat as a separate court in June 1853. Prior to this, circuit court judges met in Madison as an acting Supreme Court.*

In 1836, as Davy Crockett and his "Tennessee Boys" joined the battle at the Alamo and Charles Dickens

penned Oliver Twist, the U.S. Congress was hard at work creating the Wisconsin Territory. Congress appropriated \$5,000 to create a law library for the new territory, a nod to the notion that a frontier legislature probably would need the assistance of law books.

Fast forward to a new century and a new millennium. Wisconsin's first library – with its humble beginnings in a rented room – continues to meet the needs of legislators, lawyers, judges, and members of the public around the state. In addition to the main library in

Madison, the Wisconsin State Law Library operates libraries in the Dane County and Milwaukee County courthouses. The law library also works in close cooperation with other public, law, and government agency libraries in addition to providing information and documents to customers across the country.

In January 2002, the Wisconsin State Law Library moved to its permanent home on the second and third floors of the new Risser Justice Center on the Capitol Square. For the first time in many years, the library's entire

book collection is housed in one place.

The Philadelphia-based WRT/Bloomfield & Associates architectural firms designed the new library. The project team of Peter Bloomfield, Susan Chisholm, and Gil Rosenthal developed a modern design with touches that echo the design of the

state Capitol – the library's longtime home. The arched ceiling over the Reading Room is reminiscent of the skylight in the East Wing reading area, and the table lamps are a modern version of those once in the library's Capitol Reading Room. The finishes



*The Wisconsin State Law Library's new home is the Risser Justice Center, which also houses Department of Justice offices. The Center is across the street from the Dane County Courthouse and a block off the Capitol Square.*

## Law Library Unveils "Prose and Cons" Collection

Here's a word of advice to fans of legal thrillers and police novels who are wondering what to do with the books and videos they have collected: donate them. The Wisconsin State Law

Library has created the Prose & Cons collection, which contains legal fiction that relates to courts and the criminal justice system. Supported solely by donations, the collection of books, audio books, and videos has grown to nearly 100 items so far. Major donors include Court of Appeals Judge Daniel P. Anderson and Supreme Court Commissioner/author Nancy Kopp, who has donated signed copies of her works.

The Prose & Cons collection is housed in a cozy nook in the Library's brand new home at 120 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Madison, where anyone may browse and read. Eligible borrowers may also check out materials. All items are listed in the library's automated catalog, available on the Web at [www.wsl.state.wi.us](http://www.wsl.state.wi.us). Viewers can search for a favorite author or title, or browse the separate listing of all titles.

To donate new or gently used items, or to make a cash contribution to the Prose & Cons collection, contact Connie Von Der Heide, reference/outreach services librarian, at [connie.vonderheide@courts.state.wi.us](mailto:connie.vonderheide@courts.state.wi.us) or (608) 267-2202. ■



*Supreme Court Commissioner and author Nancy Kopp holds a signed copy of her legal thriller Absent Witness that she donated to the Prose & Cons collection at the Wisconsin State Law Library. Kopp will sign copies of her latest book, Final Justice, due out in early April, at the library on April 17, 3-5 p.m. The signing is part of the library's celebration of National Library Week.*

see *Library* on page 15

## Open House

The Wisconsin State Law Library will celebrate its move to a permanent home in the Risser Justice Center, 120 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., with an open house from 3 - 6 p.m. on Friday, April 19 during National Library Week. The act that originally established the Library was dated April 20, 1836. The celebration is one in a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of the creation of the state Supreme Court as a separate court. The library's entrance is on the corner of Martin

Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Doty Street. Lawyers, legislators, court staff, and interested members of the public are cordially invited to join Co-State Law Librarians Jane Colwin and Julie Tessmer, library staff, and justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court for tours of the facility and demonstrations of legal research tools. Refreshments will be served. For more information on the celebration, call Tammy Keller at (608) 261-7553. ■

## CELEBRATIONS

**"No Strings Attached"  
Showcases  
Courthouse Talent**

A busy, noisy urban courthouse is perhaps not the first place one would go in search of holiday spirit. But on Dec. 19, 2001, at noon, the Milwaukee County Courthouse was transformed – albeit briefly – into a concert hall. The usual courthouse noise – litigants and lawyers hustling to and from court appearances, jurors going on lunch break, judges heading to noon meetings – was softened by the sounds of holiday music courtesy of No Strings Attached.

This was the group's 24th annual holiday performance in the Milwaukee County Courthouse Rotunda. More than 150 people attended, and the caroling could be heard throughout the courthouse.

Breaking from tradition, the group asked audience members to sing "God Bless America" with them as a tribute to the September 11 victims. "It was very inspirational," said Judge Victor Manian. The sing-along is held over the noon hour so that employees and visitors alike may participate. The group provides lyric sheets to the audience to encourage participation.

No Strings Attached features Chief Deputy Clerk Sarah Blair on violin, Reserve Municipal Judge Charles Blumenfeld on violin, Assistant District Atty. John Krueger on bells/chimes, Court Reporter (to Judge Kitty K. Brennan) Linda Levensgood on violin, Assistant District Atty. Kent Lovern on piano, Manian on violin, Atty. Colleen Smith on violin, and Atty. David Wells on bass violin. ■

*Members of No Strings Attached, a group of musical judges, lawyers, and court staff, entertain courthouse regulars, visitors, and jurors at the 24th annual Holiday Sing-Along in the Milwaukee County Courthouse.*

**"Almost Supremes" take Delavan by Storm**

Angie and the Almost Supremes, the hottest women-judge singing group in Wisconsin, wowed an audience of hundreds at the October Judicial College with a performance that inspired awe.

The group warmed up with practice sessions in the hotel rooms of two fans, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley.

They took the stage with Presumed Guilty, a band that is a perennial favorite at the Judicial Conference. Presumed Guilty includes Judge Robert Mawdsley, Waukesha County; Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski, Milwaukee County; and Judge Neal P. Nettesheim, Court of Appeals, District II.

Musical selections included "It's my Courtroom (and I'll Sigh if I Want to),"



Photo credit: Judge Mark Mangerson

*Taking a moment from their busy tour to pose for a publicity shot are Angie and the Almost Supremes (left to right): Circuit Court Judges Mel Flanagan, Milwaukee County; Kathryn W. Foster, Waukesha County; Angela B. Bartell, Dane County; and Kitty K. Brennan and Maxine A. White, both Milwaukee County.*

and "Stop (at the Game of Crime)." Judge Kitty K. Brennan reported that offers from agents have poured in, and fellow jurists are clamoring to join the group. There is no word on the next tour. ■

**"It's my Courtroom (and I'll Sigh if I Want to)"**

CHORUS:  
*It's my courtroom and  
I'll sigh if I want to,  
pry if I want to, deny if I want to,  
You could rule too if it happens to you.*

Appellate judges are one step above  
But the gap seems to grow day by day  
Why don't they read 'tween the lines  
And know the things we can't say

(CHORUS)

Seven Supremes ponder law every day  
They try to be fair and concise  
Each runs the show their own way  
We judges have to think twice

(CHORUS)

Justices seem to be friendly nowadays  
They put all that old stuff behind  
It helps to have a nice place  
In Hawaii to unwind

(CHORUS)

Judges march into battle each day  
Not one day is alike  
Let's put them back in our seats  
And we critique what they say

(CHORUS)

Repeat #4 then CHORUS twice

**"Stop (at the Game of Crime)"**

CHORUS:  
*STOP! At the game of crime  
before you get more time (2x)  
Think it over (2x)*

Bill and Betty we're aware of where  
you're goin'  
Each time you leave the jail.  
We watch you walkin' down the street  
Knowin' your old friends you'll meet.  
This time before you do the crime  
Just know you'll do the time.

(Think it over) We won't be good to  
you.  
(Think it over) We won't be sweet to  
you.

(CHORUS)

You know the DA wants your tail in jail  
And that the PD got you out on bail.  
Don't rely on a Motion of Suppression  
To keep you out of State Correction.  
This time before you do the crime,  
Just know you'll do the time.

(Think it over) We won't be good to  
you.  
(Think it over) We won't be sweet to  
you.

(CHORUS twice)

Think it over (four times)  
STOP!

## Registers, Juvenile Clerks Hold Conferences

by Kay Morlen, register in probate  
Washington County

At their fall conferences, registers in probate and juvenile court clerks focused on issues such as handling non-traditional adoptions and guardianships and releasing records, and learned about an alternative high school in Door County that judges can order troubled juveniles to attend.

The registers in probate met in September in Hudson for a conference hosted by St. Croix County Registrar Ericka Nelson and Pierce County Registrar Dee Claflin. Judges Eric J. Lundell and Scott R. Needham, both of St. Croix County Circuit Court, welcomed the group. Virginia Fritzsch of the Wisconsin State Historical Society and Sue Watson, an archivist at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, gave a presentation on retention of probate records. Staff from Court Operations and the Combined Court Automation Programs (CCAP) also presented. U.S. Marshal Dallas Neville made a timely and informative presentation on courthouse security. The conference closed with a talk by Atty. Judith Sperling-Newton of Madison, who spoke on non-traditional adoptions and guardianships. The registers' next conference is set for Fond du Lac in May.

The juvenile clerks gathered in Sturgeon Bay in October

for their fall conference, which was hosted by Clerk Karin Heldmann. Judge D. Todd Ehlers welcomed the clerks, who then heard a presentation by Angela Milen of the Brown County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. Jerry Coleman from the Crime Information Bureau (CIB) brought the clerks up to date on changes at CIB and how information is dispensed to the public. John Tuohy, planning director in the Division of Children and Family Services, spoke on the American Safe Families Act. Steve Semmann from CCAP, Dave Bubier from Court Operations and District Eight Court Administrator Kathleen M. Murphy presented information to the clerks on operations and procedures and fielded questions. Judge Ralph Ramirez, Waukesha County Circuit Court, made a lively presentation on release of records, which he punctuated with Wisconsin trivia. Finally, Mark Hill told the clerks about the Door County Challenge Program, an alternative high school that teens can be court-ordered to attend. The program has had significant success in working with troubled youth. The juvenile clerks meet again in fall 2002. ■

## PPAC Surveys Court Users

by Dan Wassink, senior policy analyst  
Director of State Courts Office

It's a challenge just to meet the basic needs of the hundreds of individuals who enter courthouse offices each day. Few employees have time to even think about asking the people they serve, "how are we doing?" or "what could we be doing better?" However, customer feedback is critical to the improvement of any organization – public or private.

That's why the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee's (PPAC) Planning Subcommittee has launched a court users survey. Although some individual counties have conducted their own user surveys from time to time, this is the first attempt in several years to coordinate the collection of such information at the state level.

The court users survey began as a pilot project in early February in Door, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties. The one-page survey asks court users which courthouse staff they interacted with and the nature of their visit, as well as basic demographic information. Survey participants are then asked to rate the treatment and service they received from staff, and the courthouse facility itself.

Clerks of court in the counties are coordinating the distribution and collection of the surveys. They are given to individuals entering the courthouse regardless of the purpose of their visit. When enough surveys are completed to yield a useful sample, the subcommittee and clerks of court will analyze the results and make any necessary modifications before expanding the effort. There is no timetable for this expansion.

Local court officials will also be able to use the survey results to identify strengths and weaknesses and make any necessary adjustments within their jurisdiction. ■

## Budget *continued from front page*

the case.

On another issue, in an effort to reduce future costs for Corrections, the administration has proposed an expansion from six to nine in the number of felony classes and a six-year sentencing commission to study sentencing practices and adopt advisory sentencing guidelines. The funding – and presumably the administration – of this project will be placed in the Department of Administration.

Finally, proposed cuts in the shared revenue program present a potential issue for county-funded court services. In his press release following the governor's speech, Mark O'Connell, acting executive director of the Wisconsin Counties Association, had this to say: "The deep cuts in the shared revenue program leave counties with little choice but to begin cutting state programs – not county programs. Why should local property tax dollars continue to go to support state programs when the state refuses to fund their own programs? State shared revenue is used in support of state programs and cutting it means that some state programs, such as the court system, may not be able to be administered."

Moran indicated that his office will monitor the budget process, and will provide advisories to all judges and court staff as developments warrant. ■

Winter  
2002

## Interpreter Program to Focus on Training, Building Roster

by Marcia Vandercook  
Office of Court Operations

The Director of State Courts Office will begin a training program this year for court interpreters, using federal grant funding from the Office of Refugee Services in the Department of Workforce Development. A series of two-day orientation workshops will be offered in five locations around the state. The curriculum will focus on ethical conduct, legal terminology, court procedure, and basic legal interpreting skills. It will be designed to give participants an overview of the needs and expectations of the courts, and will be appropriate for both experienced court interpreters and potential court interpreters. Trainings are scheduled to begin in early fall.

After the orientation workshops, the Director's Office plans to create an interpreter roster showing qualifications and contact information for those court interpreters who have completed the training. This statewide roster will be available to courts, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and agencies. The Director's Office is working with the Office of Judicial Education to develop programs for judges and clerks of court in best practices for hiring and working with interpreters.

In April, the Supreme Court will consider a petition to adopt a code of ethics governing court interpreters. ■

*Over the course of the year, the Director's Office will add interpreter information to the interpreters' page of the court system Web site at [www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/CourtInterpreter.htm](http://www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/CourtInterpreter.htm), including registration materials for upcoming trainings, relevant statutes and rules, and the roster of trained interpreters. The Committee to Improve Court Interpreting, chaired by Judge Elsa C. Lamelas, will continue to meet and pursue the goals outlined in its 2000 report. For more information on the court interpreter program, contact Vandercook, at (608) 267-7335 or [marcia.vandercook@courts.state.wi.us](mailto:marcia.vandercook@courts.state.wi.us).*

## Changes to Wisconsin Interpreter Statutes

The court interpreter program has received strong support from refugee service agencies, domestic violence groups, law enforcement, district attorneys, public defenders, and deaf and hard-of-hearing groups. The Legislature approved many of the court system's recommendations in the 2001 budget bill, including the training and certification program, an interpreter coordinator position, and an increased reimbursement rate to the counties. Due to the budget downturn, the governor vetoed funding for the interpreter coordinator and the training and certification program. However, most of the statutory changes and a substantial increase in the county reimbursement funds were approved. Below is a summary of the statutory changes proposed by the courts that were enacted.

- additional funding to reimburse counties for use of court interpreters: an additional \$50,000 in 2001-02 and \$356,200 in 2002-03
- higher rate of reimbursement from the state: \$30/hour for uncertified interpreters, \$40/hour for certified interpreters, effective July 1
- a better definition of when a person has limited English skills and therefore needs an interpreter
- a definition of what constitutes a "qualified" interpreter
- reimbursement for use of an interpreter for a person using the clerk of courts offices
- reimbursement for use of an interpreter for a deaf juror
- reimbursement for use of an interpreter for crime victims and other persons affected by the proceeding
- specific provisions regarding waiver of an interpreter, waiver of time limits to find an interpreter, objection to an interpreter, and appointment of more than one interpreter

Proposals made by the courts that were not adopted or were vetoed:

- reimbursement for appointment of interpreters for all types of cases; status quo: interpreter services are generally eligible for reimbursement only in criminal, juvenile, CHIPS, and mental health cases
- reimbursement for appointment of interpreters for non-indigent persons; status quo: interpreter services are eligible for reimbursement only if court finds the person is indigent
- an increase in the interpreter travel reimbursement
- an interpreter coordinator position and sufficient funding for a program to train and certify court interpreters, at a cost of \$200,000 for the biennium

## Through the Eyes of a Child

by Cheryl Calder, director  
Court Improvement Program

Red clay and vinegar are simple, commonly available treatments for several maladies. Red clay was used for generations as a poultice to soothe and calm children's coughs. Vinegar relieves the itch of poison ivy and reduces the likelihood of infection from cuts and abrasions. But at a recent conference on issues affecting children, these items were used as memory aides – to help participants be mindful that the past holds simple wisdom that should not be overlooked in work with families.

One of the keynote speakers, Naomi Haines Griffith, is a family

service specialist and consultant on child welfare issues who founded a business called Red Clay and Vinegar. Based in Nashville, Red Clay and Vinegar provides services to support families and those who work with them.

More than 150 professionals turned out to hear Griffith and to participate in a variety of workshops during the two-day conference, *Through the Eyes of a Child*. Experts



Naomi Haines Griffith

**Law Library** *continued from page 11*

and furnishings emphasize the library's history and collections while providing a warm, comfortable environment for research and study.

New features in the 34,000-square-foot library include the Rare Book Room, which allows the library to display law books in its collection dating back to at least the early 17th century. These books had been in storage for many years, as there was no way to safely display them. The Seminar Room will be used for presentations of all sorts, but in particular, library staff will offer public, hands-on training sessions in computerized legal research and searching the Internet. Four small study rooms, which can be reserved for long-term research projects or attorney/client conferences, are available on the library's main level. Compact shelving, located on the upper level, houses earlier editions of major legal treatises and other materials that were previously in off-site storage. The new facility contains a total of 24,000 linear feet of shelf space, 45 percent more than what was available in the Capitol.

Over its 166-year life, the State Law Library has had many homes. At its first meeting in 1836 at Belmont, the Territorial Legislature began laying the groundwork for the new law library. It established a committee to appoint a law librarian and define his duties, and later set up another committee to select and purchase books for the library. A third committee was to draft rules for the regulation of the library.

On Nov. 10, 1837, Librarian James Clarke (who was also publisher of the Belmont Gazette and the first printer in the Wisconsin Territory) gave a report to the Territorial Legislature. He said the library consisted of 1,500 volumes, two-thirds of which were law books, housed in a rented room. All of the \$5,000 library appropriation had been spent on books and freight except a small amount for incidentals. Clarke closed by noting, "It may be proper to add that a further expenditure will soon necessarily have to be incurred for stove, fuel, etc."

In 1842, the Legislature passed an act requiring the law librarian to have

bound and lettered the acts and journals of each session and to house these in the library, which along with the rest of the territorial government had been relocated to the Capitol Building in Madison a year earlier. In 1843, the Legislature passed an act to allow access to the law library for members of the bar who were admitted to practice before the Territorial Supreme Court. Until then, only members of the Legislature had been given library privileges.

After Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the law library was placed under the control of a board of trustees, which included the governor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instruction. The board established strict rules for use of the library. A legislator or lawyer could take out a maximum of five books, and keep them out for just five days and the state law librarian – a personal appointee of the governor – was made accountable for any missing books. The librarian's pay was to be docked one dollar for every time a book disappeared from the shelves without proper tracking. Overdue fines were established and the money collected was to go into the library's coffers. The state law librarian was also required to preserve order in the library, keep the quiet, prevent smoking, and toss out any disorderly person.

In 1876, the justices of the state Supreme Court and the attorney general were made unofficial trustees of the library (a century later, in 1977, the Supreme Court was given full authority over the Wisconsin State Law Library and the Board of Trustees was abolished). Also in 1876, the appointment of the librarian was taken out of the governor's hands and placed with the Board of Trustees. Until this point, because the law librarian was a political appointee, the position changed hands every year or two. The first law librarian appointed by the board, in contrast, held the office for 30 years. He was John R. Berryman. Subsequent appointees have also held long tenures, with only four people having served since Berryman. Most recently, Marcia J. Koslov was the State Law Librarian from 1974 to 1999.

On Feb. 27, 1904, a gaslight placed too close to a recently varnished ceiling in the Capitol's West Wing caused the Capitol to burn. Residents of downtown Madison and university students arrived in groups to help fight the fire and tossed much of the library's collection out the windows into snow banks. Supreme Court Justice Roujet D. Marshall arrived and organized the volunteers into lines to pass the books hand-to-hand into nearby stores. As it turned out, the fire was contained before it reached the law library's North Wing home, but the remainder of the building was destroyed. Upon completion of the East Wing of the new state Capitol in 1910, the Library moved into the third and fourth floors, where it remained until 1999. During 2000-2001 the library was in temporary quarters in the 1 East Main Street office building on the Capitol Square. ■

Thanks to retired Court Services Librarian Dennis D. Austin, whose history of the Wisconsin State Law Library served as the basis for this article.

*The Wisconsin State Law Library is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. In its new location, the law library again is offering after-hours service to attorneys licensed to practice in Wisconsin. Users of this service will have access to the library Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to midnight, and Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. After hours users can access the public computer network, which provides free access to the library catalog, Legal Resource Index to law review and journal article citations, Shepard's, LOIS, and the Internet. The cost of this service for the 11-month period of Feb. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002, is \$75, which includes a key tag to permit entry into the library. For more information or to request an application, contact Connie Von Der Heide, reference/outreach services librarian, at (608) 267-2202 or (800) 322-9755. For more information about the Wisconsin State Law Library's resources and services, visit their Web site at [www.wsll.state.wi.us](http://www.wsll.state.wi.us).*

## OBITUARIES

**Judge John J. Crosetto***Kenosha County Circuit Court*

Judge John J. Crosetto, who served on the bench in Kenosha County Circuit Court for just one year, 1973-74, but made his mark as a high-profile criminal defense attorney, died in Torre Pellice, Italy, in September 2001. He was 68.

Crosetto joined the bench as an appointee of Governor Patrick J. Lucey, but lost his bid for election to the post. A former assistant district attorney in Kenosha, Crosetto regrouped after losing the election and began a long and successful career as a criminal defense lawyer.

In 1990, Crosetto was appointed as a hearing commissioner for the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

He and his wife, Natalie, made annual trips to Mississippi, where they worked for Habitat for Humanity, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and a rural health clinic. They also recently began spending more time in Italy, leasing an apartment in the region where Crosetto's mother and paternal grandparents were born.

**Atty. Robert O. Uehling***Wisconsin Supreme Court*

Atty. Robert O. Uehling, who served as clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1973 until 1978, died Nov. 29, 2001, at a Madison hospital. He was 86.

Uehling was hired under Chief Justice Horace W. Wilkie and continued to serve under Chief Justice Bruce F. Beilfuss. He retired when court reorganization made the Clerk's Office responsible for both the Supreme Court and the newly formed Court of Appeals.

Uehling was a conservative Republican who won election to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1960 by defeating Democrat Ruth Doyle. Uehling represented Madison's West Side for 10 years before losing his seat to Democrat Midge Miller, who was an assistant dean at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Letters and Science.

A decorated war veteran who distinguished himself during amphibious landings in North Africa, Italy, and France, Uehling was awarded the Bronze Star for combat in France in 1944. Following the war, Uehling was active for a number of years in the National Guard. ■

**PEOPLE** *continued from page 9*

Justice on Wheels, the outreach program that takes Supreme Court oral argument on the road to communities around the state, will travel to Outagamie County in April. Court Information Officer **Amanda K. Todd** and Court Marshal **James Jerney** scouted the Outagamie County Courthouse and met with representatives of the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department and Buildings and Grounds Division, as well as Chief Judge **Joseph M. Troy** and Clerk of Circuit Court **Ruth Janssen**, reported *The Post-Crescent* (Appleton) and *The Oshkosh Northwestern*. Justice **David Prosser Jr.** told *The Post-Crescent* that some of the court's most significant recent cases have been argued outside of Madison. All 450 seats have been reserved for the upcoming visit. Appleton is the only stop for Justice on Wheels this year due to budgetary constraints.

The Wisconsin Historical Society newsletter profiled three members of the Board of Curators in its latest publication. Reserve Judge **Thomas H. Barland** has served on the board since 1961, including a term as president from 1967-1970.

Reserve Judge **Ness Flores** has been a member since 1995 and noted, "The preservation of historic sites and buildings is of great interest to me, especially because of the educational opportunities presented." Reserve Judge **Paul C. Gartzke** has served since 1981 and is known to give his time generously. The curators represent a variety of professions, allowing the Society to profit from the range of expertise and perspectives they provide.

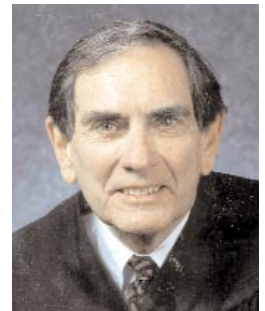
The Association for Equity in Funding welcomed Justice **William A. Bablitch** at its annual meeting in Milwaukee in

January. Bablitch discussed Wisconsin's new educational standard that arose from the Court's decision in *Vincent v. Voight*.

Judge **William D. Dyke**, Iowa County Circuit Court, would like Iowa County to consider the idea of a local public transportation assistance program to help the growing problem of drunken driving. *The Dodgeville Chronicle* reported that Dyke introduced the idea to the City Council at a recent meeting.

*The Journal Times* (Racine) reported that Judge **Dennis Barry**, Racine County Circuit Court, attended the annual Wayman AME Church's Boy Scout ceremony designed to show young men that there are alternatives to crime. Barry also attended the 2001 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People dinner and awards program.

*The Shawano Leader* featured a photo of Shawano County's newest municipal judge, **David Winter**, being sworn in by Judge **Earl W. Schmidt**, Shawano County Circuit Court. The city of Shawano approved the formation of the municipal court last year. ■

*Justice David Prosser Jr.**Judge William D. Dyke*



**Bablitch** *continued from front page*

provide for a blanket exception to the knock-and-announce requirement in felony drug cases.

In 1997, Bablitch surprised some Court observers by siding with the majority in a decision that upheld the Legislature's elimination of jury trials in juvenile court.

One of Bablitch's proudest moments as a justice came in 1995 when he originated and planned a conference designed to encourage women to enter the judiciary. The conference, *The Judicial Glass Ceiling*, drew 250

women attendees, and inspired a number of them to seek judicial careers. ■

*Candidates for this Supreme Court seat must file their papers by January 2003.*

*Those who are considering running and who have made their interest public are: Court of Appeals Judges Charles P. Dykman and Patience Roggensack; and circuit court Judges Edward R. Brunner, Barron County; David Hansher, Milwaukee County; Paul Higginbotham, Dane County; and Maxine White, Milwaukee County.*

**Statement of Justice William A. Bablitch**

"After twenty years as a Justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court I have decided I will retire from the Court at the conclusion of my term in August 2003. By making this announcement now, those who wish to succeed me will have ample time to put their campaigns together and file their notice of candidacy by the January 2003 deadline.

I believe strongly that the people of Wisconsin, not the governor, regardless of party, should choose my successor. Accordingly, I will serve out my full term.

Following the conclusion of my term, I intend to remain active in the public arena. I intend to do some writing and explore several areas of interest to me including teaching, mediation, consulting, and public policy.

I have had an extraordinarily fulfilling and satisfying career encompassing 34 years of public service including 2 years in the

Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa, 4 years as Portage County District Attorney, 11 years as a Wisconsin State Senator and 20 years on the Supreme Court.

My public service, encompassing all three branches of government, has spanned 7 governors.

I will miss the work of the court. I have enormous respect for all of my colleagues, who without exception are completely dedicated to the law and justice. Wisconsin can be proud of its Supreme Court, and I am proud to have been a member.

I am very grateful to the citizens of Wisconsin for allowing me to serve them and deeply humbled and honored by their support. I have always given them my best efforts and my best judgment. I will forever be indebted to the citizens of Wisconsin for allowing me to serve them."

**Statement of Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson**

"After a lifetime of public service, Justice William Bablitch has announced that he will retire in 2003, at the end of his term. Upon his retirement, Justice Bablitch will have served the people of Wisconsin for 20 years as a Supreme Court justice and for 11 years in the state Senate. His

opinions, and his contributions in the Legislature and on the boards and committees on which he has served, will have a lasting effect on our legal system. I know the entire Court joins me in wishing Bill and his wife, Anne, all the best in retirement."

**NEW FACES****Judge William W. Brash  
Milwaukee County Circuit  
Court**

Judge William W. Brash III, who was appointed by Governor Scott McCallum to replace the late Stanley Miller in November 2001, is running a busy misdemeanor calendar while gearing up for the April election.

Brash started his judgeship in a mentor program for the first week of January, during which he spent a half-day each with six judges to give him an overview of Milwaukee's court divisions.

Born in Panama, Brash has more than 23 years of experience as a lawyer, having practiced in family law, financial/bankruptcy law, personal injury, corporate/business law, and land acquisition.

From 1984 to 1997, he served as municipal judge for the Village of Fox Point. From 1997 until his appointment to the bench, Brash served as a reserve municipal judge for Milwaukee.

Brash is married with one son and lives in Fox Point.

He will face off against Ramon Valdez, a criminal defense attorney who says he has handled more than 100 jury trials in his 15-year career, in the April election.

**Judge Faye M. Flancher  
Racine County Circuit Court**

Deputy Family Court Commissioner Faye M. Flancher became Judge Flancher on Feb. 6 when the governor appointed her to fill the vacancy left by Judge Dennis J. Flynn's retirement.

Prior to becoming a court commissioner in 1996, Flancher was a partner in Schwartz, Tofte, Neilsen & Flancher S.C. She also spent three years litigating child support matters for Racine County.

Flancher is president of the Wisconsin Family Court Commissioner's Association and recently finished a term as president of the Racine County Bar. She is also a frequent presenter at family law seminars.

Flancher is married to Racine County District Attorney Robert Flancher. She will have to seek election to the post in April 2003. ■



Judge William W. Brash III

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

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**BOOK**



**HABEAS CODFISH: Reflections on Food and the Law**

by Barry M. Levenson  
(Hardcover - 263 pages, 2001)  
The University of Wisconsin Press

**"Recovering Lawyer" Reflects on Food and Law**

by Judge Jean DiMotto  
Milwaukee County Circuit Court

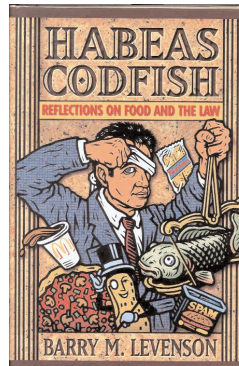
The uniqueness and humor of this book are signaled by the book jacket, which contains a "Literary Facts" label akin to the Nutrition Facts label on grocery items ("Serving size: 1 chapter, Servings per book: 15; Amount per serving: Pearls of Wisdom 10%, Nuggets of Delight 24%...."). Chapter titles are inviting: Assault with a Bready Weapon, Java Jurisprudence. You get the idea – a book about food and the law by Wisconsin's condiment king and "recovering lawyer" Barry Levenson.

Levenson, a former assistant state attorney general is now curator of the Mount Horeb Mustard Museum. He takes us on a literary tour of how food has influenced the law and vice versa. He covers the marketplace – from fast food (McDonald's hot coffee case) to street vendor delicacies (regulations on hot dogs and burgers); from catering and restaurants (is it slander to pan hors d'oeuvres?) to grocery stores (banana peel slip-and-fall cases).

Readers time warp from the 13th century English "Assize of Bread" law (one of the first

food-safety laws) to the 1990s in America for a trade secret battle between KFC and a little-known chicken skinner. We sample from multiple areas of the law: First Amendment Free Speech Clause (Kraft and its cheese slices ads); First Amendment Establishment Clause (Kosher food laws); contract law (butter vs. margarine), trademark law (Planters' Mr. Peanut vs. Crown Nut Company's little peanut king); negligence, including *res ipsa loquitur* (the box of defective chocolates); fraud (Coffee Rich and the now-defunct Crandall's Restaurant of Madison); anti-trust law (milk-pricing laws); to name a few.

The book is a feat and a feast. My only criticism is its tendency toward verbosity. While not surprising from a still-recovering lawyer, it is a bit shocking from a mustard maven who would never dilute a good condiment with starchy filler. But perhaps this criticism is no more than a reflection of a busy trial judge who values succinctness even more than a good mustard. ■



**Eyes of a Child** *continued from page 14*

in law, medicine, child development, child welfare, and domestic violence were featured.

In addition to general sessions, attendees could choose to participate in four workshops. Presentation topics included strengthening families through collaboration, children's mental health, social work and psychology for guardians *ad litem*, successful termination of parental rights, the effects of maltreatment on children's emotional brain development, collaborative divorce, ethical considerations in guardian *ad litem* practice, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, families and children affected by substance abuse, psychological testing, domestic violence and child maltreatment, and mental health and parenting.

This was the third annual *Through the Eyes of a Child* conference targeting guardian *ad litem* practice issues. The program's popularity is growing, as reflected by a 50 percent increase in attendance between the second and third confer-

ences. Participants earned continuing legal education, judicial education, social work, guardian *ad litem*, and ethics credits.

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

A fourth conference is planned for November. To receive information on this event, contact Calder at (608) 266-1557 or [cheryl.calder@courts.state.wi.us](mailto:cheryl.calder@courts.state.wi.us).